



Children First!



Nokomis Montessori Magnet School Newsletter

Dear Nokomis Families, October 2016

Our first month of school was calm and productive at both campuses. Our children benefit greatly from being with the same teacher for two to three years.

THANKS to the PTA for organizing our **PTA Fall Festival on Friday, September 30 at North campus!** Our students enjoyed the fun activities, food and two inflatable bouncers provided by **Bob Kaye from Club's Choice and PTA!** Thanks to **Nurse Katie** for organizing the flu shot clinic! **Thanks to Harding ROTC students** for helping us with our PTA Fall Festival!

Our **monthly newsletters** are sent home with students on the last day of each month. A copy of this newsletter is also posted on our Nokomis website (www.nokomis.spps.org).

Breakfast is FREE for all students. Breakfast helps our children pay better attention in school, improve their grades, and improve classroom behaviors. Please encourage your child to eat breakfast at school.

A copy of the **breakfast and lunch menu** will be enclosed in monthly newsletters. Breakfast and lunch menus are posted online at spps.nutrislice.com.

Please join us for our annual **Fall Family Lunch and Title I Annual Meeting on Friday, October 7 at North campus and Friday, October 14 at South campus.**

Complimentary lunch will be provided for adult and pre-school children using Title I budget.

We're looking forward to **November Parent-Teacher conferences.** Teachers will send home a conference sheet on Friday, October 7 to parents who didn't sign up for conferences during Open House. Your child's teacher will

send home a conference appointment sheet with all students on **Thursday, October 27.**

Sincerely,

Melissa McCollor, Principal

Picture Day

North = Wednesday, October 19

South = changed to November 3

LifeTouch envelopes to purchase your child's picture will be sent home soon. Reminder, checks should be written to LifeTouch. Please send a separate check for each child's LifeTouch picture order envelope.

No School for Students

Thursday, October 20 &

Friday, October 21

(State Teacher Meetings)

and

Friday, October 28

(Teacher Conference Prep Day)

Discovery Club offers fee-based childcare. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Discovery Club at 293-5464.

Hazel Park Recreation Center (945 N. Hazel Avenue) provides childcare on October 20 & 21 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fee is \$10.00 a child. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Go online at www.stpaul.gov/parks to register, call 651-501-6350 or registration forms are available in the school office. Be sure to bring: bag lunch and beverage daily; swimming suit and towel on swimming day; and tennis shoes for gym activities daily.

**Extended Day for Learning Classes
Monday, October 10 &
Wednesday, October 12
Grades 3-5**

Our Nokomis Extended Day Learning After School Classes will begin on **Monday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 12 from 4:00-5:45 p.m.** We mailed letters to students in grades 3-5 who are recommended to register for our EDL to receive additional learning support.

EDL classes will be taught by our teachers this year at both campuses!

Grade 3 = Kristin & Danielle at North campus
Grade 3 = Kristie & Clare at South campus
Grade 4 & 5 = Mary & Katerina
Grade 4 & 5 = Mr. Pollard

**EDL Band & Strings
Grade 4 & 5 students
Starts October 10 & 12**

Our grade 4 & 5 students can register to participate in our EDL Band & Strings program! We have instruments for students to use.

**Hmong CLAnD
After School Classes**

Our **Hmong CLAnD** (Culture, Language, Arts and Dance) after school classes start on **Tuesday, October 4 from 4:05-5:30 p.m. at South campus** (525 White Bear Avenue). Parents need to pick-up their children by 5:30 p.m. as bus transportation is not provided. **THANKS to Bao Yang, MaiKa Vang and Pai Lee** for teaching our Hmong CLAnD classes!

Our Hmong CLAnD students will perform at our annual **Hmong New Year Celebration on Friday, December 2 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**CH & E1 Club's Choice Fundraiser
Begins Friday, September 30 &
Ends Monday, October 17**

We will send home Club's Choice Fundraiser packets on Friday, September 30. Club's Choice orders and money are due Monday, October 17. All profits will go directly to your child's Children's House and/or E1 classrooms. Thanks to Bob Kaye from Club's Choice for providing one inflatable bouncer for our September 30 PTA Fall Festival!

CogAT7 Talent Development Test

Saint Paul Public Schools uses the CogAT7 test to identify students as "Gifted and Talented." Nokomis Montessori has high percentage of students identified as "Gifted and Talented" using district criteria. Our Montessori methodology supports differentiated learning for our children.

October 6: Parents communicate with Montessori teachers by October 6 if they want their child in grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 nominated for Cog Talent Development Testing.

October 10-27: Nominated students in grades 1-5 and all grade 2 students who have not been previously identified will take the CogAT7 test.

November 7-15: Kindergarten students will take the CogAT Screener. Our CH Montessori teachers will administer the CogAT7 test to their Kindergarten students.

If you have questions about CogAT7 testing, please talk with your child's Montessori teacher at 744-7440. Our district will mail CogAT7 results to parents at the end of January 2017.

Free or Reduced Meal Applications

We would like to remind you to complete your **child's application for free or reduced meals** for the 2016-2017 school year. Apply online at www.ns.spps.org or forms are available in the school office. On **Tuesday, October 18** your **child's eligibility will be changed to a full pay status and you will be charged balance for meals (\$67.50) by district Nutrition Services.** Please call **Mary Lee at 744-6066** or Nutrition Services at **603-4954** if you have any questions.

Nutrition Services district department recommends that all parents complete an online or paper 2016-2017 Application for Educational Benefits Free or Reduced Price Meals. Reminder, Nutrition Services requires only one completed application per family listing all household members. If your income is beyond the guidelines, parents can check a "box" on the online or paper application and it doesn't require parents share their income. If you have questions about your application, parents can call **Nutrition Services at 651-603-4950.** Our school receives Title I and Compensatory budget funds based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced meal prices.

Wellness Suggestions

Encourage your child to **exercise daily** at home by playing outside, walking together in the neighborhood, riding bicycles, and going to nearby parks.

We are taking steps to **reduce the spread of flu** in our school. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.
- Teach your child to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or to use the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of hand when tissue is not available.
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore

throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling very tired. Some children may also vomit or have diarrhea.

- Keep sick children at home at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children at home with a fever will reduce the number of children who may get infected.
- Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

Parkway Montessori Community Middle School

Greetings Nokomis families! My name is Jocelyn Sims and I am the new principal at Parkway Montessori Community Middle School. I am very excited to be the new principal and be back in St. Paul. I took a three year leave to be with my family in Arizona where I was a middle school principal. I certainly enjoyed my time and learned a lot, but I am very excited to be back at home in St. Paul. Prior to my time in Arizona, I was the principal at Battle Creek Middle School.

We had a GREAT start at Parkway and I am excited at the dedication and commitment of the staff, students and families. With new leadership comes new changes, but all with a focus on students and a commitment to being a leader in urban secondary Montessori education. We have lots of goals in place and are working at ensuring that we accomplish these goals. Over the course of this school year I plan to visit Nokomis to continue my learning around Montessori education and further support our partnership and future work in being a high quality feeder school to your students at Nokomis North and South campuses. I welcome each and every one of you to visit Parkway and look forward to continuing to communicate and share with you about Parkway Montessori Community Middle School.

Jocelyn Sims
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