



Parkside Montessori Principal's Newsletter for September 2019



Dear Parkside Montessori Families,

We are three weeks into our busy school year and there is already so much to celebrate and such a great momentum at our school!

Many folks have been kind enough to ask how I am doing, and I can say confidently that helping lead Parkside is the best job that I have ever had. *Amazing kiddos? Check! A wonderful and supportive parent community and PTA? Check! A committed and hard-working staff that is willing to go above and beyond? Check!* We have an amazing community and we are a school on the rise! Go Tigers!

In this letter, you will find a few updates, reminders, and a general overview of our next few weeks.

Our September Calendar at a Glance

Maria Montessori's Birthday is Saturday, August 31st. If my math is correct, this would be her 149th birthday! Today (Friday) at school we had all the students in our LGI and held a sun ceremony birthday for Maria (as played by Ms. Martinelli). Make sure to ask your child about our celebration :)

Green Team is meeting this Saturday, August 31st at 9 am

Labor Day is Monday, September 2nd and we have NO SCHOOL.

Montessori Parent Education will be hosted by two of our veteran teachers on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30p in the LGI. Come learn more about the philosophy of Montessori education. Childcare for school-aged children and light dinner will be provided.

Principal Coffee will be Wednesday, September 4th, from 8:20a-9:30a in the LGI. I will share some updates and also want to hear your ideas, celebrations, and concerns.

Picture Day will be Thursday, September 5th. You received info about picture day in your Thursday folder. Please note that last year a decision was made to change picture companies because of challenges with the quality and consistency of our previous company. I look forward to family feedback on your experience with our new company. For your ease - here is the link to order pictures: [Click Here!](#)

Movie Night is Friday, September 13th at 6:00p in the LGI.

Mindfulness Parent Education is on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30p in the LGI. Hear more about the Mindfulness program our students will participate in this year and learn some mindfulness practices you can do on your own or with your family. Childcare for school-aged children and light dinner will be provided.

Staff Development will happen on Friday, September 20th, that is a NO SCHOOL day for children. Please note that the Annex is closed on this day too.

Walk-a-Jog is a big PTA FUNdraiser happening on Friday, September 27th and kicking off at 3:30p

* Our amazing PTA is working on a final calendar for the full year that will be published soon!

Reminders

Thursday Folders will contain important information and come home every Thursday. Please carefully review the information inside and return the folders to your teachers the next day. We are exploring going paperless, but no changes will be made in the near future.

Dismissal has been an area our staff is working to improve. Thank you for using the student name signs and looking for the new walk-up pickup locations by room number. The name signs help us efficiently identify and call for your student to come meet you at the gate. Thank you for your patience as we work to safely and efficiently help our students get home.

Communication about Parkside will come to you in a variety of ways. I will send out principal newsletters like this in email, you will receive your Thursday folders, occasionally you will receive stand-alone letters or materials sent home and you should sign up to receive our [PTA newsletter](#) weekly in an email.

Teacher Appreciation is Every day! Parkside is lucky to have an amazing staff of dedicated and hard-working professionals. I invite you to go out of your way to appreciate your teacher and go the extra mile to extend compassion and support to all staff.

Updates

Crossing Guard coming soon! Thanks to the support of some parents and a few emails on my part - there is now a job posting for a crossing guard on Norfolk and Halsey - at no additional expense to the school! If you are interested in this position or know anyone that is - please apply here: [Crossing Guard Application](#)

Classroom Newsletters coming soon! During my listening campaign with parents I heard a strong desire for consistency in communication from classroom teachers. The staff hears your feedback and this year every teacher will be sending home a newsletter once a month to help keep families informed on all the great things happening in the classroom! Look for September's newsletter coming out from your classroom teacher next week.

Exploring becoming a nut-free school - One thing I have quickly learned is that we have many students with severe nut allergies at Parkside. As a result, we have many nut-free classrooms, but don't have a nut-free recess or lunch. Student safety is a priority for me and I am exploring options to support all students. One way families can help right now is opting for nut-free snack and lunch options. Expect more opportunities to engage with me on this topic before we take any formal steps to implement a new policy.

Music for Minors starts on Tuesday! Yay for all students participating in music class :)

Halloween Plans? I will be working with staff to discuss our plans for Halloween, you can look for more information on this in a few weeks.

Parents New to Parkside – Welcome! We know that the first few weeks can be a busy and stressful transition for you and your kiddos. Take a deep breath. Keep in communication with your teacher and read what is getting sent home and plug into the PTA. When in doubt, ask another parent - or swing by the office. We are here to help! And I have it on good authority that it will get easier :)

Discussing the future of the Montessori Programs: Our Superintendent is doing a listening tour with our Montessori communities and is working with the PTA and me to set a date to come out and speak with the Parkside community. The date and time will be announced soon.

We want your feedback on how things are going! The staff and I are eager to partner with you to make Parkside the best Montessori school in the Bay Area! We always want to hear your feedback on what is working and what can improve. Please contact your teacher directly with questions about your classroom and feel free to call the school or email me with your technical questions, schoolwide concerns or feedback for improvement (ntahai@smfc.k12.ca.us). I believe in a strong partnership between staff and families.

I look forward to meeting you and am excited about a great year ahead!

In Partnership,
Nima Tahai

Parkside Montessori Principal