



# Montessori Children's School

1221 Varela Street  
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Montessori Families,

Welcome back to a new year! I hope everyone had a great winter break and is looking forward to 2011. I know we are well rested and ready to get to back to a productive learning routine with your children. Sometimes it takes a bit of time to get back into the routine of getting up early and going to school. Here are a few ideas for you at home to help our children get back into gear:

- Get to bed early so they can start the day fresh!
- Stay away from sweets, especially before bedtime in order to get a better nights rest.
- Wake up early enough to have a balanced healthy breakfast, go to this website for some great fast breakfasts: <http://life.familyeducation.com/breakfast/recipes/36176.html>
- Make your lunches the night before, you'll need the extra minutes to get your family to school on time.

By planning ahead and getting a good nights rest, your child can have a great start to the day. Let's make a commitment to start the New Year with productive, stress free days.

We will have our second all school **Corporation Meeting** this month on Thursday the 20th, beginning at 5:30pm. Childcare is available if you sign up in the office. It is required that all parents of Primary and Toddler school children attend our corporation meetings. We will be discussing the financial status of the school, fundraising events and more. We will also have presentations from our staff on important issues. Mark your calendars please! Ms. Adele's class is responsible for supplying the refreshments.

Every year MCS participates in our local Community Foundations event called "**Unsung Hero**", when we are able to recognize someone who truly gives more than expected to our school. This years Unsung Hero is Valerie Vaugoui—Smith. Valerie's daughter Zoe is in Ms. Alesia's class. Zoe was one of our first Toddler students when we opened the Toddler class in 2008! Valerie's commitment to MCS is truly immeasurable. She has been room mom and is now in charge of our public relations. Behind the scenes, Valerie participates in almost all of our committee and is helping our Board President with the website. She and I along with Bobbi Holland will be attending a banquet on Friday the 21st to honor Valerie's contribution to MCS. Check out the article in the Citizen on the 16th to see all the other non-profit organizations and the people who contribute to our community.

Tomorrow January 6th, we have our first fundraising meeting of 2011 @ 8:30am in the aftercare room, please see following page for more details.

Please see the additional attachment to this newsletter with the results from the parent survey taken at the beginning of the school year. The planning and development committee will be meeting Monday next week @ 3:00pm if you would like to be a part of this important committee.

Take Home folders are now being sent home with your child on Thursday's instead of Tuesdays. Please bring back the folder empty the following day. Thank you.

Yours in education,

*Kim Livingston*

## A Word From Our President

Dear MCS Families,

Welcome back from what I hope was a wonderful holiday break for you and your families!

Wow, the first semester of school seemed to fly by until you take a moment to think back to all we accomplished. Several very successful clean-up and paint parties thanks to House and Grounds Chair Barry Gibson, Montessori Opportunities training for our awesome teachers and assistants and an ambitious fundraising campaign from Fantasy Fest to Children's Day to name just a few of the many events this past fall.

And yes, here it comes, we still have a lot more work to do and our school community is counting on each and every one of you to take part.

Our signature fundraising event, a winter carnival held on school grounds, a Day of Love and Play, is set for February. Keep in mind this may be the last chance for those of you who have not yet completed your fundraising workpay hours to do so. Please reach out to our Fundraising Chair Jessica Barroso to see how you can help. We'll need folks to run games, set-up and clean-up, etc.

Also, for those of you interested in the long-term future of the Montessori Children's School, we are developing our 5-year plan, which we intend to complete by our May Corporation meeting. If you can contribute, please contact our Planning and Development Chair Sam Kaufman.

Please try to always keep in mind what is going on in your child's classroom, it may be a perfect item for our Facebook page or even a press release. Let our Public Relations Chair Valerie Vauguin-Smith know.

Finally, it is not too early to think about the May elections for the Board of Directors. We will have three seats open and will need some very dedicated individuals to fill them. Please approach any of our board members with questions.

Again, welcome back, I am looking forward to a full and rewarding remainder of the school year. See you at the Corporation Meeting later this month and around campus!

Best,

Bobbi Holland

President, MCS Board of Directors

### ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

- **January 6, Wednesday - Fundraising meeting @ 8:30am**
- **January 8, Saturday- Non Profit Day Bayview park, see flyer in your child's take home folder**
- **January 10, Monday, Planning and Development Meeting @ 3:00pm, contact Kim if you wish to attend**
- **January 17 Monday - Holiday, Martin Luther King Day  
No school or childcare**
- **January 20 - Thursday - Mandatory Corporation meeting Social from 5:30 - 6, meeting begins at 6:00pm**
- **January 21 - Friday - Professional Day - no school, childcare available, must sign up in the office**

### **Financial Aid**

We are pleased to announce that financial aid packets for the second term of 2010-2011 will be available in the office when school reconvenes in January. MCS gives out financial aid to needy families twice a year based on financial and family situations. Please be advised that if you have already received financial aid for this school year 2010-2011, you may not apply again. Please include all data requested as applications will be deemed incomplete otherwise and will not be reviewed. You may pick up an application in the office beginning on Monday, January 10th, all completed applications must be returned to the office by Monday January 24th @ 8:30am

# FUNDRAISING 2010!

Welcome back families from your winter break. We have our biggest fundraising event for the spring quickly approaching. Our Day of Love and Play, which is the spring carnival that takes place Saturday February 12th before Valentines Day. This is a big event and we need a lot of help and organization from everyone to make it successful. We will be having a fundraising meeting this Wednesday, January 5th at 8:30 AM following drop-off to get started. We need people to be in charge of each of the following jobs: Food, games, silent auction, 50/50, raffle, decorations, ticket collection at gate, set up, and break down. This is a large event with many responsibilities, so ideally we would like someone to be responsible for each of these categories to ensure it runs smoothly and that the responsibility of the whole event doesn't fall on the same person. There will be sign up sheets for all categories to ensure that help will be provided.

Please keep in mind that this is the last major event to earn fundraising hours. There are a number of people who are still in need of fulfilling their obligations. Please, if you need to fulfill fundraising hours, attend this weeks meeting. I want to avoid having to send individual emails to those who will be required to participate in this event. If it comes down to that, please know you will be assigned to participate in one of these areas. Just a reminder to those that have completed fundraising hours. You can participate as well and earn hours towards your total work-pay. If you have already met all work-pay obligations and would still like to help, all participation is encouraged. This is a special event for our kids and the more help we have from our parents the nicer we can make this for our children!! Thanks again for all of your help with fundraising this year. We have done an amazing job and hopefully we can finish the year strongly. See you on Wednesday!

Jessica Barroso



**WORKPAY!**

- Paint Paint Paint! We need to finish painting our fences.
- Do you have an electrical drill, Kim needs something hung up in her office.
- Clean out your desk or "junk drawer". We need pens in the office!
- Snack for our aftercare program
- We need a weekly leaf blower for our beautiful playground, equipment on campus!
- Does anyone have plumbing skills? We could use some work around the property.

## Playground Rental

**Looking for a place to have a party? You can rent our playground area for only \$75.00 for the day. Keep your house clean, and the kids love it! Drop by the office for a rental agreement.**

