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Parent

Development

2015-2016

“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 2015-2016 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 2015-2016

**AUGUST**

Parent Orientation

A parent introduction to the policies, procedures and goals of SSMS for the 2015-2016 school year. Individual classroom meetings will follow a brief welcome presentation given by Amy Mackie-Barr, the Head of School. Then stick around for our Ice Cream Social!

Tuesday, August 18th 6:00pm

**SEPTEMBER**

Middle School Parent Observations

One of the best and most impressive ways to learn about the Montessori approach to education is to observe a class in action. An observation allows you the opportunity to see and learn more about how your child spends his or her time at South Suburban. This set of observation dates are set aside for our Middle School environment. While full participation is expected for Middle School families, all families are welcome.

September 8th, 9th, 21st & 22nd Times to vary.

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 9th 6:30pm

School Library

Coffee with the Head of School: *At Home With Montessori*

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.

Tuesday, September 15th 9:00am

 Siblings are welcome!

**OCTOBER**

Curriculum Night

This is your chance to learn more about the Montessori Curriculum and to get your hands on the materials. The evening will begin with a brief overview of the Montessori philosophy and then be followed by visits to individual classrooms. Join us for an exciting night in your child’s classroom.

Thursday, October 15th 6:30pm

 Babysitting provided.

Coffee with the Head of School: *Montessori and Parenting*

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

Friday, October 23rd 9:00am

 Siblings are welcome!

Middle School Conferences

Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. Middle School conferences are student-led and designed specifically as an opportunity for your child to share his or her progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Week of October 26th Times to vary.

Parent Classroom Observations

One of the best and most impressive ways to learn about the Montessori approach to education is to observe a class in action. An observation allows you the opportunity to see and learn more about how your child spends his or her time at South Suburban. This set of observation dates are set aside for our Toddler through Upper Elementary environments. **Full participation is expected.**

Weeks of October 26th – November 9th Times to vary.

**NOVEMBER**

General Board Meeting – “State of the School”

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 in the last year as well as about the School’s strategic plan and long range goals.

Wednesday, November 4th 6:30pm

 Childcare provided.

Coffee with the Head of School: *Literacy in Montessori*

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.

Wednesday, November 18th 9:00am

 Siblings are welcome!

Parent –Teacher 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.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

November 17th – November 19th Times to vary.

**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.

Wednesday, December 2nd 6:30pm

 School Library

Coffee with the Head of School: ***Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius***

Join us for an informal presentation and discussion about the acclaimed book Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius. Your Head of School and SSMS Staff will be on hand to address questions or comments.

This Coffee will be held at the Brecksville Library.

Wednesday, December 2nd 9:00am Siblings are welcome!

**JANUARY**

Coffee with the Head of School: *Why Stay?*

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.

Wednesday, January 13th 9:00am

 Siblings are welcome!

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, January 26th 6:00pm

 Childcare and dinner provided.

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.

TBD 6:30pm

 School Library

**FEBRUARY**

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.

Tuesday, February 9th 1:00pm

 Childcare provided.

Coffee with the Head of School: *Montessori vs. Traditional Education*

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.

Thursday, February 11th  9:00am

 Siblings are welcome!

Middle School Parent Observations

One of the best and most impressive ways to learn about the Montessori approach to education is to observe a class in action. An observation allows you the opportunity to see and learn more about how your child spends his or her time at South Suburban. This set of observation dates are set aside for our Middle School environment. While full participation is expected for Middle School families, all families are welcome.

February 22nd & 23rd Times to vary.

Parent Classroom Observations

One of the best and most impressive ways to learn about the Montessori approach to education is to observe a class in action. An observation allows you the opportunity to see and learn more about how your child spends his or her time at South Suburban. This set of observation dates are set aside for our Toddler through Upper Elementary environments. Full participation is expected.

Weeks of February 29th – March 15th Times to vary.

**MARCH**

Coffee with the Head of School: *21st Century Learning Skills*

Join us for an informal presentation and discussion about the skills and outcomes necessary for students to be successful in the 21st century. Your Head of School and SSMS Staff will be on hand to address questions or comments.

**This Coffee will be held at the Brecksville Library.**

Tuesday, March 8th  8:45am-9:45am

 Siblings are welcome!

Middle School Parent Observations

One of the best and most impressive ways to learn about the Montessori approach to education is to observe a class in action. An observation allows you the opportunity to see and learn more about how your child spends his or her time at South Suburban. This set of observation dates are set aside for our Middle School environment. While full participation is expected for Middle School families, all families are welcome.

March 15th and 16th Times to vary.

Parent –Teacher 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.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

March 22nd – March 24th Times to vary.

**APRIL**

Coffee with the Head of School: *Spice Acres Farm*

Join us for an informal presentation and discussion about the unique relationship between South Suburban Montessori School and Spice Acres Farm. You will also have the opportunity to see our Middle School students in action as it is their farm week. Your Head of School will be on hand to address questions or comments.

**This Coffee will be held at Spice Acres Farm.**

Tuesday, April 12th  8:45am-9:45am

 Siblings are welcome!

Middle School Conferences

Conferences are an essential component to parent-school communication. Middle School conferences are student-led and designed specifically as an opportunity for your child to share his or her progress, strengths and adjustment to school. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Schedules will be made available as the date gets closer.

Week of April 18th Times to vary.

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.

Friday, April 22nd Details to be published closed to event date.

**MAY**

Coffee with the Head of School: *Summer*

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 13th 8:45am

 Siblings are welcome!

**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 FACULTY & STAFF**

**Administration**

*Head of School*

Amy Mackie-Barr

*Business Office Manager*

Carol Andrzejewski

*Secretary*

Terri Lemut

*Director of Admissions*

Melanie King

**Toddler Community**

*Guide*

Cecelia Romito

*Assistant*

Barb Tuori

**Children’s House 1 Environment**

*Guide*

Sean Fleming

*Assistant*

Evy Kehoe

**Children’s House 2 Environment**

*Guide*

Angela Galarza

*Assistant*

Linette Pacheco

**Children’s House 3 Environment**

*Guide*

Heather Gerheim-Gladden

*Assistant*

Edyta Rutkowski

**Children’s House Encore Program**

*Guide*

Tammi Vallo

*Assistant*

Candyce Petrie

**Lower Elementary**

*Co-Guides*

Lauren Collins

Beth Hinkel

**Upper Elementary**

*Guide*

Kimberly White

*Assistant*

Blake Minich

**Middle School**

*Guide*

Kellie Padget

**Complementary Subjects**

*Art*

Joann Fox

*Music*

Aaron Spector

*Spanish*

Antonette Haswell-Rivera

Linette Pacheco

*Physical Education*

Natalie Sanford

**School Psychologist**

Sharon Hogan