

SMS-PAC LIAISON REPORT

Shannon Staples – January 18, 2013

“The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination.” -- Dr. Maria Montessori

DISTRICT NEWS

- Latimer Road Montessori program is going ahead, as per the successful passing by the Surrey School Board in December. Registration started Mon Jan 14th.
- Signing up for Latimer will be a great opportunity for new parents to get kids into public Montessori. Please let your friends know who live in the area know (Latimer Road is located near the Surrey/Langley border near Willowbrook Mall).
- Mr. John Morrison is the new principal at Mountainview. Mrs. Chong, who spent 7 years at Mountainview, is retiring after a long, successful career as a teacher and principal.
- The next DMAC (District Montessori Advisory Committee) will be held Wed Jan 30th.

SURREY MONTESSORI SOCIETY NEWS

- SMS would like to fill the following committee positions - please sign up if you're interested:
 - Fundraising committee chair – ideas & coordinate volunteers to help implement
 - Membership coordinator – help promote SMS and keep roster of members

Parent Education

- SMS featured its first parent education “Speaker Series” evening on Dec 5th at Mountainview with Marian Mahoney (long-time teacher with Sunnyside and Tynehead (now Mountainview)). She presented an overview of the Montessori philosophy and how the curriculum is delivered in a public school. Attendance was about 25.
- The next Speaker Series presentation will be on Thurs Feb 7th at 7pm at Sunnyside (TBC). There will be a mini-documentary about Dr. Maria Montessori's life and how the Montessori Method started in the early 1900s, followed by a talk by Marian Mahoney on “The Golden Triangle” and practicing Montessori at home. Admission \$5 (SMS members FREE). For more information www.surreymontessorisociety.org
- The Speaker Series presentations take place every two months, alternating between Mountainview and Sunnyside. Please send us ideas for Montessori workshops or speakers – surreymontessorisociety@gmail.com

Membership

- Parents are encouraged to become members of SMS. We are offering two years of membership for the price of one right now. You can pay with two post-dated cheques. Your membership fees help SMS to continue offering:
 - Advocacy for maintaining and improving Montessori in public schools in the Surrey School District
 - Parent education on the Montessori Method, including free admission to Speaker Series events
 - Montessori teacher training and professional development
 - Promoting the Montessori program in Surrey
 - Discounted Montessori materials for home use
- Please email surreymontessorisociety@gmail.com if you're interested.

Fundraising

- Samosa fundraiser did not happen before Christmas. Will distribute order forms soon.
- SMS was approached with a unique opportunity to co-sponsor singer-songwriter nights at Blue Frog Studios. Tonight! 7 pm, Blue Frog Studios, 1328 Johnston Road, \$25 SOLD OUT

Preschool Liaison

- Rhonda Cizmok has agreed to fill the Preschool Liaison role. Nothing to report yet.

SUNNYSIDE MONTESSORI NEWS

General News

- Mr. Helland - Montessori update (unless covered in his principal report)
- Parent info night for Montessori registration was held January 10th at District Education Centre for all 3 schools – Attendance 80+. Registration began on Monday the 14th.
- It was an opportunity to see the fantastic new video created by Ms. Hu and Mrs. Yoo (Sunnyside teachers) and Ms. Su from (Mountainview). We hope to be able to post the video on the SMS site.
- Sunnyside plans to do our own open house & presentation after school for Montessori preschool parents and other interested parents from the community (Date TBA - before spring break)

Sunnyside Montessori Committee Reports

- **Material Making** – Laura Rodriguez
 - Albanesi materials were completed for primary classrooms before Christmas. Next are math cards for Mrs. Yoo and Mr. Neumeyer.
 - Will be giving each teacher one day and rotating throughout the year
 - This committee also plans to help update the inventory list of materials before moving to the new school
- **Peace and Outdoor Ed** – Heather Tewfik
 - Intermediate camp this year is school-wide. Dates are in May.
 - Will see if there are any activities planned for earth day and oceans day and how parents can assist teachers.
- **Parent Education (Sunnyside)** – Jessica Wilson
 - Was hoping Montessori Live would work in the library but there are still challenges logging into the program.
 - Currently utilizing other educational sources to learn materials with a focus on learning math materials that are used in the new Albanesi Montessori math so parents can volunteer in class.
 - Creating order forms for materials parents might wish to order for home. They will eventually be in the Montessori catalogue in the Montessori resource section in the library.

IMPORTANT DATES

- SMS/BLUE FROG STUDIO MUSIC CONCERT – Fri Jan 18th, 7 pm, 1328 Johnston Road (sold out)
- DISTRICT PRESENTATION (about our new school) – Thurs Jan 24th, 7 pm, Sunnyside
- MATERIAL MAKING & EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS - 9am Friday mornings, Sunnyside Library.
- DMAC MEETING – Wed Jan 30, 3:30 - 5 pm – District Ed Ctr.
- SMS SPEAKER SERIES | PRESENTATION #2 – Marian Mahoney – Feb 7, 6:30 pm (TBC), Sunnyside Library \$5.00/free for SMS members– childcare sign-up sheet at front.
- SUNNYSIDE PAC/MONTESSORI FORUM – Mon Feb 18 – PAC meeting at 7pm; Montessori Forum at 8 – 8:30 pm.
- VANCOUVER ISLAND MONTESSORI CONFERENCE – April 25-27th – Victoria, info on SMS website

email surreymontessorisociety@gmail.com

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