

July 28, 2014

Dear Walden Green Montessori Families.

I hope your summers have been filled with great adventures and time well spent with your children. We have been busy this summer preparing the environment for our students return. Please read below to see all the exciting happenings that are occurring at school this summer.

Sincerely,

Mark Neidlinger
Director

Two New Teachers:

I am thrilled to introduce Joy Slager, our new Middle School teacher and Jenny Opfermann, our new music teacher.

Joy Slager comes to us with 14 years of experience teaching Middle School students and writing curriculum to support their academic needs. Joy will be leading the reading and the writing for our 6-8th grade students and utilizing our new reading materials from the Junior Great Books series which build upon the inquiry method of instruction – a great piece of our Montessori curriculum.

Jenny Opfermann has taught music education for 17 years and is very excited to bring her various experiences in Orff, ETM, chorus, Gordon music theory, piano and guitar to our students here at Walden Green Montessori.

I am extremely happy to welcome both of these fine educators to our school community. I believe that their passion for teaching and for students learning experiences is exactly where we plan to grow as a community. I look forward to introducing them to our students and their families at the August 21 school picnic.

A Huge Thank You to our Families:

The staff and I want to thank each of our families who contributed to the wonderful breakfasts and lunches that were supplied to us during our three days of professional development last week. Everything was delicious and greatly appreciated. Special thanks goes to Megan Cherry for orchestrating the food rotation during these three days. It really was a treat.

Professional Development:

Last week our teachers and I gathered to receive instruction and training in how best to support and push our young readers. We were able to see and experience several new strategies that we can implement once our students return to school. Particularly valuable was the time that was set aside for collaboration amongst our teachers. We are all excited for the new structure for our students and truly believe

it will strengthen our program while still supporting the whole child. We are looking forward to our next days of development which will be the 27th and 28th of August.

Gaga Tournament:

Please plan to join us on August 7th at 6:30PM for our first annual Gaga tournament. Our PIC committee has been hard at work arranging this fantastic kid focused event. We welcome the entire community to come join in on the fun. We will have our physical education teacher Frank here on site refereeing the event along with music from our very own Walden Green families. Please plan to bring a few dollars along so that you can enjoy something from the food truck too! We are asking that you invite neighbors and non-Walden Green families to this event so that we can share our great school with them and offer tours to new families. Please see additional information below.

Dear Walden Green families;

We have an exciting community event coming up next week, and PIC needs your help to spread the word!

Thursday, August 7 is our GAGA BALL TOURNAMENT! With music, a Fatty Lumpkins food tent, and of course lots of gaga action we want to see you there! In order to plan age divisions, please register kids (age 4 to 14) to play in the tournament online at <http://bit.ly/GAGA-WGM> IN ADVANCE (the earlier the better!) THEN, please forward the registration link to your friends and neighbors, share the tournament [event](#) with your friends on Facebook, and if you are able to, print out the attached flyer(s) to pin to your favorite coffee shop, church, gym, or other public bulletin board. (Please respect all guidelines for posting flyers and be mindful of the environment.) We hope to have a great turnout for this event, not only from our own Walden Green families but from the local community as well. This is a great marketing opportunity for Walden Green and there will be tours for prospective families that night too. Wear your Walden Green apparel!!!

See you on the 7th and I hope to see and hear a lot of 'gaga buzz' around West Michigan in the coming days!

Kim Bremer

On behalf of the Parent Involvement Community (PIC)

Dates to Remember:

August 7th, GAGA Tournament – 6:30 PM

August 21st, school picnic – 6:00 PM picnic, 7:15 music and tours

September 2nd, first full day of school for all students

Tentative Open House Dates:

K/1 – Monday, August 25th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

2/3 – Tuesday, August 26th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

4/5 – Tuesday, August 26th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM

6-8 – Wednesday, August 27th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM