

March 10, 2014

Dear Walden Green Families:

Please read below to keep on top of all the news at Walden Green Montessori.

Sincerely,

Mark Neidlinger  
Director

MEAP:

Last week the Tribune ran an article outlining the MEAP results by all local schools. The sad reality is that we did not perform very well on the exams that were administered back in October. Though it is true that our scores went up compared to last year, they did not go up by very much. Though I do not believe that the MEAP scores give an accurate picture of our students' achievements, I do think the scores can give our school a clear picture of how we need to look at our curriculum. There is no doubt in my mind that Montessori philosophies and practices can meet (and often surpass) the state standard and Common Core curriculum that we must abide by. I have every belief that this faculty and I along with the help and support of our families can quickly bring our students scores up to a far more respectable level; that better represents the academic rigor that we present and teach each day here at Walden Green.

Here are a few of the steps that we have already put in place to address this situation:

- We have weekly team meetings where we discuss curriculum and pacing.
- We have monthly faculty meetings where we discuss curriculum concerns and practices to improve our alignment.
- We have monthly Child Study meetings where we focus on individual students strengths and weaknesses.
- Fountas and Pinnell inventory kits have been purchased so that we can target specific strengths and weaknesses.
- IXL math has been purchased to assist our students (3-8th grade) with math practice and memorization.
- Walden Green teachers are observing other Montessori schools to observe and learn.
- Montessori training will take place during our summer professional development days in mathematics.

- Best practices in literacy will be presented on the 28<sup>th</sup> and further training will ensue over the summer and fall professional development days.

Though these changes have already proven successful, it will take time to show the significant gains that I know we are capable of. We look forward to teaming with you, our families, to assure this success.

Students' individual MEAP scores will be distributed as soon as they arrive from the state.

#### Re-enrollment deadline:

Please be reminded that all re-enrollment applications are due in to Patty by this Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> by 4 PM. Please make sure that yours are handed in so that we can begin to effectively map out our class lists and our budget needs for next school year.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP:

When you come to your conference this week or next to discuss your child's progress, we will be handing you a stack of three postcards that were beautifully designed by our very own Walden Green parents. Please help us out by distributing these three cards to: 1. Friends and family who have children that are of school age. 2. Place of employment. 3. A local business that you frequent that wouldn't mind posting information about our fine school. We are looking to build our school and sure would like your assistance in this effort. Please tell everyone you know that the deadline for our Open Enrollment applications must be in by Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> by 4 PM.

#### Scholastic Book Fair:

Next week the Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to Walden Green. The Book Fair will be open Monday through Wednesday for our students and family members to enjoy. Please consider volunteering, it would be of great assistance.

#### Barnes and Noble in Muskegon:

This Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Muskegon will be supporting our Walden Green students. Please consider joining us between 1:00 and 4:00 PM to browse through the books, enjoy the café and listen to our own Walden Green students perform. A portion of all proceeds will come right back to Walden Green Montessori and help us to build our own library here at school. Amy Hart has graciously taken the lead on this event and could use a few more volunteers to support the efforts of the day. She can be reached at: [a2hart@gmail.com](mailto:a2hart@gmail.com)

The May the Merrier.

Please plan to join us on the evening of Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum for an evening of Grown-Up Fun. The intention behind this year's event is to just have fun. We will certainly have a number of items to bid on, games to play, food to enjoy and music to listen to, but the true success of this evening will be a great turn-out of our parents and friends. Look for the flier to come home soon.

Important Dates:

Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Parent conferences

Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Middle School presentation, sponsored by PIC

Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Parent conferences

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at 6:30 PM/ St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Parent Conferences

Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Parent conferences

Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – No School / records day

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Open enrollment deadline, 4 PM

Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – No school for students, Professional Development day

Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lottery is conducted

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – No school, Spring Break begins

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – School resumes after Spring Break.