

April 15, 2015

Dear Walden Green Families:

We've had a nice few days settling back into our routine after spring vacation. It appears that everyone – students and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed their time off. We are excited to be returning to our work here at school and finish the school year strongly. In the short 8 weeks before we break for summer vacation, we have much to accomplish. Please read below to keep abreast of all that we are doing to continue making Walden Green Montessori such a special place.

Sincerely,

Mark Neidlinger
Principal

Family Breakfast this Friday:

We have our Family Breakfast planned for this Friday morning starting promptly at 8:15. We hope you are able to join us. There will be a lot going on this particular morning:

We will have a re-enrollment table.

We will have an auction ticket table.

Starting at 9 AM, we will also have a visiting author here on-site talking to our students about the wonders of Michigan.

Please plan to join us for this fun-family tradition.

Walden Green Annual Auction:

Please plan to join us for a parent's night out on Friday, May 15th. Our Auction Committee is putting together a great event to celebrate all of our accomplishments. This year's event will take place at the Spring Lake Yacht Club. We are purposely keeping this low-key in hopes of attracting as many parents as possible. Ticket prices are reduced to \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. As usual, there will be great student projects to enjoy and bid on as well as a great collection of Teacher Treasures. To keep our costs down we will soon be sending out a Sign-up Genius in hopes that we can count on some great food donations. All monies earned this evening will go right back to supporting our students academic experiences here at Walden Green. The faculty and I sincerely hope you will join us for this great event.

Middle School Open House:

Tomorrow evening (April 16) we will be hosting a Middle School Open House for parents who wish to learn more about our program. This year, we have significantly

improved our program and look forward to sharing our results with you as well as a few lessons that we have learned. Please meet us in the Great room at 5:30 PM.

Walden Green Goes Evergreen:

Just as we were leaving for Spring Vacation, I received notice that Walden Green has achieved the top status given to Michigan schools; we are now considered not just a “green” school, but an Evergreen School. This very distinct honor is due to the fine leadership of our Green Team, which has been led by Stefi Anderson, Kathy Rockwood and Lisa Cates. Please help me congratulate their dedication.

In the coming months, the Green Team will be focusing on the following projects:

1.) APRIL: Compost

We would like to expand our composting efforts by setting up the compost drum and expand the compost behind the dumpster that we already have to make it more accessible and easier to turn over.

2.) MAY: Raised Beds/Cold Frames

The Green Team won a grant from the Walden Green Foundation to create an outdoor learning space for all students by putting up 4 raised beds. We need help with set up of these beds so that the students can start planting!

3.) MAY: Insect hotels and Pallet Planters

Help us turn the space between the shed and the new addition into a beautiful outdoor learning space by donating your time, garden waste and clutter to set up a huge insect hotel made out of a stack of pallets between the cold frames.

We need: sticks, wood logs, left over bricks, straw or hay, bamboo, wood boards, larger rocks, clay pots, garden soil, garden fabric...anything that you have left over from garden or craft projects. Leave donations in Stefi’s classroom. THANK YOU!

4.) MAY/JUNE: Bat and Birdhouses

Are you crafty and like to work with wood? If so, give us a holler. We want to build bird and bat houses for our Walden Green community.

5.) JUNE/MAY: Butterfly Garden

The Green Team won a \$200 grant from the *Michigan Wild Ones* in order to plant a butterfly garden here at Walden Green. The plants have been ordered and will arrive in May. Once they are here the second and third graders will plant them supporting the Monarch butterfly population and other Michigan butterflies

6.) JUNE/JULY/AUGUST: Occasional watering of the butterfly garden. A sign up sheet will be hanging in the foyer, starting April 17th.

If you are interested in helping the Green Team with our projects let me know. Most of the time we will meet on a Saturday morning or afternoon (in order to accommodate the sports schedules of our children) to build, plant, and realize our dream of a functional outdoor learning space for our children.

You can contact the Green Team under stefanieanderson@waldengreen.org
kathyrockwood@waldengreen.org

Re-enrollment Deadline is April 23rd.

Please remember to fill out these forms to secure your child's spot for next school year. We will have applications available Friday morning during the Family Breakfast. The deadline is next Thursday at 4:30 sharp.

Walden Green Turns 20:

Twenty years ago this month, Walden Green was granted Charter status by the state of Michigan. We are one of the earliest, and longest running Charter Schools within our state. This is a big deal and needs to be celebrated widely. I would like to put together a cohort of parents that would like to help me plan a year's worth of activities that we can celebrate next school year. If you are interested in being on this committee please let me know at markneidlinger@waldengreen.org

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, April 16th – Middle School Open House at 5:30 PM

Friday, April 17th – Family Breakfast starting at 8:15 AM

Monday, April 20th through the end of May, M-Step

Wednesday, April 22nd – Our last Community Open House at 6 PM

Friday, May 15th – WG Parent's Night and Auction, Spring Lake Yacht Club

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day, no school.

Tuesday, May 26th through May 29th – Celebration of the Arts week

Thursday, May 28 – Celebration of the Arts Open House at 6 PM

Thursday, June 4th – 8th Grade Graduation

Friday, June 5th – Last day of school (half-day) at the beach