



## Weekly Update for Friday, October 4

### News & Updates

#### *Upcoming Fall Festival*

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, October 16 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. at the Grove for our Annual Fall Festival! Both the Global Explorium and forevergreen Farm Stand will be open.

We need volunteers! Please see SchoolCues for a current lists of needs and volunteer opportunities. Help us make this a fun, memorable event.

#### *Class Pictures*

Class pictures went home in Friday Folders today. If you ordered one, please keep an eye out for it, and if you ordered one and did not receive it, please let the office know. If you did not order one and would like one, please stop by the office and pay SVCMS \$11. Extras are given on a first come first serve basis. Questions can be directed to Meg at [mthornbury@svcmontessori.org](mailto:mthornbury@svcmontessori.org).

#### *STEM to the M: Ambitious Science in the Montessori Classroom*

You won't want to miss our upcoming parent education event about Montessori Science on Tuesday, October 29, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Across the country, STEM is a hot topic with strong support and interest. The wider culture has embraced computer-based technology as the means and measure of student understanding in science.

However, current research in effective education and student engagement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics reveal that the strongest outcomes in these areas actually align with Montessori pedagogy. In the Montessori environment, we use technology in a way that does not separate the child from real experiences. And the data we've collected validates this approach as yielding outstanding outcomes. In fact, for the past 5 years in every grade tested, from 5th-8th, our students have mean MAP scores above the national average. By the end of Middle School at SVCMS, 90-100% of student have met or exceeded the national norm every year since we began measuring in 2016. Come see firsthand what this approach looks like from Children's House through Middle School. You'll leave the event feeling affirmed in the educational approach you've chosen for your child.

#### *For Small Hands Fundraiser*

Last week you should have received a copy of the Small Hands catalog in your child's Friday folder. Please take a minute to look through the catalog and shop ahead for holiday or birthday gifts. The products are high quality and Montessori-friendly. Prices are competitive, and each purchase supports the school.

It's also a great opportunity to make a gift to your child's classroom. Guides have created wishlists with items they'd love to add to the classroom. If you'd like to donate an item to your child's classroom, please note the item you will be purchasing as a donation in this spreadsheet.

Orders are due to the front office by Thursday, October 17. Questions may be directed to parent volunteer Jen Harper at [jennharper@gmail.com](mailto:jennharper@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

### ***Conference Food Sign Ups***

As our October Parent-Guide Conferences quickly approach, we are looking for volunteers to bring food for our wonderful Guides. Not a cook? We need helpers for set-up/clean-up and disposable plates, bowls, and silverware! Food can also be store-bought! We are looking for main dishes, side dishes, and desserts. Please sign up using this [Google Doc](#). Questions can be directed to Meg at [mthornbury@svcmontessori.org](mailto:mthornbury@svcmontessori.org).

### ***SchoolCues Parent Mobile App***

SchoolCues has notified us that sometime between the end of this week and early next week, they will be discontinuing the current version of the Parent Mobile App. It will be replaced by a new version that is redesigned on the newest iOS and Android technologies, making it more compatible with newer phone models. The update will happen automatically on iTunes and Google Play.

They do expect some errors to occur during the first 30 days after the release. During this time, please report all errors directly to SchoolCues ([support@schoolcues.com](mailto:support@schoolcues.com)).

### ***Forever Home Update***

Thank you to all who attended the Facility Update meeting last night. We appreciate all the energy and support as we begin the next leg of this journey on the way to a Forever Home. We recorded audio of last night's meeting for those who were unable to attend. We plan on sending that out to families next week. In the meantime, please visit the new [Forever Home blog site](#) where you can view the [presentation slides](#) and where ongoing updates will be posted.

### ***Volunteer Orientation and Training***

All volunteers who work directly with students are required to attend a Volunteer Orientation and Training. This includes both new and returning volunteers, and applies to classroom work, field trip chaperones, and library volunteers. It does not apply to volunteer work done off-site like laundry or materials prep or other volunteer tasks that do not involve contact with children. Our next Training Session will take place on Wednesday, October 23 from 2:15–3:15 p.m. Another training is planned for January. Please plan to attend a training session if you'd like to volunteer to work with students this year. Contact the office ([office@svcmontessori.org](mailto:office@svcmontessori.org)) with any questions. Look for an RSVP in SchoolCues early next week.

## **Reminders**

### ***Parent and Guide Conferences***

Conference Sign-ups were released in SchoolCues on October 3 and will close on October 11 to allow guides time to prepare for conferences that will be held on the evening of October 17 and during the day on October 18 and 25. After October 11, all conference changes will need to be made through the main office. Please contact [office@svcmontessori.org](mailto:office@svcmontessori.org) if you have questions.

### ***Social Media Culture***

Currently, the school does not have an official Facebook page. There is an SVCMS parent community page on Facebook that is administered by volunteer parents. Staff does not censor content, nor respond to direct questions regarding policies or logistics. If you have questions or comments to share with the staff or leadership of the school you should contact the school directly.

As the environment on social media becomes increasingly contentious, please make every effort to keep the SVCMS community page friendly. Montessori schools are founded on the ideals of respect for others, kindness, thoughtfulness, gentleness, and peace. At school, we strive to model grace and courtesy in our interactions with other adults, with our students, and the earth. Building a culture of grace and courtesy starts with us as adults. Thank you for your support.

### ***Arrival & Dismissal Safety***

We understand that pick up and drop off can be a hectic time of the day. We appreciate your patience as the new staff gets accustomed to the flow of the system. We would like you to be aware of a few measures that will keep our community safe and allow the pick-up line to run efficiently:

- If you are walking up please allow cars to fill our driveway before crossing the street.
- Parents should pull up as far forward as directed to allow as many cars as possible to safely use the drop-off/pick-up loop.
- Please do not walk in between cars in the drop-off/pick-up line.
- In Children's House and LE, SVCMS distributes color-coded classroom signs to help our staff deliver children to the correct car. At pick-up, parents should clearly display the colored classroom sign on the dashboard or from the rearview mirror of the car. Keep the sign displayed until you have received your children.
- Do not make a left turn to exit the loop at 1055 or 1001 Delaware. Right turns only.

### ***Next Week's Events***

- 10/7 Monthly PVO Meeting, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
- 10/10 SVCMS Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 10/11 Non-Student Contact Day - No School

### ***Save the Date***

- 10/14 4:00–5:00 p.m., Children's House Play Date at Roosevelt Park
- 10/16 4:00–5:30 p.m., Fall Festival
- 10/17 For Small Hands Orders Due!
- 10/18 Parent–Guide Conferences – No School
- 10/24 Picture Retake Day
- 10/23 2:15–3:15 p.m. Volunteer Training & Orientation, Grove Modular
- 10/25 Parent–Guide Conferences – No School
- 10/29 Parent Education, 6:00–8:00 p.m. – Ambitious Science in the Montessori Classroom (STEM to the M)
- 10/30 Vision & Hearing Screening for preK-3rd, 5th, and 7th grade.

See full school calendar here: <https://www.svcmontessori.org/calendar>

## **PVO**

### ***Schedule Change for October PVO Meeting***

The PVO meeting that was scheduled for 10/9 has been moved to Monday, October 7 at 8:45 a.m. so as not to conflict with Yom Kippur. At the meeting, we'll be getting to work on planning for the Fall Festival and fundraising efforts for the year ahead. We'd love to have you join us.

### ***Children's House Play Date***

Children's House families are invited to Roosevelt Park on Monday, October 14, 4:00-5:00 p.m. for a play date and opportunity to connect before the weather gets too cold.

## **Of Interest to Families**

### ***Inspiration Art Academy***

Inspiration Art Academy is a few students shy of being able to offer Day Off Art Camps for our non-student contact days on Oct 11, 18, or 25. This is a great childcare opportunity for children 6+ with full and half day options. Contact Inspiration Art Academy directly.

### ***Live Your Best [Zero Waste] Life! An Evening with Bea Johnson***

Eco-cycle is hosting an evening with bestselling author, Bea Johnson who has helped debunk misconceptions about a Zero Waste way of life and inspired a global movement. On Wednesday, October 16, 6:00-8:30 p.m., join Bea as she shares her challenges and secrets to living Zero Waste. Tickets are \$20/person and include one drink ticket (non-alcoholic drinks and snacks available). Entrepreneurs from local businesses will also be demonstrating the unique ways their companies are advancing Zero Waste.