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Parent

Development

2013-2014

“To consider the school as the place where instruction is given is one point of view. But to consider the school as a preparation for life is another.”

-Dr. Maria Montessori



*Parent Development is a vital component of any successful Montessori School. Montessori education is about the transformation of the child and at SSMS we believe that it is important for our parents to enter into this transformational process by gaining a better understanding of the work our staff does and the efforts of your child(ren).*

*Thus, we encourage you to take advantage of some of the numerous Parent Development sessions SSMS has to offer during the 2013-2014 school year. We also encourage you to take advantage of our Parent Library. Our Parent Library is located outside off the school office and offers literature on Montessori education, parenting philosophies, general education and much, much more.*

*To further help us all grow together, South Suburban Montessori School has purchased a subscription to Tomorrow’s Child for all of our families. Tomorrow’s Child is written by Montessori professionals and is designed specifically for Montessori parents, teachers, and families. You will find that the articles are easy to read and are full of useful information about Montessori theory and practices. In addition, the magazine has helpful parenting ideas and provides information about how to apply Montessori principles in the home.*

*We hope all of this will give you insight into what your child is doing during his or her time at South Suburban, and help you and your family get more out of your experiences at South Suburban Montessori School.*

Parent Development 2013-2014

**AUGUST**

Parent Orientation

A parent introduction to the policies, procedures and goals of SSMS for the 2013-2014 school year. Individual classroom meetings will follow a brief welcome presentation given by Amy Mackie-Barr, the Head of School.

Thursday, August 22nd 6:30pm

**SEPTEMBER**

Coffee with the Head of School

Join us for an informal discussion about topics of interest to parents. Your Head of School and SSMS Staff will be on hand to address questions or comments you may have regarding our first month of school.

Friday, September 20th 8:45am-9:45am

Siblings are welcome!

Board of Trustee Meeting

All meetings of the SSMS Board of Trustees are open to the general parent community. Come learn about the ‘behind the scenes’ projects and strategic goals of SSMS! An agenda for this meeting will be emailed to parents approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Wednesday, September 25th 6:30pm

School Library

**OCTOBER**

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

One day each month, you will have an opportunity to visit with your child in his/her respective Children’s House or Lower Elementary environment from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit**. Try building the Pink Tower, master the Check Board or write a story with your child. Come experience first-hand what your child is learning!

Tuesday, October 15th 8:45am or 2:00pm

Curriculum Night

A Journey through the Montessori Math Curriculum! Join your SSMS guides as they present the Montessori Math Curriculum…Toddlers through Middle School! Our presentation will be followed by visits to individual classrooms.

Thursday, October 17th 6:30pm

Babysitting provided.

Group One Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. These times are designed specifically to allow you to meet one on one with your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Classrooms are divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. Your child will be placed into either group at the discretion of the Directress.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Wednesday, October 30th Times to vary.

**NOVEMBER**

Specials Open House Month

Parents are invited to come and join a Specialty Class…Music, Spanish, Art or Physical Education during this week. Please call the office to schedule your visit.

Afternoon at the Movies: *The Race to Nowhere*

Join us for an all important screening of the critically acclaimed movie…*The Race to Nowhere. The Race to Nowhere* is an award-winning documentary that highlights the unintended consequences of our pressure-cooker culture and education system. **This is a must see for all parents.** Screening will be followed by a discussion session. Refreshments provided throughout the screening and discussion.

Saturday, November 2nd 2:00pm

(RSVP a must. Space is limited to 60) Childcare provided.

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited. Please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Wednesday, November 6th 8:45am or 2:00pm

Coffee with the Head of School

Join us for an informal discussion about topics of interest to parents. Your Head of School and SSMS Staff will be on hand to address questions or comments.

This morning’s coffee will include a discussion with Amy Mackie-Barr and Cecelia Romito on the subject of **toilet training**.

Friday, November 8th 8:45am

Siblings are welcome!

Group Two Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. These times are designed specifically to allow you to meet one on one with your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Classrooms are divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. Your child will be placed into either group at the discretion of the Directress.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Wednesday, November 13th Times to vary.

Moving Up Evening

This evening is geared to address the needs of families with children moving up to the next level of the Montessori Education. Come learn about what your child will be learning and the fabulous experience he/she will encounter as they move into their next class.

Tuesday, November 19th 6:00pm

(RSVP by Monday, November 18th) Childcare and dinner provided.

**DECEMBER**

Board of Trustee Meeting

All meetings of the SSMS Board of Trustees are open to the general parent community. Come learn about the ‘behind the scenes’ projects and strategic goals of SSMS! An agenda for this meeting will be emailed to parents approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Tuesday, December 3rd 6:30pm

School Library

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Thursday, December 12th 8:45am or 2:00pm

**JANUARY**

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Friday, January 17th 8:45am or 2:00pm

Coffee with the Head of School

Happy New Year! Start off the New Year with a “Welcome Back to School” coffee. Have fun meeting other parents and discussing topics of interest to you.

Tuesday, January 28th 8:45am-9:45am

Siblings are welcome!

Board of Trustee Meeting

All meetings of the SSMS Board of Trustees are open to the general parent community. Come learn about the ‘behind the scenes’ projects and strategic goals of SSMS! An agenda for this meeting will be emailed to parents approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Thursday, January 30th 6:30pm

School Library

**FEBRUARY**

Specials Open House Month

Parents are invited to come and join a Specialty Class…Music, Spanish, Art or Physical Education during this week. Please call the office to schedule your visit.

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Wednesday, February 19th 8:45am or 2:00pm

**MARCH**

Coffee with the Head of School

Join Amy Mackie-Barr and the Upper School faculty for an information session regarding **Standardized Testing**. All families are welcome but this coffee is **MANDATORY for all third grade parents**. Facts and myths around standardized testing will be discussed. SSMS’s testing protocol will be presented along with scoring explanations. Two sessions of the same discussion will be offered in an effort to accommodate the schedules of all our families.

Thursday, March 6th  8:45am-9:45am

Tuesday, March 11th 2:15pm-3:15pm

Group One Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. These times are designed specifically to allow you to meet one on one with your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Classrooms are divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. Your child will be placed into either group at the discretion of the Directress.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Thursday, March 6th Times to vary.

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Tuesday, March 11th 8:45 am or 2:00pm

Group Two Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. These times are designed specifically to allow you to meet one on one with your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Classrooms are divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. Your child will be placed into either group at the discretion of the Directress.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Tuesday, March 18th Times to vary.

Parent’s Night

Come join your Children’s House student(s) in his/her classroom. You will get to learn from the ‘experts’ as they present some of their favorite materials and lessons to you! Don’t miss this unique experience.

Thursday, March 20th Invitations & schedule to follow.

**APRIL**

Board of Trustee Meeting

All meetings of the SSMS Board of Trustees are open to the general parent community. Come learn about the ‘behind the scenes’ projects and strategic goals of SSMS! An agenda for this meeting will be emailed to parents approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Thursday, April 3rd 6:30pm

School Library

Parent Development Evening – *The Adolescent*

Join the SSMS staff for a discussion surrounding the physical, emotional and cognitive development of the adolescent. Help parental hints will also be shared. Parents of all ages of children are invited to attend…as those preschoolers will inevitable one day become teenagers!

Bring your questions and comments!

Wednesday, April 9th 6:00pm

(RSVP by Tuesday, April 8th) Childcare and dinner provided.

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Thursday, April 17th 8:45 am or 2:00pm

**MAY**

State of the School Parent/ Board Meeting

This meeting is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn more about the behind the scenes efforts of our school and the business decisions that have been made throughout the school year. Come learn first-hand about financial decisions, why they are made, the strategic plan and where the school is headed.

Wednesday, May 7th 6:30pm

Childcare and dinner provided.

Coffee with the Head of School

Join your Head of School and SSMS Staff for an informal discussion regarding “I am Bored…Beating the Summer Blues.” Talk about the importance of summer reading, Hear about our summer camps and tutoring programs. Fun activities you can do with your child.

Friday, May 9th 8:45am

Siblings are welcome!

Grandparent’s Day/Special Friends Day

This is a very special day as your child may invite either his/her grandparents or a special adult friend to visit him or her in the classroom. Your child will share some of his/her favorite works and lessons.

Tuesday, May 13th Schedule to be published closed to event date.

Children’s House & Lower Elementary Open Houses

Join us for this wonderful opportunity! You can visit with your child in the class from 8:45-9:45am or 2:00-3:00pm. **Space is limited so please contact the office to schedule a visit.** Come and experience what your child is learning!

Friday, May 23rd 8:45 am or 2:00pm

**RESOURCES**

The school possesses a wide range of books and periodicals relating to the Montessori approach, parenting, education and child development. Books may be borrowed from the Parent Library located outside the school office. Some of the more highly recommended books include:

* Toddlers & Parents by T. Berry Brazelton
* Kids Can Cooperate by Elizabeth Crary
* Children:  The Challenge by R. Dreikurs
* The New Approach to Discipline by Rudold Dreikurs
* Miseducation:Preschoolers at Risk by David Elkind
* The Hurried Child:  Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon by David Elkind
* How to Talk so Kids Will Listen & Listen so Kids Will Talk by A. Faber
* The Magic Years by S. Fraiberg
* Between Parent and Child by Dr. Haim Ginott
* Your Child's Growing Mind by Jane Healy
* Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius by Dr. Angeline Lillard
* Montessori: A Modern Approach by Paula Lillard
* Montessori Today by Paula Lillard
* The Child in the Family by Maria Montessori
* The Absorbent Mind by Maria Montessori
* Positive Discipline by Jane Nelson
* The Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet by Priscilla Prutzman
* Maria Montessori: Her Life and Her Work by E. Mortimer Standing

**SSMS STAFF**

**Administration Lower Elementary**

*Head of School Guide*

Amy Mackie-Barr Pamela Gujrati

*Assistants*

*Business Office Manager* Nirmala Balasubramanian

Carol Andrzejewski Joann Fox

*Secretary*

Terri Lemut

**Toddler Community** **Upper Elementary**

*Guide Guide*

Cecelia Romito Kimberly White

*Assistant Assistant*

Dominique Blanc Lauren Hannah

**Children’s House 1 Environment** **Middle School**

*Guide Guide*

Sean Fleming Brooke Grill

*Assistant*

Evy Kehoe **Specialty Subjects**

*Music*

**Children’s House 2 Environment** Aaron Spector

*Guide*

Angela Galarza *Physical Education*

*Assistant* Karl Evele

Linette Pacheco Natalie Sanford

*AMS Intern*

Emily Zahn *Spanish*

Dora Hedayatnia

**Children’s House 3 Environment**

*Guide*

Heather Gerheim-Gladden

*Assistant* **Reading Specialist**

Edyta Rutkowski Leslie Cassaniti

**Children’s House Encore Program** **School Psychologist**

*Guide* Sharon Hogan

Tammi Vallo

*Assistant*

Candyce Petrie