



Dear Nokomis Families, Nov. 2016

Thanks in advance for making it a priority to participate in our **November parent-teacher conferences** this month. Nokomis Montessori has a proud tradition of a high percentage (98-99%) of parents participating in our school parent-teacher conferences.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled on these dates at the both campuses:

- **Monday, November 14 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, November 16 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** & PTA Teacher Potluck Dinner at both campuses.
- **Friday, November 18 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

We asked parents to return their conference appointment sheet to Montessori or Special Education Teachers by **Friday November 4** to confirm your conference time. If you are unable to come at your scheduled conference time, please call your child's Montessori teacher at 744-7440 (North), 744-5500 (South) or teacher direct lines are listed in the Nokomis Calendar. **Thanks to the ELL team** for organizing interpreters for conferences! **Scholastic Book Fair will be open during conferences.**

Welcome Katerina Youngberg, our new School Counselor serving both campuses this year! Please read the **Counselor Newsletter** to learn more about ways she supports student learning at our school.

We encourage students to read at home to strengthen their reading achievement. Please read the enclosed "[Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight](#)" flyer.

Sincerely,

Melissa McCollor, Principal

Rethinking School Start times 2018-2019 School Year

The Board of Education has requested a plan for changing school start times for the 2018-2019 school year. Most SPPS middle and high schools currently begin at 7:30 a.m.

This proposed time change will allow secondary schools to start at 8:30 a.m., a change based on research that shows benefits for teenagers who start school later in the morning. All Community elementary schools, along with some regional magnet schools, would go to a 7:30 a.m. or 7:45 a.m. start time.

Proposed time change for Nokomis Montessori North and South campus is 7:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

[More information is posted on the spps.org/starttimes website.](http://spps.org/starttimes)

Families, staff and community members are invited to provide feedback on the proposal in two ways:

- 1) Online at spps.org/starttimes or
- 2) Public Comment at the Board of Education meetings at 5:30 p.m. on **November 15**. Please sign up in advance at spps.org/publiccomment or by calling the Secretary of the Board at 651-767-8149 before 4 p.m. the day of the meeting.

The Board will vote on the proposed change to start times for the 2018-2019 school year during the November 15 Board meeting.

Winter Weather

Minnesota winter weather will be arriving soon. All students need to dress appropriately for our Minnesota weather as we go outside for recess daily. Exercise is essential for good health, even in cold weather. **Students only stay inside if temperature or wind-chill is below zero.** Please have your children wear warm clothing including hats, mittens, boots and snow pants.

We are accepting gently used, clean winter coats, snow pants or winter boots in our Health Office.

Check your child's backpack

Parents, please check your child's backpack in the morning for inappropriate items. Please do not allow your child to bring unnecessary articles to school such as weapons, cell phones, electronic computer games, iPods, trading cards, toys, stuffed animals, etc. The school will not be responsible for these items if they are damaged, lost or stolen. These unnecessary items disrupt student learning. Students can ask secretary to lock-up cell phones.

Apply for Free/Reduced Meals

www.ns.spps.org

Our district is suggesting an application is completed for every household. **Please refer to the enclosed letter with "Income Eligibility Guidelines" to determine if your family is eligible for free or reduced meals.** Parents can check a box on the top of form if your income exceeds eligibility guidelines. Our school receives Title I and Compensatory money based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced meals.

Give to the Max is Thursday, November 17

Parents and family can donate to Give to the Max starting on November 1 – 17. To give, please go to our website at spps.org/Nokomis to make your donation.

CH & E1 Clubs Choice Fundraiser

Pick-up orders

Tuesday, November 22

4:00-5:00 p.m. at both campuses

THANKS to all families and staff members who purchased items from the Club's Choice CH & E1 Fundraiser! All profits are given to our CH and E1 classrooms at both campuses.

School Health News

Encourage your children to practice good hand washing at school and home as hand washing is the basic element in controlling the spread of infections.

Thanks for keeping your children home when they are sick. If your child is sick with a fever of 100 and above, please keep them home for 24 hours after fever has broken without the use of fever reducing medicine. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after vomiting.

Hmong New Year

Please join us for our annual **Hmong New Year Celebration** planned on **Friday, December 2 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at North campus. **Thanks to Bao, MaiKa and Pai** for teaching our Hmong CLAnD After School classes at South campus! Our Hmong CLAnD students perform at our Hmong New Year Celebration!

PTA Craft Night Friday, December 9 5:30-7:00 p.m. South campus

Please join us for some FREE family fun time! There will be many winter crafts to make, cookies to eat and friends to see!

Parents Right to Know

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers. **Parents who would like to receive this information should write to:** Human Resource Department, Attention: Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. Parents can designate which of the following information they want:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field or discipline of the certification or degree;
- If the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification the teacher holds; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment flyer enclosed

New SPPS Board Policy 9/9/2016

Student Surveys completed by Teachers at Nokomis Montessori November 2016

One of the best ways to measure student engagement is through student surveys. Our teachers will use the student survey data to inform their teaching. **Your child's teacher sent home a flyer in the Nokomis folder on Thursday, October 27.** Please fill out the form only if you do not want your child to participate in the survey. Thanks in advance for allowing your child to participate in the student survey!

**PreK & Kindergarten
School Choice Fair**
Saturday, January 7, 2017
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Washington Technology School

**Nokomis Montessori
Open House**
North campus:
Wednesday, January 25 at
10:00 a.m. includes classroom
observations or
6:00 p.m.

**Nokomis Montessori
Open House**
South campus:
Thursday, January 26 at
2:00 p.m. includes classroom
observations or
6:00 p.m.