



Key West Montessori Charter School Friends & Family News

1 February, 2012

Community Building

The Montessori Charter School community will hold its first annual **Red Party @ 5:30** on **February 9th** at our lovely outdoor area. We have had a few donations of decorations - thank you to our helpful families! Volunteers are still needed to donate supplies and set-up on the day of the event, and **all families are asked to bring a dish to pass - it is a potluck party, after all!** Contact our parent liaison, Bethany Smith-Martin, to lend your helping hands: Bethanysmithmartin@yahoo.com We will have terrific tunes provided by the Cooper family, so wear **red**, put on your dancing shoes and bring something yummy to share!

February 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31 Last Day to Vote YES!	1	2	3 It's the 100th Day of School!	4
5	6	7	8	9 Montessori Community Valentine Potluck Party 5:30 @ school	10	11
12	13	14	15 Blood Drive 9-2:30 Charter Board Meeting 4:00	16	17	18
Perfect Attendance Week						
19	20 Presidents' Day School Closed	21	22	23 Open House 5:30-6:30	24	25

Our web site is the best way to stay current with school information:
www.KeyWestMontessori.com
 Check out our Face Book page too:
www.facebook.com/pages/Key-West-Montessori-Charter-School/115288598547829

The Key West Montessori Charter School is a public school, open to all children, striving to reflect the **diversity** of our community. Our innovative academic program, rooted in the teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori, challenges the student, individually, in a **safe and nurturing environment**. Students are guided in the development of **self-discipline, self-confidence, cooperation** and **responsibility**; and are instilled with solid foundations in **intellectual growth, humanitarianism** and **peace**.

Fundraising Update

The Fundraising Committee needs your help to reach our goal this Spring! Please join us for a meeting on **Thursday, February 2nd** (Groundhog Day!) **at 6:00 pm at Salute on the Beach**. We will be planning for some of our upcoming ***fun*** activities such as our **Cinco De Mayo** Gala Event and the **Spell-A-Thon**. **If you plan to attend this meeting, please send me (Angela Modugno) an email so I know how many tables to reserve.** Enjoy the beach breeze and sunset and earn some Service Hours in the process!

Please email a_modugno@hotmail.com if you plan on attending.

Open House Series

Montessori education is markedly different from the traditional model most of us experienced as students. As parents of Montessori students, it is important to have an understanding of the method in which your child learns; parents who have first-hand experience with Montessori practice are better able to advocate for our school. We will hold a series of "Open House" evenings throughout the next three months, the first of which will take place **Thursday, February 23 from 5:30 - 6:30**. All parents will want to attend, as students will present Montessori works at this time. Be sure to save the date, and plan to join us for an educationally fun evening!

School-Home Connection

Home  School

Writing a newsletter each week is time consuming, but it is important to me that our families are informed. I may not always remember to include EVERYTHING in my weekly communication, and for that I apologize, but it is my weekly priority to make the time to share information about our school with you. Likewise, it is so important that - as parents of our charter school - you make the effort to stay informed. If checking your email is not high on your priority list, consider visiting our web site and reading the newsletter online. As always, I appreciate your feedback; if there is something you want to see added to our newsletters, or if you have an alternate suggestion for keeping informed, please let me know: Lynn@KeyWestMontessori.com

Arrival & Dismissal Area

We are currently working on increasing safety at our arrival & dismissal area, and we could use your help; please refrain from driving over the painted sidewalk, and thanks for allowing Montessori staff escort your child to their vehicle.

Support Needed

There are a number of ways in which you can volunteer your time to our school. Please contact Mrs. Liv or myself if you are able to take on one or more of these projects:

- * Install lattice behind the storage shed
- * Scrub common area halls over a weekend
- * Brace/repair the computer table legs in the Reef Gecko Classroom
- * Secure chalkboards to exterior concrete wall
- * Steam clean long bench in hallway
- * Weekly pillow & work rug washing
- * Air conditioner filter cleaning (monthly)
- * Lay Square One Art tiles at entryway counter
- * Donate a digital camera to the school for student use
- * Pull weeds in outdoor area

Thanks to the following families for completing their 25 hours (or more) of service to our school:

**Anthony Burchfield Concepcion Cooper DeLaCruz
Dunn Eppy Ewing Farris First/Modugno Graham
Hyatt-Hensley Hrabec/Hrabcova Jackson LaBeet
Lockwood Maun Niles Seemiller Shvero Stotts
Wilcox/Ward Zucker**

We appreciate your service to our school!

Log your hours now: Liv.Sorli@KeysSchools.com

Summer Camp Planning

We are developing some great summer plans for your child! Ms. Mendy will be spearheading the KWMCS Summer Camp 2012, along with Feryn (her classroom assistant), and other teachers and assistants who will assist in programs as we finalize plans. The plan is to offer 2 weeks of Summer Camp, filled with a variety of activities, starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. Activity Sessions will be offered in the morning from 8:30 to 12:30 and the afternoon from 12:30 to 4:30. Families can sign up for Sessions individually according to your needs, or sign up for the entire day/week. There will be lunch and outdoor time each day, as well as reading time.

Activity Sessions at this point include:

- *Basic Drawing
- *Basic photography skills
- *Drama
- *Calligraphy
- *Arts/Crafts
- *Cooking/collaborative snack and lunch creations
- *Jewelry making
- *Recycling creations
- *LEGO building/learning/sharing
- *Electronics afternoon
- *Water afternoon
- *Movie afternoon
- *possibly a field trip once a week
- *possibly French, Spanish, Sign Language

We are certain to add more, as ideas continue to develop; if you have suggestions or ideas - from yourself or your child - please let us know! Some of the ideas listed above came from conversations with the Grouper students, which then inspired ideas for the Activity Sessions.

The first steps are to find out the needs/interest level, and the dates so we can confirm and make plans. The next step will be to take reservations and deposits to hold places. The criteria to attend is your child must be enrolled in KWMCS at this time or for the upcoming school year (this includes new incoming 1st grade students).

Please send an electronic message or handwritten note to Mendy Hyatt-Hensley (mendy.hyatt@keysschools.com) if you are interested with your prioritized choices of weeks by **Friday, February 10.**

June 25-29 ____

July 9-13 ____

July 16-20 ____

July 23-27 ____

We are excited to offer this fun experience, and look forward to your reply so we can set dates and make plans.

Thank you,

Ms. Mendy and Ms. Feryn