



# Children First!



Nokomis Montessori Magnet School Newsletter

Dear Nokomis Families, Dec. 2016

**THANKS to all of our parents for making it a top priority to participate in our parent-teacher conferences last month!** We had a high percentage of our parents participate in November parent-teacher conferences at both campuses again this year!

**Join us for our annual Hmong New Year Celebration on Friday, December 2 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at North campus.** Our **Hmong CLAnD students** are performing! **Thanks to Bao, MaiKa and Pai** for teaching our Hmong CLAnD after school classes!

Our students and parents enjoy making crafts together at our annual **PTA Craft Night on Friday, December 9 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at South campus.**

**Please remember to check your child's backpack daily to ensure that dangerous items, toys and non-educational items are left at home.** While we understand that children like to share their favorite items with one another, I must emphasize that bringing these items to school may have serious consequences – including toys that look like weapons.

Our Montessori teachers are administering **OLPA Reading and Math online testing** to our grade 3-5 students.

Our Minnesota winter cold season has begun! **Please send warm winter clothing** (jacket, snowpants, boots, hat, mittens) with your child every day for outdoor recess. **We are accepting donations of clean, gently used winter coats and snowpants for our School Health Office.**

We enclosed a copy of the **2016-2017 Winter Weather Plan for Saint Paul Public Schools.** The safety and well being of students and staff is our top priority and the decision to close schools is no simple manner. Absences will not be

excused if parents wish to keep their children home on cold days when school is in session.

**Enjoy winter break with your family!** Winter break begins on Thursday, December 22. Students return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Melissa McCollor, Principal

## No School for Students

**December 22 - January 2, 2017 (Winter Break).**

**Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Holiday)**

**Friday, January 27 (Teacher Professional Day)**

## **Winter Reminders:**

**Before School:** Students can enter the building at **9:15 a.m.** We do not supervise students before this time.

**Recess:** Students will be going outside for recess unless the **temperature or wind chill is below zero.** Warm coats, mittens and gloves, hats, snow pants, and boots are encouraged for daily outdoor recess.

## **PreK and Kindergarten School Choice Fair**

Saturday, January 7, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Washington Technology

## **Application Deadline Grades PreK – Grade 12**

**February 15, 2017**

**[apply.spps.org](http://apply.spps.org)**

**Hmong New Year Celebration  
Friday, December 2  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
North campus**

**THANKS in advance to all families for making it a priority to participate in our annual Hmong New Year Celebration on Friday, December 2! Thanks to Bao Yang, Maika Vang and Pai Lee for teaching our Hmong CLAnD classes so our students could perform at our Hmong New Year.**

Congratulations to our Dance students:  
**Makaylah Davis, Isaac Lee, Mackenzie Sosa Vang, Ethan Vue, Kyla Vue and Sarina Vue.**

Congratulations to our Hmong Art and Literacy students: **Brodie Cummings, Kevin Moua, Maddy Vang, Annika Wade, Isabella Vue and Scarlett Vang.**

Congratulations to our Fashion Show students:  
**Madeline Her, Kajsiab Lee, Duabzong Vang, Mai Nyia Vang, Pajra Xiong and Pearl Yang.**

**Thanks to Grandpa Leepalao** for joining us to share sacred words with us to send away the old year and share a special blessing for the New Year! **THANKS to Grandma Doua Yang** for cooking sticky rice! **Thanks to Grandma Youa Vang** for cooking eggs and rice!

**THANKS to all parents and staff members** for contributing food for our annual Hmong New Year feast. **Thanks to Harding ROTC students** for assisting us with our Hmong New Year Celebration!

**Lost or Missing iPads**

Students or their guardians should report a lost or missing iPad to the school. At that point the school's iPad support staff will briefly turn on the iPad's geolocation feature, identify the iPad's location, and turn the feature off. If the iPad is located on SPPS property, on the bus or at the student's primary address, SPPS will inform the student. If the iPad is located at any other place, parents will receive that information by phone.

**Parkway Montessori  
Community News**

Greetings Nokomis families! As we head into the halfway point of the school year, I want to make you aware of some opportunities for you to learn more about Parkway. **Our grade 4 & 5 students and parents are invited to Parkway Montessori Information Night** facilitated by Principal Jocelyn Sims and her team **on Tuesday, December 6 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Nokomis Montessori North campus.** At the beginning of the second semester, we will offer "shadow" days for any 5th grade students who want to come see what Parkway is all about by following a 6th grader for part of the day. I will let you know those dates as we get closer to the second semester. **Parkway Montessori Community Open House event is scheduled on Thursday, February 2 from 6:00-7:30 PM.** This is an opportunity for parents and students to walk the building to visit classrooms and learn what Parkway is all about. We will have many staff and students available to you to help show you around and answer your questions. I sure hope to see many of you there! Thank you!  
Jocelyn Sims, Principal

**Nokomis Montessori North  
Area A & Area C (East Side of 35E)  
Open House  
Wednesday, January 25  
10:00 a.m.**

includes classroom observations  
or **6:00 p.m.**

**Nokomis Montessori South  
Area B  
Open House**

**Thursday, January 26  
2:00 p.m.**  
includes classroom observations  
or **6:00 p.m.**

Our current parents of Kindergarten children and grade 3 parents are encouraged to participate in our Open Houses to learn more about our E1 (grades 1-3) and E2 (grades 4-5) classrooms.

