

# Little Star Montessori

Newsletter

September 15, 2009

## GENERAL UPDATES

### From our Director

*To those of you who are new to Little Star, welcome! To those of you returning for another incredible year, welcome back!*

*We are thrilled to have begun our school year with crisp, organized classrooms, clean carpets, and a new furnace. Thank you for the abundant support you gave us during our work party. It is because of your efforts that our school shines so brightly. We are grateful to have an energetic, dynamic and committed group of parents. Most importantly, we are thankful to have your trust in taking care of your beautiful children. We are so honored.*

*In this first note, I would like to explain my method of communication, clarify Trudi's and my roles, and keep you abreast of the school's upcoming goals.*

*I have an open door policy. My preference is to remain transparent with you, keep everyone – you – in the know. I will periodically share our goals, list of to-dos, as well as any issues that involve our school. Feel free to ask questions. If I don't have the answers, I will get them for you. Should something be confusing for you, don't hesitate to give me your feedback. If it's confusing for you, it's likely that you're not alone. All of us value your input and contributions. It's important for us to hear from you so that we're aware of your concerns.*

*Trudi and I are often clumped together as "the Little Star office." For your clarification, Trudi oversees billing, registration, and many of the school's day-to-day logistics. I oversee communication with all constituents, budget and development, personnel, and staff supervision. I work with our board to establish systems and goals for the school, as well as ensure that those goals are met. Despite our different roles, we do work together as a team and frequently fill in for one another. Therefore, more often than not, your questions can be directed toward both of us. Between the two of us, hopefully we can ensure that your needs are met!*

*This year, our major goals include:*

- *Streamline communication with our parents*
- *Finalize our 2009-2011 strategic plan*
- *Raise funds for teacher salary increases and to implement a flexible benefits plan*
- *Raise funds for staff to attend the Montessori Conference*
- *Certify 3 teachers in the Montessori Method*
- *Broaden our donor base*
- *Devise a plan and secure funds for an improved play yard*
- *Fundraise to meet our annual budget and increased scholarship needs*

*In an attempt to consolidate our communication, I will send you twice monthly newsletters, one with general updates and the other with general updates alongside classroom news. I will include information about participation opportunities, upcoming events, field trips, etc. There will certainly be times when we must send notices to you between our newsletters. However, our goal is to consolidate the number of messages we send to you.*

*Again, thank you for your tireless efforts and support for our school. It's because of you – our tight community – that we are entering our 28<sup>th</sup> year. Don't hesitate to call or pull any one of us aside to ask questions, voice concerns, or share thoughts and stories. We are excited to have you, and especially your children, with us.*

*Take care, Nicole*

## Office News

**Communication** *This year, we have made the transition from paper to email communication. Our goal is to be less wasteful, reduce administrative costs, as well as streamline our communication with you. If you would like printed copies of our calendars or newsletters, please let us know. Otherwise, all communication outside of your monthly bills will be sent to you in an email format.*

**Open Houses** *Open houses are scheduled for each of the classrooms as follows:*

*Toddler: Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5pm*

*Kinder: Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5pm*

*Preschool: Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm*

*Childcare will be provided. Finger food and refreshments will be served. We will take time to become acquainted, explore the classroom and materials, and provide you with an overview of our school. Please come with questions you might have about our programs, as well as stories or experiences to share with our new parents.*

**H1-N1** *Our school policy is to respond to the H1-N1 virus as we would another strain of the flu virus. If a child becomes sick with a fever or stomach upset, **please keep him/her home until 24 hours have passed since the fever broke or since s/he last vomited.** If you believe that your child has the H1-N1 virus, please contact your family physician. For additional information, visit: <http://www.flu.gov/>*

**Record or Parent Participation** *If you have stepped forward to help our school, please be sure to record your hours. Participation slips are available for you now in our entryway cubbies.*

**Tuition** *Tuition payments are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please note that you will be charged a \$5 late fee for payments past due.*

*Please don't hesitate to contact us in the office if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for a smooth, successful first week of school!*

## Volunteer Needs

*As stated above, I will send you twice monthly newsletters with Little Star's up-to-date needs, as well as upcoming fundraising events. In the coming week, you will also receive a letter and calendar of events from Sara Crum, the Chair of our Event Fundraising Committee.*

*In response to consistent parent feedback, we have revamped our fundraising events to be more eco-conscious and local. Our goal is to simultaneously raise funds for our school in a sustainable fashion*

and support our local economy. This year, some of our scheduled events include:

- Little Star's Fall Festival, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Twisp Community Center – **sign-up sheets have been posted in Little Star's entryway**
- Two ice skating parties
- Christmas Bazaar
- Pizza Sales in collaboration with East 20 Pizza
- Valentine's Day Raffle
- Spring Yard Sale
- R & B Parking

Little Star collects Red Apple Receipts and ink cartridges. There are separate boxes for each in our entryway for your convenience. Little Star receives 1% of the value for each Red Apple receipt turned in on Little Star's behalf. In addition, we receive up to \$3.00 for each recycled ink cartridge. Please **DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR RED APPLE RECEIPTS AND INK CARTRIDGES!** Bring them to school instead!

We are implementing an exciting, new fundraiser that will support both Little Star as well as local businesses. We are developing a coupon book that will feature approximately 60-75 businesses. We will print 500 copies to sell at \$20 each. They will be on sale by November 1<sup>st</sup>, in time for holiday shopping. They will be sold at the Mazama Store, the Tenderfoot, Trails End Bookstore, Little Star, Red Apple, Twisp Chevron, and the Carlton Store. For more information about our coupon book, contact Brooke Bourn at 996-2541. Stay tuned for more details!

Finally, following is a list of participation opportunities. If you are not sure how to complete your participation hours, or would like to take on one of these projects, don't hesitate to stop by the office to inquire.

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**Task**

**Make an appetizer for our three upcoming open houses – Oct 22-24**

**Check/tighten/replace screws on roof**

**Garden work**

**Shorten and hem curtains in Kinder hallway**

**Fix box of toys with broken parts (this is a take home task)**

**Take Kinder keyboard to Radio Shack in Wenatchee to replace cord**

**All programs would like a parent coordinator for their classroom-specific activities**

**Bike Day Coordinator (twice per month)**

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Thank you!