



Children First!



Nokomis Montessori Magnet School Newsletter

Dear Nokomis Families, October 2008

Our first month of school was calm and productive. Teachers clearly articulated our school learning expectations to our students.

Our **monthly newsletter** is sent home with students (one per family) on the last day of each month. A copy of this newsletter is also posted on our Nokomis website (www.nokomis.spps.org).

Welcome Tammy Newell, our new technology teacher! Many families visited our new computer lab at Open House. We're excited about our new lab!

Welcome Nurse Deb Waldera! Nurse Deb is at Nokomis on Mondays and Thursday mornings. Kaye Sisombath, Health Educational Assistant, is at Nokomis from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily.

Welcome Carol Stramer, our new EA Library/Technology staff member! She is currently at Nokomis on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday afternoons. She will begin working full-time at Nokomis on Monday, October 20.

THANKS to all of the parents/guardians who attended our **Parent Orientation** on the evening of Thursday, September 18. **Nokomis 2008-2009 Calendars were distributed at Parent Orientation or were sent home with your child.** We sent home one calendar per family. Extra copies of the calendar are available in the office.

Our school hours are 9:15 a.m. -3:45 p.m. Children can enter the building at 9:00 a.m. We do not provide childcare before 9:00 p.m. or after 3:50 p.m. If you need childcare before or after school, please call Nokomis Discovery Club at 293-5461.

All schools are required to complete **five fire drills** and **five lockdown drills** during the school year. We practice in a calm and organized manner so students and staff members are familiar with important safety procedures. We will begin practicing in October.

Our school office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please continue to call the school office before 9:30 a.m. at 293-8857 when your child is absent from school. Reminder, please call the office at 293-8857 before 3:00 p.m. if you plan to change your child's dismissal plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's classroom teacher or myself at 293-8857.

Melissa McCollor, Principal

Picture Day Friday, October 3

Envelopes to purchase your child's picture were sent home with your child on Friday, September 28. Reminder, checks should be written to Life Touch. Please send a separate check for each child in their own envelope.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) books will be distributed to all Nokomis students on Friday, October 10

All of our students will receive a FREE book on Friday, October 10. Our Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution is funded by a federal grant and our Title I supply budget (\$1.25 per student).

THANKS to Susan Egan for coordinating our RIF book distribution again this year!

ALC After School Classes

Monday, Oct. 6 &

Wednesday, Oct. 8

ALC After School Classes will begin on Monday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 8. Students needing additional academic support are recommended for ALC After School Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. Our ALC classes are taught by licensed teachers. **THANKS to Dan Huelster for coordinating our ALC After School Classes again this year!**

HMONG CLAnD After School Classes

The ELL team will begin registering students next week for the Hmong CLAnD classes. Our Hmong CLAnD classes will meet on **Tuesdays starting October 7 to November 11 from 3:45-5:30 p.m.** **THANKS to Mai Houa Thao, E2 teacher, for teaching Hmong Art & Culture.** We are still searching for a Hmong Dance teacher. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in teaching Hmong dance after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays, please call an ELL teacher (Julie, Ela, or Laura) at 293-8857.

HMONG NEW YEAR Thursday, November 13 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We need your help to plan our annual Hmong New Year Celebration! The Nokomis Hmong New Year celebration is **Thursday, November 11th at 6:00 pm.** We need volunteers to help plan the event and to help the night of the event. This is a great way to get involved! Please call an ELL teacher or Joseph at 293-8857 if you are interested in helping plan Hmong New Year.

Fundraising

Nokomis is diversifying fundraising again this year to enhance our school budget:

- The **PTA** is organizing our **PTA Fall Festival on Thursday, October 23 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Cost = \$2.00.**
- Our **PTA** is also asking for “cash donations” to support our school.
- The **CH and E1 teams** are organizing a **Clubs Choice Frozen Food fundraiser starting October 2.** Clubs Choice orders are due on **Monday, October 20.**
- The **E2 team** organizes the annual **Fun Fair on Friday, February 27.**
- The **Nokomis Site Council** organizes a spring Clubs Choice Frozen Food fundraiser to support a variety of school activities.
- Our **ELL team** organizes fundraising to support Hmong CLAnD After School classes and our annual Hmong New Year celebration.

THANKS in advance for all of your efforts to help our school get extra money to support additional resources for our students! We respectfully understand your decision regarding participating in these fundraising options. We will share ways these funds are spent in future newsletters.

Field Trips

Classroom teachers organize field trips to support learning in the classroom. Teachers send home a Type II field trip permission slip for field trips requiring bus transportation. All students must have written parent/guardian permission to participate in field trips as required by our school district. Verbal approval will not be accepted. Students can purchase a bag lunch from the cafeteria for field trips.

Nokomis Site Council Meetings

Our Nokomis Site Council meets once a month from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the staff lounge. The Nokomis Site Council has seven staff members and seven parent representatives:

- Melissa McCollor, Principal
- Susan Kosel, Union Steward
- Krisite Zellmer, EC Teacher
- Liz Colwell, E1 Teacher
- Susan Egan & Jodi Zinnel, Support Teachers sharing representation
- Laura Mogelson & Ela Murphy, ELL Teachers sharing representation
- Julia Hobday, Parent (returning)
- Kelli Mulvaney, Parent (returning)

We are looking for four more parent/family representative to serve on Site Council. Our parent representatives serving on Site Council need to reflect the diversity of our student population. If you are interested, please fill out and return a Site Council Application to Principal McCollor by Friday October 10.

Our next meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, October 14 from 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

Please join us!
Tuesday, October 9
Site Council Meeting
5:00-6:00 p.m.
&
PTA Meeting
Tuesday, October 9
6:00-7:00 p.m.
 PTA provides FREE childcare
 in room 109

November Parent-Teacher Conferences

We asked parents to sign up for November Parent-Teacher conferences at our Parent Orientation on September 18 or Fall Lunch on September 24. If your child is not signed up for a November Parent-teacher conference yet, your child’s teacher will send home a conference sheet on Wednesday, October 1. Please return this sheet to your child’s teacher by Wednesday, October 8.

Classroom teachers will send home a Parent-teacher conference appointment note on Thursday, October 23 clarifying conference date and time. Please return this sheet to your child’s classroom teacher by Thursday, October 30 to confirm your conference time.

Reminders,

No School for Students
Thursday, October 16 &
Friday, October 17 (State-wide
Teacher Conference)

No School for Students
Friday, October 24 (Conference
Prep Day)

All students will be sent home at 1:45 on Wednesday, October 29 for Early Release Staff Training. There are no 4 year old classes on Early Release Days.