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Our Most Important Role

Reviewing the calendar it is clear that we have a lot going on at TMS. From Fall Picnic to portrait days to Parent-Teacher Conferences, we are indeed a busy engaged community. I often say that if you stand around TMS long enough, someone will invite you to do something. It is this sense of community and engagement, in fact, that was such a draw for me when I first visited TMS.

While there are lots of upcoming opportunities for volunteering and being an active participant in the life of TMS, our most important role as parents is that of active partner with our child's teacher. Over my 20 plus years in education, I have come to truly understand the vital nature of a strong school-home partnership. I believe that our partnership together only benefits our children and have seen first hand the success that comes with such a partnership. At TMS we understand that you are your child's first teachers, and, as such, put our partnership with you high on our priority list.

One of the cornerstones for this partnership is our formal parent-teacher conferences. The first of these three annual conferences is just around the corner, November 1st and 2nd. Preceding this conference you will receive a progress report detailing your child's progress these past two months. These reports are intended to be a springboard for meaningful conversations between you and your child's teacher during conferences. Reading through your child's progress report and formulating comments and/or questions you'd like to explore more in the conference will help you make the most of your time together.

I also encourage you to come and observe. There is no replacement for seeing Montessori education in action, and an observation can provide meaningful insights and avenues for discussion with your child's teacher. You can arrange for an observation through Shauna, shaunaquiroz@wsmontessori.org.

Please look for specific information from your child's teacher about signing up for conferences in the coming weeks and your child's progress report via email on the 25th.
On behalf of all the Faculty and Staff, thank you for your continued partnership and we look forward to seeing you at conferences.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### October 9th-11th
Portraits Days
**Tuesday:** Siblings will be photographed individually and together

**Wednesday:** ALL Children’s House Students

**Thursday:** Elementary Students

##### October 10th
Community Meeting-6PM
Please reserve childcare by noon of this day by contacting the office.

##### October 15th
No School

##### October 18th
Parent Discussion-6PM
*Please view article

##### October 19th
Community Sing-9AM
Families and Friends welcome.

##### October 22nd-23rd
Picture Selection days
(Email to follow)

##### October 24th-26th
TMS Plant sale

##### October 26th-27th
Fall Planting Days
*Please view article

### Fall Planting & Garden Days
October 26th-27th

Fall Planting and Garden Days are scheduled for Friday, October 26th and Saturday, October 27th from 8AM to 6PM both days. Don't miss this unique opportunity to help put the crowning touches on the new Outdoor Play and Learning Environments. Friday, 8AM-11AM, will be a Gardening Day Opportunity with your child(ren). This is a special gardening time for projects for by classroom "back yards" and community spaces, including preparing our gardens for winter, weeding and mulching and adding new elements to our "playground" spaces, etc. There's plenty of work to do!

Bring your shovels, wheelbarrows, work gloves (all labeled) and plenty of energy! We'll provide direction, hot apple cider and snacks! Kids are welcome on Saturday as well, but they will be your responsibility, having them work safely with you.

**There will be no childcare offered on these days.**

As a new element to our Garden/Planting events TMS will be having a **PLANT SALE**, October 24-26. Please stop by and browse our selection of plants. You can purchase to take home or you and your child can purchase to donate to your child's classroom. Please contact Liz Meadows if you wish to volunteer for this event.

Please RSVP with Shauna if you plan to attend the fall planting days.

### Parent Discussion
"Redirect Children's Behavior"
Wednesday, October 18th
6PM

Ever peek into a Montessori classroom and wonder, "What did they do to those children to make them so calm?" Ever wish you had that kind of peace at home?
Itching to help out around the school? Come and get your hands dirty every Friday morning from drop off until 11:30 am. Debb Godshall, president of the Outdoor Play and Learning Environment (OPLE) committee will be here directing volunteers to help keep our play and garden areas looking great. Please come and join the Montessori Garden Helpers every Friday weather permitting. Give a few minutes or a few hours of your time. Contact Deb at debgods@triad.rr.com if you are interested.

BOOK FAIR
The Week of October 29th

Come browse the large selection of great books! Convenient shopping, plus 25% of sales comes back to the school!

Open various times during the week of October 29th and during the Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 1st and 2nd. Look for more information later this month.

Give a Kid a Coat
The 2012 Give a Kid a Coat Campaign will run from Friday October 19th - Saturday, November 24th. In 1987, A Cleaner World kicked off the Give A Kid A Coat program with Kyle Petty and his son donating the first coat at The Salvation Army headquarters in Greensboro. The campaign is longer this year, from one week to two weeks, in hopes to get greater participation and more children's sized coats. Please check your closets for coats to donate and drop them off at any A Cleaner World between October 9th to November 2nd. The Salvation Army will then pick up the coats and distribute them to children in need.

Coats can be dropped at any A Cleaner World location.

TMS Events Calendar is available on school website with "ICal" option to link our calendar to your personal calendar.

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 you'll find over 200 items priced under $10! Our school earns free classroom supplies and materials every time you order from the For Small Hands catalog or website.

We cordially invite you to an evening with Annamarie Edwards and Jon Churn to learn more about how we redirect children's behavior and how this form of positive discipline can make a difference for you, your child and your family at home. We will discuss how redirecting children's behavior looks from toddler through adolescence, and you will leave with concrete strategies you can apply at home.

Looking Ahead.....

Parent Teacher Conferences November 1st and 2nd. Mark your calendars!

CLICK HERE TO REQUEST AN ALL SCHOOL DIRECTORY
There will be early dismissal Thurs. 11/1: 11:50AM for CH &Toddler 12 noon for Elementary
There will be NO SCHOOL Friday 11/2

We received over $400 in credit last year!
Magazines are available at the front desk if you have not yet received one. 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.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed their time and efforts at the fall picnic. Thank you to all the families who came out and supported this event. Happy fall everyone!

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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