



Children First!



Nokomis Montessori Magnet School Newsletter

Dear Nokomis Families, August 2016

Welcome to Nokomis Montessori dual, mirror campus! Both schools will serve students in grades PreK – grade 5. Our North campus will serve students living in Area A and C (East of 35E). Our South campus will serve students living in Area B. Both buildings are open 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily in August. I enclosed a copy of the **2016-2017 district calendar, Nokomis September calendar, school supply list and September 1 Open House & PTA Ice Cream Social.**

Your child is registered to attend Nokomis North campus (985 Ruth Street).

Fire Sprinkler system construction will be completed soon at North campus.

Welcome to our new teachers:

- **Shannon Newby**, Children's House Montessori teacher
- **Rachel Otter**, E1 Montessori teacher
- **Katerina Youngberg**, School Counselor serving both North and South campus. She will facilitate class lessons as well as offer student support groups.

School begins for students in grades 1-5 on Tuesday, September 6. All students should be out at their bus stops at least five minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time. Buses may run behind during the first few days of school, so we ask parents to be patient and not call until it is 20 minutes past the pick up or drop off time.

School begins for our Childrens House students (4 year old and Kindergarten) on Thursday, September 8. Parents of all Early Childhood students will be invited to a parent-teacher conference with your child's teacher on **Tuesday, September 6 or Wednesday, September 7.** Our CH Teachers will mail letters on August 29 including your child's specific conference time. Please call your child's Montessori teacher directly if you need to change your conference time.

Our school hours are 9:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Our PreK students attend class from 9:30 a.m. – NOON daily. **Students can enter the building starting at 9:15 a.m.** We do not provide supervision for children before 9:15 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. If you need childcare before 9:15 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m., please call our Discovery Club Program at 632-3793 for more information.

If your home or daycare address has changed for bus transportation, please call Secretary Debbie at 651-744-7440 by Friday, August 19. Our district Bus Transportation department uses this information to create our bus routes and schedules. Bus change requests received after August 19 will be processed by our district Transportation Department starting week of September 19. Students can be added to an existing stop until the week of September 19. Our district Transportation Department will mail a postcard with your child's bus transportation on Thursday, August 25.

Please join us at our annual **Open House & PTA Ice Cream Social on Thursday, September 1 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** to meet your child's teacher and bring your school supplies. During the Open House, parents will be able to:

- Receive a copy of our **2016-2017 Nokomis Calendar** (one copy per family) in the lobby.
- Sign up for **November Parent-Teacher conferences** in the lobby.
- Deposit money in your **child's meal account** and/or complete a **free/reduced lunch application on a computer** in the lobby. Please pick up your child's lunch six digit student identification number and paper keypad from Nutrition Services in lobby so you can practice at home.
- **PTA Ice Cream Social** in the cafeteria

All teachers return to work on **Monday, August 29.** Montessori classroom teachers and special education teachers will mail a welcome back to school letter to all students including a specific supply list and bus transportation schedules on Monday, August 29.

All students will pick up **breakfast to go in the lobby** and then eat breakfast in their classrooms. **Breakfast is FREE for all our students!** Students enter their six digit student ID number for lunch only. Reminder, our PreK students do not eat lunch at school.

Please join us for our first **Site Council and PTA meetings** are scheduled on **Tuesday, September 20** in the foyer at **South campus** (525 White Bear Avenue). **Site Council** will meet from **5:30-6:00 p.m.** and **PTA** will meet from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** We will discuss parent and staff representatives, 2016-2017 calendar, review our school plan for 2016-2017, share plans for September Montessori Parent Education, and plan for PTA Fall Festival. All PTA and Site Council meetings are scheduled at South campus all year as Discovery Club is providing childcare for PTA meetings.

Character education is embedded in Montessori methodology. Our school community will have **monthly character education themes** again this year. We are focusing on Peacefulness in September as Nokomis is a peaceful place to learn. Please join us for our annual **International Peace Day Assembly on Wednesday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for our **Montessori Parent Education Night on Thursday, September 22 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at North campus** to learn more about our Montessori instructional methodology. We strongly encourage new parents and current parents whose child transitioned to a new Montessori classroom to participate in our Montessori Parent Education Night. A flyer with more information will be sent home soon.

Congratulations to Aubrey Shelton and Ava Burke-Carr for serving as our **School Patrol Captains** this year! **Thanks to the PTA** for funding their Camp Legionville in July! **Thanks to Leslie, E2 Montessori teacher,** for serving as our **School Patrol Supervisor!** Leslie and Debbie will work together to organize school patrols for our students who walk to school.

If you think you may qualify for **free or reduced meals**, parents need to complete an **application** (one per family) at the beginning of the school year. **Forms are available online at www.ns.spps.org and go to free/reduced meal prices.** Forms will be available in our school offices later this month. **Reduced price meals are free for students.** Nutrition Services mailed applications to families in July. **I strongly encourage parents to complete free/reduced meal applications soon to allow ten working days for the district Nutrition Services to process your application.** Incomplete, difficult to read or incorrect applications will delay meal benefits. Please remember to write your telephone number on the form so Nutrition Services can contact you if your form is incomplete. Please call **Nutrition Services at 603-4950 or 603-4954** if you have any questions. Interpreters are available. Reminder, our school receives budget funds based on the percentage of students eligible for free/reduced meals.

New! iUpdate Tool for Parents. A new online tool called iUpdate will serve as an one stop credentials for parents as we enter the new school year. Not only will parents be able to access Parent Portal accounts on iUpdate, they will also be able to revise household information, sign media permission and release forms and agree to technology/ipad rules. Parents will be mailed new user names to access iUpdate the week of August 15. If you have any questions, please call Jeannie Retelle at 651-744-1533.

We're looking forward to welcoming our students back to school in September! If you have any further questions, please call **John Andrastek, full-time Assistant Principal at North campus,** or myself at **744-7440 (North).**

Sincerely,

Melissa McCollor, Principal