Dear TMS Families,

What a pleasure it is to have everyone back and hear the hum of activity and joyful learning happening both inside and out. It has been a true joy to do my daily walkabouts, greeting faculty and students and parents and witnessing the joy in children’s eyes as they reconnect with longtime friends and meaningful work. Yes, it is good to be back together.

I want to take a moment in this first school wide communication to highlight two important items that will help us continue the great start we have had.

The first is to share a meaningful blog post by Montessori Guide, Claire Paglia about the untold value for our children in arriving on time to school. Our veteran parents have no doubt heard many times about the value of consistency and on-time arrival for children, but Claire’s words articulate this particularly well. Opening her post, she begins: Imagine that you have just entered a special event. Everyone is already there and has begun to eat their meals, having already had time to hang their coats, get a drink, find their table and get to know the people next to you and across from you before the special guest speaks. You have arrived late and haven't had time to do any of the above. It's almost an arresting feeling to walk in the door and realize how late you are. I mean, it didn’t seem like things were running that far behind, right? Here is a link to her blog post at mariamontessori.org. http://mariamontessori.com/mmn/?p=2126. I encourage each of you to take a moment and read Claire’s wise insights and gain new inspiration for helping our children get the best possible start to their days. I hope you enjoy.

Secondly, you may have noticed me out in the mornings “dodging traffic” in one of my new roles as crossing guard. This is one of several adjustments we have made to improve the safety and effectiveness of our drop-off and pick-up times. I want to bring our attention again to our important
drop-off and pick-up procedures, as these help to ensure our children's safety during these busy transition times. Here is a PDF link detailing these procedures. I strongly encourage each of us to take a moment to read through these procedures carefully. There are new updates, highlighted in yellow, that all of us need to be aware of.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in ensuring consistent on-time arrivals and safe effective drop-off and pick-up times.

Truly,
Jon

Welcome to New Faculty & Staff!

Kelly Fortkiewicz - Toddler 2 Assistant.
Erin Grosh: Children's House Afterschool Lead
Michael Hosey: Elementary P.E. Resource and Afterschool Lead
Gail Dawson: Elementary Afterschool Assistant
Andrew Cline: Upper Elementary Assistant.
Gary Mote: Buildings & Grounds Manager
Cassie Cochran: Toddler Afterschool Co-Lead
Marybeth Oas: Librarian

We are grateful to have these talented individuals working with our students!

September Events

TMS 2012-13 Event calendar is available on the school website. You now have the option of linking the calendar to your personal calendar with the "ical" option.

Thurs. 9/6
Community Meeting 6:00 pm
Reserve childcare by clicking here.
Board Meeting 6:45 pm

Fri. 9/7
Community Sing 9 am
All families are welcome!

Tues. Sept 11 9:00 am
Sub Training
Please RSVP with AnnaMarie Edwards by clicking here.

Thurs. 9/18 6:00 pm
Montessori in the Home Parent Discussion
Reserve childcare by clicking here.

Thurs-Fri. 9/20-9/21
Upper El Overnight Field Trip

Fri. 9/28 6:00 pm
All School Picnic on TMS Grounds(see article)

Fall Picnic Friday 9/28 6:00 pm

Come for dinner, family fun, and meet new TMS families!
Enjoy food and fun with us at TMS.
Please bring chairs and blankets for your comfort on TMS Grounds.
There will be a special dedication to the Outdoor Play and Learning Environments at 7PM.

What to bring:
1 main dish and 1 side or dessert to share

For your family, bring your own drinks and plates, napkins, etc. (preferably re-usable to cut down on waste!)

Liz will be contacting those families who checked off "Fall Picnic" on their volunteer forms for assistance.

Library Time!
by Marybeth Oas, Librarian
Community Meeting
Thursday, 9/6 6pm

What is a Community Meeting?
The Montessori School adopted the community meeting process in 2006, and with each meeting, we continue the art of perfecting the process and using it to effectively collaborate in the best interest of our School. The goal of each community meeting is to provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas, not necessarily to produce answers or proposals as many school related issues cannot be appropriately addressed and resolved in a large group setting. All new and existing families are welcome to explore the purpose and significance of these meetings as the avenue to being involved with the current and future plans of our school.

On the agenda:
- Update on OPLE (Outdoor Play & Learning Environments)
- Update on parking procedures including Jon's new role as crossing guard.

If you have any items you wish to discuss at one of our community meetings, please let us know by the 4th of the upcoming month by contacting the office.

Montessori in the Home:
Infancy-Elementary
Tuesday 9/18, 6pm

Childcare available for this wonderful session at TMS. Discuss strategies for bringing the peaceful learning that your child experiences at school into your home.

Please RSVP for childcare to Shauna!

There will be many Montessori Parent Discussion/Support events offered throughout the year. Mark your calendar now for the October 18th-6pm discussion.

"We affirm that education begins at birth and continues throughout life."
-- The Blueprint: The Montessori School of Winston Salem 2007

Welcome to the New School Year!

On just the second day of this shiny new school year, eager elementary students began visiting the library to browse the collection for pleasure reading and to mine it for research projects. Their presence, even at its peak volume, is a welcome change from the quiet of summer. The week after Labor Day, the riches of the library will be extended to our friends in Children's House and the Toddler wing. For families new to the school and as a refresher for veterans, below is an explanation of the students' access to the library and their borrowing privileges.

Toddler are visited by library volunteers on either Tuesday or Thursday when we focus on handling books with care, listening skills, sharing, and putting things away when finished. Fabulously fun stories are enjoyed as well!

Children's House classrooms visit the library every Wednesday morning. Each child may choose one book if they wish and is asked to return it by the next Wednesday in order to get another. The children have been shown the special bag on the back of their classroom door where they are to return their book. Library volunteers will collect them from there. Late notices will be sent home before each library day for those overdue as a polite reminder.

Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary students visit at the teachers' discretion throughout the school day and week. LE is allowed to check out up to 4 books for 30 days and UE is allowed to check out up to 5 books for 30 days. They return their books to the library drop box at the desk in the library.

Please help your child to care for the books responsibly. The school books are stamped and labeled. Please report any losses or damages as soon as they occur so your child will be able to continue checking books out. Fees for lost or badly damaged books are handled by Liz Meadows in the office. The fee per book is a flat $5 for paperbacks and $15 for hardcovers.

Please contact me at marybeth.oas@gmail.com with any questions. Happy reading!
Welcome Future Montessori Student!

- Robert "Boyd" Money born 8lbs 9 ounces on May 25 to proud parents Faith (CH 1 assistant) and Austin Money.
- Vincent Matthew Ankerson born 8.1 ounces on May 14 to big sister Cora in CH2 and proud parents of Caroline and Matt Ankerson.
- Cesc Alexander Templeton born 7lbs 1 ounces on August 13 to big sisters Madeline (LE2) and Lauren and big brother John (CH 4) and proud parents of Leah and Wes Templeton.

We can't wait to meet these precious faces!

World Book Online available to all our families!

EXTRA SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: WORLDBOOK ONLINE

TMS has a subscription to the World Book Online that you can use at home! Visit www.worldbookonline.com with the log on: TMSWS password: peace.

This gives you and your children access to World Book Student (for Lower and Upper El), World Book Kids (for Lower El and Children's House), and World Book in Spanish. Lots of great features can help our older students keep track of their research projects and the Spanish edition has a great interactive visual dictionary (Diccionario visual) that will be useful as students increase their Spanish knowledge with Ms. Luisa.

For Small Hands for Smart Play!

Montessori Materials designed to encourage and support young children at home.

This family resource catalog is filled with hundreds of age-appropriate, child-size items that encourage independence, creativity, and problem-solving. And this year, you'll find over 200 items priced under $10! Watch for the catalogues in your child's backpacks.

And the best part? Our school earns free classroom supplies and materials every time you order from the For Small Hands catalog or website. We received over $500 in credit last year!

There will be a table set up at the book fair (week of 10/29) with samples and catalogues. Place your order easily online or turn in your paper order form by 10/19 to receive free shipping! School Customer # is 167168.

Email our Parent Promotion Coordinator, Beth Whicker with any questions.

Easy $$ for TMS!

Harris Teeter will donate dollars to our school each time you shop there - and it won't cost you a thing! Just link your VIC card to account #3736. For the 26 families linking their cards last year please do so again, Teeter requires re-linking for the new school year...it only takes a minute to do and last year TMS earned $201.31 with the help from the 26 families! Click here for more information!
September is Hunger Action Month

The Montessori School has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of NWNC for many years now. Our students have made bowls for the Empty Bowls luncheon held every spring, our families have contributed hundreds of food items, and our Elementary children harvested sweet potatoes from the Food Bank garden. All of our efforts are in hopes to spread our bounty to our larger community of Winston-Salem and instilling a lifelong commitment to service. You should see the joy in the toddlers faces when they bring cans up to the main drop box!! Please consider adding one of the items listed below to our drop off boxes located in the main vestibule.

**Protein**
Choose canned lean meats, a good source of low-fat protein, or canned or dry, a good source of fiber.
- Canned tuna fish
- Canned salmon
- Canned chicken
- Canned bean soup
- Canned baked beans
- Dried and canned beans and peas
- Canned chili
- Canned beef stew
- Peanut butter
- Nuts

**Dairy**
Choose shelf-stable low-fat dairy products fortified with vitamin D.
- Dry milk
- Evaporated milk
- Boxed shelf-stable milk


**Target Stores** also donate $$ to schools! Link your Target Red Card or Visa to our school. [https://wwwsecure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home](https://wwwsecure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home)
School ID:117270

**Campbell Soup Labels**
http://www.labelsforeducation.com/My-School

**Box Tops for Education**
Snip and collect the little stamps on many of the products you regularly buy and turn them into school (basket in the lobby). They get processed and turned into cash!

It only takes one click or few snips with a scissors and you are done! Thank you for taking the time to help your child's school!

**Tuition Payments**

**Helpful Information**

Don't forget that monthly tuition installments and Before and After school installments are due on the first of the month and considered late after the fifth. We do not send monthly invoices, however, if you need a statement of your account for tax purposes or flex spending accounts please contact Liz at lizmeadows@wsmontessori.org or extension #103. You may also visit our website for a complete listing of the 2012/13 tuition and fees schedule.
[http://www.wsmontessori.org/pdffiles/Tuition_Fees.pdf](http://www.wsmontessori.org/pdffiles/Tuition_Fees.pdf)

**ALL SCHOOL DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE.**

Please click here for a copy. A paper version is available upon request from the office.

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As always, the faculty and staff, are available to you for any questions or comments you may have along the way. Wishing everyone a wonderful Fall season!

The Administration Team
[www.wsmontessori.org](http://www.wsmontessori.org)