



# Weekly Reminders



## Week of March 2

Dear Montessori Families,

Our annual Open House which took place on Saturday was a huge success. We had many families whose children are on our waitlist for next school year, as well as new families attend. Children and parents were able to visit our classroom and speak with our teaching staff to get valuable information about our program. Judging by the questions asked, it is obvious that these families are committed to finding the best program possible for their children and will remain an important part of their child's education. It is crucial that families and the child's school environment mimic each other in the approach to child education. We are looking forward to next school year. Currently, there is a waitlist for both our programs and we anticipate being completely full by the start of the school year. Last week I sent an "Intent to Remain" form attached to the weekly news for families to let us know their intentions next school year. If we did not hear from you, you will not be issued a re-enrollment packet next week so please be sure we are aware of your intentions.

MECS (Montessori Elementary Charter School) has been our sister school since 1998 when the Board of Directors for Montessori Children's School determined that they could not retain their enrollment for their Elementary classrooms and applied for a Montessori Charter school. It was approved and we opened the first Charter school in Monroe County. MECS began as a 1-3 elementary school expanding their charter over the years. The decision to begin their enrollment in first grade instead of Kindergarten was to stand by the philosophy of the Montessori three-year cycle and to allow children of all economic backgrounds an opportunity to experience the Montessori methodology and for Montessori Children's School students to continue their education in Montessori. Please read the attached letter from our Board President regarding the recent Charter school expansion to include K. We have been in existence since 1972 and have successfully contributed to the community by offering young children an education which prepares them for life. It is our sincere hope that if the charter school opens their doors to a K class in a few years our families will realize the benefit of keeping their children in our school for that most important 3rd year of the three-year cycle (Kindergarten). As a responsible school, it is crucial that we plan and look at all options for the future of Montessori Children's School. If you are interested in contributing your ideas, knowledge and hard work to helping mold the future of our school, please join our Planning and Development Committee on Thursday, April 7th @ 3:00pm in the Kapok room.

In your take-home folders this week, there is an registration form for our last semester of enrichment classes. Please be sure to get them submitted directly to the office as they fill up quickly. Monday, April 4th is a Professional Day and there is no school. Our teaching staff will be visiting Montessori schools in Tavenier and Islamorada to observe and learn. As you know, observation plays a major role in the Montessori approach to education and it is not frequent that we are able to observe other schools and add knowledge and ideas to apply in our environment. If you need childcare, you must sign up in the office. There is limited staff since most of us will be visiting up the Keys.

There has been parent inquiry regarding the basic schedule of events that take place throughout the day with our full-day Primary children. It is important to speak with your teacher if you have any questions regarding your child's development or adjustments in the class or nap room. I have attached the basic schedule for our Primary classrooms explaining what happens throughout the day at school. Again, if you have specific questions regarding your child, ask your child's teacher if you can meet with her briefly to discuss, or you can communicate by email. In May, we have days scheduled for the end of the year Parent/Teacher conference when you will get an in-depth report of your child's progress in all areas of development. Communication is the key to a good working relationship and your child is of the utmost importance. Please be conscientious about setting time aside if you wish to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. Morning drop off is not an appropriate time. We appreciate your consideration and open communication.

Sincerely,

*Kim Livingston*  
*Head of School*

Thank you to Everyone for an amazing job well done with fundraising this year!! We exceeded our goal and thanks to all of your time and participation, we have had a very successful fundraising year. In addition to our annual events of Fantasy Fest, Children's Day, and our Day of Love and Play, there were some new events and ideas that helped us accomplish our goal. We Incorporated a yard sale in the Fall and now in the Spring we are taking off with our first ever Montessori Children's School yearbook as well as our yearly costume Jewelry Show that took place in March. New ideas for fundraising are always welcome and we encourage any suggestions that will help make fundraising a successful and interactive part of our school. Our next Fundraising meeting will be Wednesday April 6th at 8:30 AM in the aftercare room. If you are interested in participating or being a part of this committee please join us. There are still a few items remaining as we wrap up this school year including our end-of-the-year sunset sail aboard the Sebago for parents and staff to get together one last time before summer. Again, I want to thank everyone for all the hard work and efforts put forth in meeting our fundraising goal. It takes a team and participation from everyone to get the job done.

**Jessica Barroso, Fundraising Chair**

### Dates to Remember

- April 4 - Monday - Professional Day, no school, childcare available
- April 5 - Tuesday, Back to School
- April 6 - Wednesday, Fundraising meeting @ 8:30am
- April 6 - Wednesday, Toddler families with children eligible for Primary program meet @ 9:00am in the lunch area
- April 7 - Thursday, Planning and Development meeting @ 3:00pm in Kapok room
- April 7 - Thursday, Toddler meeting for school year 2011/2012 @ 5:30pm lunch area
- April 7 - Thursday, Re-enrollment packets go home in the take-home folders
- April 19 - Tuesday, Toddler meeting for school year 2011/2012 @ 9:30am lunch area
- April 21 - Thursday, annual spring concert, more details to come
- April 22 - Friday, no school day, no childcare provided

### Kindergarten Graduates

Please look for a brief questionnaire in your child's take-home folder this Thursday. Your response is important for planning purposes. We have set our K graduation date for Thursday, June 9th. School ends on June 10th. We have a ceremony outside with snack, all parents, family and friends are invited to attend. We are looking for a few K parents to help organize the event and food. Please email Kim.

### HOUSE NEEDS!

- USB port plug-in mouse for Kim's laptop!
- Parent volunteer, Tuesday and Wednesday next week (April 5 and 6) to help put re-enrollment packets together
- Large 2 step stool for classroom
- Parent to replace A/C filters
- Parent to build new cubbies for Ms. Adele's class

There is a part of a child's soul that has always been unknown but which must be known. With a spirit of sacrifice and enthusiasm we must go in search, like those who travel to foreign lands and tear up mountains in their search for hidden gold.

**-Maria Montessori**