

Hello Montessori Families,

As the last weeks of summer draw to a close, I am pleased to welcome you to our school family and provide you with information about the 2011/2012 school year:

## Identity

We are in the midst of rebranding our school, and the first step taken was in updating our name; we are now known as the Key West Montessori Charter School. This subtle change in name represents the growth of our school from an elementary program to that of a combination elementary/middle school.

Our school's site is currently in redevelopment; this will be the main source of information for the school year, and I encourage everyone to visit our site weekly: [www.keywestmontessori.com](http://www.keywestmontessori.com).

## Staff

Five members of our staff furthered their knowledge of Montessori principles & practice this summer. Mrs. Fran, Mrs. Penny, Ms. Emmylou, and Mr. Miguel are completing their training, while Ms. Sonia embarked on her Adolescent Montessori training.

We have added two new members of our Montessori instructional team; Mendy Hyatt-Hensley will lead the Goliath Grouper Upper Elementary Classroom, and Jennifer Catalano will serve as our Academic Coach and Special Education provider.

Each classroom will be staffed with an assistant; this was a priority for our administration, staff and Charter Board.

Ms. Ashlie and Mr. Miguel will assist with instruction for their respective programs, this year. Ms. Ashlie will support science learning for all upper elementary and adolescent students, while Mr. Miguel will implement facets of his Montessori training among all lower elementary classes.

We were able to retain our School Nurse, Guidance Counselor and School Support Assistant. These positions have become a necessity due to our school's growth, and I am thankful for the significant contributions each has made to our program.

## Facilities

Our outdoor space is being transformed! A beautiful, large Chickee was built, which will provide cool shade for student lunchtime. Shade trees were also planted, along with an irrigation system – installed & donated by Blue Island, Inc.

With the help of Strunk Ace Hardware and a squadron of F-18 support staff, our interior floors will be cleaned and painted, just in time for school!

## Program

In response to school attendance data as well as our family survey, we have modified our school day to begin at 8:30 and end at 3:30. This represents an increase of one half-hour to our school day.

This school year marks the start of our Adolescent Program, with Ms. Sonia leading our sixth year students. Also important to note, our sixth year students now have the opportunity to participate in the band at HOB middle school; we look forward to this new experience!

Our budget for the 2011/2012 school year was significantly affected by State and local funding shortfalls. There are a number of unfunded budget items, most notably elementary art, music and drama enrichment classes, as well as our adolescent experiential learning program. I am happy to report, however, that we have a team seeking funding for the elementary enrichment, and two pledges to help fund the adolescent experiential learning line item. Any support on these two areas, as well as other unfunded line items is greatly appreciated.

## Back to School Information

Our instructional and administrative staff will report to work on Monday, August 15th. There will be a number of opportunities for volunteer service hours beginning Tuesday, August 16th. We appreciate

any time that can be spared to assist our Classroom Guides in preparing their environments for the start of school.

We will hold a 'Meet & Greet' @ 3:30 on Friday, August 19th @ school. This is an opportunity for students & their families to meet Classroom Guides, check out campus upgrades, pick up required forms, and drop off school supplies.

The following are two lists of school supplies: one for Lower Elementary and another for Upper Elementary grades. Take advantage of the upcoming tax-free days (August 12-14) and purchase your school supplies, clothing and footwear! Each class may request a few specific items needed, in addition to the general supply lists, below:

**Check out this informative page regarding Florida's Sales Tax Holiday:**

<http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/pdf/tip11a01-03.pdf>

### Lower Elementary List

- ✓ \$5/student for annual subscription to Florida Studies Weekly
- ✓ 3-Ring Binder 1 ½" or 2" with interior pockets
- ✓ Avery® Worksaver Insertable Big Tab Dividers (5 tabs) - 2 sets per student
- ✓ Page Protectors – 1 box
- ✓ Flash Drive
- ✓ Post-It notes: standard size (3 inch square or larger & lined)
- ✓ 2-Pocket Folders with fasteners – 5 per student in assorted colors
- ✓ Composition Books 10/student, wide rule
- ✓ Construction paper – 1 pack per student, assorted colors
- ✓ Index Cards – 4X6
- ✓ White Poster Board – 3/student
- ✓ Eraser –Pink Pearl
- ✓ Pencils – 12/student, Ticonderoga brand is preferred, Tri-Write for 1<sup>st</sup> graders
- ✓ Colored pencils - Prismacolor brand is preferred
- ✓ Highlighter - 2
- ✓ Markers – 1 set of thin & 1 set of thick
- ✓ pencil box – plain, no characters
- ✓ Cellophane (transparent) tape – 3 rolls per student
- ✓ Glue Sticks – 4 total
- ✓ Glue – liquid, 1 bottle
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Rulers – metric & standard (may be combined)
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Insulated Lunch Box
- ✓ Reusable Water Bottle
- ✓ Facial Tissues – 1 large box
- ✓ Hand Sanitizer – 1 bottle

### Upper Elementary List

- ✓ \$10/student for annual subscriptions to Florida Studies Weekly and Science Studies Weekly
- ✓ Flash Drive
- ✓ Dividers for Binder (5 tabs) - 2 sets per student
- ✓ Page Protectors – one box per student
- ✓ 5 Spiral Bound Wide Rule Perforated Notebooks - 80 to 100 pages each
- ✓ Notebook Filler Paper – Wide Rule
- ✓ 3 White Poster Boards per student
- ✓ Post-It notes: standard size (3 inch square)
- ✓ Index Cards – 3X5 lined
- ✓ Construction paper - 1 pack per student, assorted colors
- ✓ Calculator
- ✓ Eraser –Pink Pearl
- ✓ Pencils – 12/student, Ticonderoga brand is preferred, Tri-Write for 1<sup>st</sup> graders
- ✓ Colored pencils - Prismacolor brand is preferred
- ✓ Highlighter - 2
- ✓ Markers – 1 set of thin & 1 set of thick
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ 1 Black Sharpie Permanent Marker – broad tip
- ✓ 1 Colored Sharpie
- ✓ White Out
- ✓ Pencil Box – plain, no characters
- ✓ Compass – Staedtler brand with wheel preferred (see link below)
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Rulers – Metric & Standard (may be combined)
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue Sticks - 2 big ones
- ✓ Cellophane (transparent) tape – 3 rolls per student
- ✓ Insulated Lunch Box
- ✓ Reusable Water Bottle
- ✓ Facial Tissues – 1 large box
- ✓ Hand Sanitizer – 1 bottle

**\*NO ROSE ART BRANDS FOR ANY MATERIALS\***

<http://www.amazon.com/Staedtler-R-GeoMaster-Bow-Compass/dp/B000061AP1>

Supply lists will be posted to our school's web site, for your convenience:  
[www.KeyWestMontessori.com](http://www.KeyWestMontessori.com).

Mrs. Pam and I are keeping office hours Tuesday – Thursday, from 8-3. If you need to reach us outside of these hours, please send us an electronic message and we will respond as soon as we are able.

I look forward to seeing everyone on August 19th @ 3:30, and again for our first day of school on Monday, August 22nd @ 8:30!

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Lynn Marie Barras, Ed.M.  
Principal, Key West Montessori Charter School  
1400 United Street, #110  
Key West, FL 33040  
305.294.4910, ext. 203