



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 2012. 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 night's 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 19th, 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. Mark your calendars please! The Gumbo Limbo Room, 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 **Eva Hamilton**. Eva's third child will be graduating from the Gumbo Limbo room this year. All three of Eva and James children have attended MCS, Annabelle was one of our first Toddler students. For the past eight years, she and James have been instrumental in preparing our property for the numerous hurricane warnings in addition to conducting workpay parties over the years. She and I will be attending a banquet on Friday the 20th to honor Eva's contribution to MCS. Check out the article in the Citizen on the 15th to see all the other non-profit organizations and the people who contribute to our community.

On January 18th, we have our first **fundraising meeting** of 2012 @ 8:30am in the aftercare room, please see following page for more details.

I would like to thank Bill Lay along with all those involved with Whiskey Jam, which took place over the weekend. Both MCS and MECS will be given some of the proceeds from ticket sales of the event. We truly are fortunate to live in such a great community.

Take-Home folders are sent home with your child on Thursdays, please return the empty folder the following day.

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts I received from families of our school. I hope 2012 brings the gifts of love, health and happiness to you and your family.

Yours in education,

Kim Livingston



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.

2011 TAXES

If you would like a listing of all of payments to MCS for the calendar year 2011, please email Robbi your request. She will print it out and place it in an envelope in the Parent's Pick-up box for you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 12 - Thursday - Board meeting @ 8:30am
- January 16 - Monday - Holiday, Martin Luther King Day/ No school or childcare
- January 18 - Wednesday - Fundraising meeting @ 8:30am
- January 19 - Thursday - Mandatory Corporation meeting Social from 5:30 - 6, meeting begins at 6:00pm
- January 27 - Friday - Early dismissal, sign-up if childcare needed
- January 31 - Tuesday - Final day to submit financial aid packets for consideration

FROM THE AFTER-CARE CREW

Thank you so much for all the lovely gifts received for the Holiday. We wish the very best to you and your family during the New Year and thank you for all you do for us, we greatly appreciate it!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

- Please be sure we have correct contact information for your child's file in case of emergency
- If you would like a new classroom roster, please email the front office
- Late fees for tuition and aftercare will not be applied if you get us your tuition by Friday afternoon, January 13th.
- Be sure to update your child's medical records if expired
- Lost and Found clothing and other items are located in the aqua colored bins.
- Your updated workpay hours will be posted on our information board by the office, please check your hours or submit documentation of hours not logged.

WORKPAY & FUNDRAISING OBLIGATION RECAP

All families are obligated to fulfill a specific amount of volunteer hours referred to as workpay hours (time and skills in all areas of need for the school) and fundraising hours to the school on an annual basis. The amount of volunteer hours required are as follows:

Workpay obligation—20 hours

Fundraising obligation—5 hours

Those families that started after the first day of school have their hours prorated.

If you complete more than your obligated fundraising hours, the additional hours can count as regular workpay hours. Additional hours of regular workpay do NOT transfer to fundraising hours.

Those families that have not completed at least 1/2 of their workpay obligation will be invoiced at the end of this month.

SPIRIT DAY!

This Friday January 6th and every Friday for the rest of the year!

Send your child to school in their MCS T-shirts!

The children love to wear their school shirts, it's fun and makes them proud.

Our educational aim with very young children must be to aid the spontaneous development of the mental, spiritual and physical personality.

Maria Montessori