



# Children First!



Nokomis Montessori Magnet School Newsletter

Dear Nokomis Families, March 2017

We're looking forward to **Parent-Teacher Conferences** scheduled on these dates:

- **Monday, March 20 from 5-8 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 22 from 5-8 p.m. & PTA Teacher Potluck Dinner!**
- **Friday, March 24 from 9:35 p.m.-3:50 p.m. & No school for students**

Montessori and ASD teachers sent home March conference appointment sheet with your child on Friday, February 24. **We ask parents to return the conference appointment sheet to your child's teacher by Thursday, March 2.** If you need to change your conference time, please call your child's Montessori classroom teacher at 744-7440 (North), 744-5500 (South) or direct phone number for each teacher is listed in the front cover of the 2016-2017 Nokomis Montessori Calendar. **Thanks to the ELL teacher team** for organizing interpreters for our parent-teacher conferences! **Scholastic Book Fair will be open during parent-teacher conferences!**

We're recognizing **Janet Palas**, our Social Worker, for the support she provides to our students during **National School Social Worker month!**

Our annual **Science Fair** is scheduled on **Monday, March 20 at South campus and Wednesday, March 22 at North campus.** Our student projects will be judged from **9:45-11:45 a.m. and Science Fair Open House from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** Our school budget provides display boards and special Science Fair t-shirts to our students! **Parents are needed to serve as Science Fair Judges! Please return the enclosed sheet to the office if you are available to serve as a Science Fair Judge!** Please contact Kelsey Rose, Science Specialist, at [kelsey.rose@spps.org](mailto:kelsey.rose@spps.org) or 744-7463 if you

have any questions about Science Fair Judging.

Our monthly **Site Council meeting** has been changed to **Tuesday, March 14 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at South campus.** Our meeting agenda items are: Revise Title I Family Involvement Plan & Compact; Science Fair; March parent-teacher conferences; and Club's Choice Fundraiser.

Join us for our monthly **PTA meeting** has been changed to **Tuesday, March 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at South campus.** FREE school-age childcare provided for PTA meetings by Discovery Club.

**We will mail our acceptance letters on Tuesday, April 11** inviting students and parents to our new student registration scheduled at each campus.

Enjoy your spring break with your family on **April 3-7.** Students return to school on Monday, April 10.

Melissa McCollor, Principal

## No School for Students

**Friday, March 3** (Teacher Conference Prep Day)

**Thursday, March 23** No school for our PreK students

**Friday, March 24** Parent-Teacher Conference Day

**April 4-7** Spring Break

**Friday, April 14** Teacher Professional Development

**Science Fair**  
**Monday, March 20 at South**  
**Wednesday, March 22 at North**  
9:45-11:45 a.m. Judging &  
Open House 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Our annual **Science Fair** is scheduled on **Monday, March 20 at South campus and Wednesday, March 22 at North campus.** Our student projects will be judged from 9:45-11:45 a.m.

Our **fifth grade students** are required to participate in our Science Fair. We encourage our fifth grade parents to keep checking in with your child to see if work is completed by Science Fair due dates.

We encourage parents to help their child practice speaking about their Science fair project at home. Parent can ask their child practice questions about their Science Fair project to prepare for individual, non-competitive judging.

Families are welcome to come check out the projects during evening parent-teacher conferences on the specific day at each campus. Students can bring their Science Fair Projects home when you leave this evening.

**If you are available to volunteer on March 20 or March 22 as a “Science Fair Judge”,** please return the enclosed sheet to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Rose at [kelsey.rose@spps.org](mailto:kelsey.rose@spps.org) at 744-7463.

**National School Breakfast Week**  
**March 6-10, 2017**  
[www.schoolnutrition.org/SchoolMeals](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/SchoolMeals)  
**Breakfast is FREE for all students**  
**Take the school breakfast challenge**

**Club’s Choice Fundraiser**  
**Begins March 13**  
**Orders due March 27**

Our Spring Club’s Choice Fundraiser begins on **Monday, March 13** and orders are due on **Monday, March 27.** We use the fundraising money to support:

- Food for parent/family events including Montessori Parent Education Night and family lunches
  - Field trip bus to Belwin and Minneapolis Institute of Arts
  - Student t-shirts for Science Fair
- Families will pick up their Club’s Choice Fundraiser orders on **Wednesday, May 3 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** at both campuses.

**ALC Summer School**  
**K-5 students**  
**Priority enrollment is April 14**

**We will send home ALC Summer School registration forms with eligible students on Thursday, March 2. S-Term information is located at [spps.org/summer](http://spps.org/summer) including:**

- S-Term registration form for K-8 students and 9-12 students
  - CDF Freedom Schools flyers
  - Instrumental music flyers
  - S-Term sites and times
  - Multi-district program sites and times
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to register their student (s) using iUpdate or registration forms can be mailed to Student Placement Center. The goal of the Department of Alternative Education is to register students identified as needing support to prevent Summer Learning Loss. Each S-Term brochure includes a self-addressed postage paid envelope for families to mail the complete registration form to the Student Placement Center. **The priority enrollment registration deadline for ALC Summer School is Friday, April 14, 2017** but applications will be accepted after this date. **Please contact the Office of Alternative Education at 651-744-8020 with questions.**

**MCA Statewide Online  
Reading & Math Testing  
Students in grades 3-5**

Our students in grades 3-5 will take Statewide MCA Reading and Math online testing in April after spring break. Our grade 5 students will take MCA Science online testing too. More MCA testing information will be shared in the April Newsletter. Our Montessori teachers will administer online testing with our students. Our special education team will assist with administering MCA testing for students with IEP test accommodations. **Thanks to Jennifer Mickelson** for serving as our MCA Test Coordinator for both campuses!

**Early Admission to  
Kindergarten and First Grade  
Application deadline is March 22**

Applications for early admission to kindergarten and first grade are available now at **Student Placement Center**. The deadline for families to register is Wednesday, March 22.

Kindergarten readiness screenings will be scheduled beginning April 11 for applications received by March 22. Students may also be invited for a one-hour classroom observation in a designated school. Families considering a language immersion or Montessori program will complete the observation within the corresponding program.

The assessment team will inform parents/guardians whether or not the child is ready for acceleration by **May 5**. If you have questions, please call Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760.

**Spring Picture Day  
Wednesday, April 12 is  
for students who are purchasing  
photo packages only!**

**E2 Fun Fair  
Thursday, April 13  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
North campus**

Join us for our **E2 Fun Fair on Thursday, April 13 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** at North campus for all families from both campuses!

Our E2 Fun Fair is a **service learning project** for our E2 students and parents.

Reminder, students participating in our E2 Fun Fair need to be supervised by their parent/guardian.

**Thanks to the E2 Montessori teachers** for organizing our E2 Fun Fair!

We invite our past Nokomis students to gather in an **alumni room in the library** to share their middle or high school learning experiences for a special alumni bulletin board.