

January 14, 2010

Dear Families,

It is time once again, for us to plan for our next school year. I know it seems early, but time does go very quickly and I know I will just turn around and September will be here!

I am happy to report that most all teachers will be returning for next year and that we foresee no big changes in scheduling or times! Thank you, universe! Nancy, Susie, Ashley and Laurie will continue to be the dynamic foursome in the Stargazer class and Judilyn, Martine and Becca will continue to work their magic in the Explorer class. As you may know, Colleen, the head teacher in the Philosopher class was recently married and will be moving to the Bay Area this summer to start her new life there. While we are thrilled for her, we are very sad to see her talent, wisdom and years of experience go with her. We will have a celebration to honor all the time, energy, hours and love Colleen has put into our 4th to 6th class and our school over the last 11 years! Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 2, 2010 to come and join us in this celebration.

As fate, or luck or God would have it, we have Satia Widmann here already and she will be moving from the Trailblazer class into the Philosopher class to take the head teacher position there. Satia is a Montessori "lifer"! She received her A.M.S. Montessori primary and elementary training and initially taught in the Bay Area. In the past, she has worked here in our Explorer class as a support teacher, started and implemented the "Tiny Treks" program in San Luis Obispo, and most recently spent the last 5 years teaching the 4th to 6th class at the Montessori school in Atascadero. She loves working with the upper elementary aged child and is excited to be once again guiding that age, using her experience, training and wisdom there. We are eternally grateful to say that Cathy will remain the steadfast support teacher in the Philosopher class and will be the familiar face and source of information as this transition takes place. She will be here 5 days a week and continue to be an integral part of that class and those children's lives. Suzanne Gorter, who is in the Philosopher class every Friday this year, and who substitutes for us, will be moving on to full-time counseling work. We are sad to see her go from years of everyday, to once a week, and now to substituting-we remain honored that we get to see her here next year, at least as a substitute!

Satia is a large part of the community of San Luis Obispo and plans to be here for a long time. Her husband, Jim, is a professor in engineering at Cal Poly and her 3 children (Ailea -19, Tehya-12 and Nico-10) are all in school here. A note to let you know that somewhere in the foreseeable future she and her family hope to have a 6 to 9 month sabbatical in Europe. She sees this as a hiatus in her head teacher position here, returning when the sabbatical time is over. This will not happen during the 2010-2011 school year but could happen as soon as the year after. We

will let you know if and when those plans materialize and are confirmed all the way around.

While Satia moving on to the Philosopher class is a great thing, it does leave the head teacher space open in our new and fabulous Trailblazer class. Satia and Shea-Lynn have been a wonderful team in there and have gotten that class off to such a great start. Lucky for us, Shea-Lynn will remain the constant and the support teacher in there and will be instrumental in the interview process we are now going through to find just the right person to join our school community here as the head teacher there. We are confident we will find a great one to join the team!

Morgan, our outstanding before and after school care teacher will also be returning! Yeeha! She attended Montessori school as a child and has a relative who owns a Montessori school in Santa Cruz. Someday, she may move "home" to work there but lucky for us it is not now! We would love to see her stay here forever! Natalie was our afternoon extended care teacher up until this week but is now moving on to a full-time job. Please welcome our new after care teacher Cassie Lorton. Cassie is currently studying child development at Cuesta College. She was here observing last week and will be here all this week with Morgan and Natalie to "learn the ropes"! We feel very fortunate to have found her.

Please take some time to think about and decide what your family's plans are for next year. Attached is a form we would love to have back to school by Friday, January 29, letting us know those plans. Please do not hesitate to talk to any of us if you have any questions. Satia is here and would love to have you introduce yourselves to her (if you do not already know her) and is also happy to set up a time to meet with you should you have questions about your 4th to 6th grader for next year. We are also planning to structure the parent conferences in May so that Satia and Cathy can be in all those who will be in the Philosopher class next year.

This is also the time to enroll your younger child/ren in our school if you would like to. Siblings have priority here, so please add them to the form if it is time for them to begin their school adventure! Again, let us know if you are not sure if it is time or not, we would love to talk with you about this important step!

While we are planning for next year it is very important to us that we remain "in the moment" and focused on the days in this year. We will continue to work hard, play hard and enjoy those surrounding us now. Thank you for taking the time and energy to let us know your plans and dreams for next year. We remain forever grateful to spend our days here.

My child _____ will be returning to the Montessori Children's School for the 2010-2011 school year! He/she/they will be in the

___ Trailblazer class-2 ½ to 3 ½ year olds (those children currently in this class have the choice of moving to the Stargazer class or experiencing another year in this class. Please feel free to talk with Satia and Shea-Lynn if you have questions).

___ Stargazer class – 3 to 6 year olds

___ Preschool

___ kindergarten (in public school this is 5 by December 2)

___ Explorer Class

___ 1st grade

___ 2nd grade

___ 3rd grade

___ Philosopher Class

___ 4th grade

___ 5th grade

___ 6th grade

OR

My child _____ will be moving on next year. Most likely to _____ school.