

October 16, 2013

Dear Walden Green Community:

I have thoroughly enjoyed these past few weeks getting to know your children and the Walden Green community. Walden Green has so much to be proud of; the level of passion and commitment from the faculty, our engaging curriculum and the enthusiasm that comes from our students and their families. I'm looking forward to building on those collective efforts.

Please read below to better acquaint yourself with all that is happening at Walden Green Montessori.

Sincerely,

Mark Neidlinger

Family Breakfast:

The faculty and I are looking forward to welcoming all of our families in this Friday morning for breakfast. By now you should have heard from your classroom teachers with regards to signing up for a dish to pass. There is also a sign-up sheet, in the foyer, for items needed to go with the gourmet coffee bar. Regardless, we hope you will come and join the community and meet the families that collectively create Walden Green. There will be a slight adjustment to the morning, please see the time frame below:

8:25 – join your child for a classroom community breakfast

9:00 – join the School-wide sing-a-long in the Commons area

9:30 – students and teachers return to classrooms for instruction. Parents who are interested may stay in the Commons area to meet with Mr. Neidlinger and the ancillary teachers for a meet and greet.

Family Fun Night:

Please come and celebrate the fantastic families we have here at Walden Green on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8pm. There will be a number of fall activities to get involved in. We welcome costumes for students and would encourage each family to bring along a home-carved pumpkin to add to the festivities. Kids will also delight in the face-painting activities, the pie auction and the fun games that will be on hand. Please contact Amy Hart at [a2hart@gmail.com](mailto:a2hart@gmail.com) or Kathy Betts at [kbetts01@yahoo.com](mailto:kbetts01@yahoo.com) should you have any questions.

Send us you plastic bottle returnables, please:

Krista Bodo, our art teacher has a fantastic project lined up for our students but needs your help. For one week **only** we are asking you to send us your emptied and cleaned soda bottles that are made of plastic. We will have a canister placed outside of the kitchen to receive these empties and through the coming weeks we will be thrilled to display the installation piece with you. We appreciate your assistance.

#### Service Group Start-up:

The below message is from Chris Manzo who is overseeing the Service Group Project.

“It's time to get our Service Group rolling for the year!!

If your child is looking for a way to give back, we would love to have them join our Service Group! Parents are also welcome. We are having our first meeting this Wednesday immediately after school.

We will be reviewing WHY we have a Service Group and talking about potential projects. Some of the projects will be beyond Walden Green and some within our school community.

Please encourage your child to get involved. Involvement doesn't require participation in every project we do. We just want as many children to experience the fulfillment of helping/giving back.

We are also looking for a few parent volunteers that can help with planning and helping with our various Service Projects.

If you have any questions, please email Chris Manzo [chrismanzo@waldengreenschool.org](mailto:chrismanzo@waldengreenschool.org) or call Chris at 616.405.3048.

#### MEAP

As of this morning we have completed the MEAP exam-testing period. We have a handful of students who will need to complete their make-up sessions, but for the most part, we are finished. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Patty Danielson and the incredible amount of effort that has gone into organizing the exams for all Walden Green students these past two weeks. We look forward to sharing the results of these exams with the greater community once they are returned.

#### Conferences:

Please check in with your classroom teacher to sign-up for a slot of time on any of the four evenings that we have reserved for conferences in November.

Green Pick-Up Cards:

Please make sure you have your Green Pick-Up Card in your vehicle window. This will help to ensure safe transition from school to home.

Upcoming Dates:

10/18 – Family Breakfast, Fall Fest, Vision and Hearing exams

10/21 – WG Board Mtg, 6:30pm

10/23 – Stacey and Missy will be on the playground to discuss “Girls on the Run”

10/25 – HALF-DAY, students dismissed at 11:30

November.

11/04 – Picture retake day

11/04 – Parent conferences

11/06 – Parent conferences

11/12 – Parent conferences

11/14 – Parent conferences

11/15 – No School attendance, Records Day

11/18 – WG Board Mtg.

11/27 – No School, Thanksgiving Break

11/28 – No School, Thanksgiving Break

11/29 – No School, Thanksgiving Break