

# SANDS MONTESSORI REPORTER



THE SANDS MONTESSORI PARENT ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## SAVE THE DAY

**Sept. 6** No school LaborDay

**Sept. 21** Open House

**Oct. 8** Grandparents' Day

**Oct. 9** Sands Carnival &  
Hike\*Bike\*Run

**Oct. 15** No school-teacher  
records day

## NEWSLETTER

Articles, ideas and comments regarding the newsletter are always welcome. Please email Emily Bond before the 21st of each month at ebond@cinci.rr.com.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Sands Montessori Families,

New Beginnings are exciting and fun. Our 2010-2011 school year has begun with many new beginnings: new building, new furniture, new routines, new traffic patterns, new outside work, new playground equipment, and new staff and families. Our excitement continues each day surrounded by the many new beginnings and I know that excitement will be with us for the entire school year.

I would like to introduce our new staff and internal staff changes for this school year:

### 3-6 Level:

Jill Ortiz-Chamberlain, teacher, room 1008  
Laura Morgan, Paraprofessional, room 1015  
Denise Fuller, Paraprofessional, room 1015  
Wendy Leach, Paraprofessional, room 1014  
Trena Kelly, Paraprofessional, room 1013  
Stephanie Kaufman, Paraprofessional, room 1013

### 6-9 Level:

Robin Thierauf, Paraprofessional, room 2004  
Alain Blanton, Paraprofessional, room 2005  
Amy Schrogan, Paraprofessional, room 2008  
Kelly Miller, Paraprofessional, room 1005

### 9-12 Level:

Julie McCarthy, Paraprofessional, room 2017  
Pamela Zerbe, Paraprofessional, room 2011

### Librarian:

Paulette Simpson

Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> was our first school visit for families to see our new "home." It was very well attended. I could feel the excitement that evening, lots of "ooh's and awe's" and many positive words of how beautiful all the classroom environments are. Thank You for attending that evening event and for supporting us the following morning dropping off and entrusting your children to all of us as a staff rather than walking your child into the school. I am proud to share that we had an AWESOME first day of school!

I also want to Thank You for being patient with the new traffic flow and the increased quantity of car drop off and pick up. I will continue to make changes when needed to accommodate as many cars as possible on school property and not tie up traffic on Corbly Road. We have more cars this year due to the changes with yellow bus transportation.

Our School Community is unique in that we work together as a team for what's good for the whole community. My door is always open to you as a school community, so please call me, email me, or stop by the office if you have suggestions, concerns, or just to say hello! I value the input I get from staff, parents and community.

Looking forward to another amazing school year for the Sands Montessori School Community!

Sincerely,

*Rita Swegman*  
Principal

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

We're off to a running start this year. Here are some highlights:

Several committee members have been working over the summer to help craft new CPS policy to lengthen lunch time.

Former Sands student Foster Opals designed a game for the Clever Crazes contest and won an iPad. The game, called Mr. Munchie is expected to debut on the website in October.

Look for the rock wall to be up in the gym in the next several weeks.

Our first meeting will be the first week in September; please let us know if you wish to be on the email list [Lynn-Sullivan307@aol.com](mailto:Lynn-Sullivan307@aol.com).

Our first project this year will be assisting with the Sands Carnival Fun Run on October 9th. We also need to get people trained to teach students and teachers how to use the sensory diet stations (large muscle exercise spots).

Other projects we do are: school skating parties, Family Fitness Night, Flying Pig kids' marathon, and whatever else we feel supports the health and wellness of the students, teachers, and parents.

## KEEP PLAYING CLEVER CRAZES

Last year we earned \$10,000 for Sands by going to [www.clevercrazes.com](http://www.clevercrazes.com) which was awarded a "safe website for kids" by TRUSTe. Join your kids as they experience the different worlds and learn about:

Nutrition, Physical Activity, Self Esteem, and Living Green.



## THE CARNIVAL IS COMING!!!

Sands Montessori Annual Carnival and Hike/ Bike/ Run for Fun is quickly approaching! This is a fun-filled event for all members of our community and is one of our best fundraisers. The event will take place at **Lunken on October 9<sup>th</sup>**...mark your calendars! You won't want to miss it. In order to make this event a success **we need volunteers** (Clark Montessori students can earn community service hours).

Please contact Christina Turner at [christinaturner73@gmail.com](mailto:christinaturner73@gmail.com) or 231-4742 if you are interested in helping out. Look for more information to come.



*Christina Turner,*  
Resource Coordinator

## NEW MEDIA CENTER

Dear Parents/Family Members,



Something NEW at Sands is our Computer Lab. It's wonderful. **In order for any child to use the com-**

**puters, the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) consent form MUST be signed.** The AUP states that in order for a student to be allowed access to a school computer system, computer network, and the Internet, parents and students must sign and return the attached consent form. The AUP form is in the red Sands Montessori folder that was sent home the first week of school. Please complete and sign the consent form and return as soon as possible so your child/children can use the new computers at Sands.

I would like to give special recognition to the following parents and

friends of the community for coming in and helping me unpack over 225 boxes. Special thanks go to Nickole Pope- George, Cara Alpern, Linda Rillo (my neighbor), Theresa Ware and to all the parents who were willing to come to help organize the media center. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Home Depot store # 3812 (520 Ohio Pike) Store Manager, Matt Hengle and sales associate, Jack for their generous donation of paint sticks so our Sands Montessori students can use as shelf markers in the Media Center.

If you have any questions please call me at 363-5083 or send me an email at [simpsop@cps-k12.org](mailto:simpsop@cps-k12.org).

*Mrs. Paulette Simpson*

Media specialist

## LANDSCAPING OUR NEW SPACE

As you may have noticed we have a lot of dirt. Nothing but dirt. Actually that is a



good thing, because the Garden Committee has some wonderful plans to turn all that dirt into beautiful gardens for us to enjoy and to use with classroom activities.

If you helped rescue some of the plants at the old building before construction began, please let us know what survived, or what plants you want to divide to donate to the new landscaping. Please contact Jackie Roberto with the name and

number of plants so we can have an accurate master list:

[jackie.roberto@madison-design.com](mailto:jackie.roberto@madison-design.com)

We will have some work days this fall to prepare the soil and plant things. We will need people with wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, and trucks (to haul compost and mulch). We also need people and kids willing to plant and water. If you would like to be on our email list, contact Mary Beth Manolis [mmanolis@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mmanolis@cinci.rr.com).

Things we need - soaker hoses or old hoses we can punch holes in, empty 2 liter bottles with caps not squashed (about 100), perennials, and garden statuary.



## GOT SUZUKI?



Have you thought about "Twinkling" with your child? Then enrolling in the Sands Suzuki Instrumental program is the first step for your family!

A lesson during the school day will be scheduled for you and your child (check with your class teacher concerning the best pull-out time for your child). A group class will also be offered as part of the program fee. The group class is a chance for the students to gather in a larger group setting to practice and rehearse their songs together within a supportive, nurturing environment.

Please fill out the "Interest Survey Form" your child received at the beginning of the school year and place in the Suzuki mailbox, located in the school office, or have your child hand in the form to his/her class teacher. Filling out information completely will be helpful for the Suzuki teachers and will result in a quicker response for your family.

*Cecelia Goist*, Instructor-Violin/Viola  
*Jennifer Wheatley*, Instructor-Cello  
*Laurie Fairlie Weil*, Instructor-Flute

## JOIN CHOIR!



Sands Montessori Choir will begin Sept 22.

It's not too late to join!

Children who participate in choir:

- \* perform better academically.
- \* gain confidence in their ability to communicate with others.
- \* show significant increases in self esteem, self control, motivation, and achievement.
- \* perform with greater conviction and expression.

Join the fun on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:30 in Room 1094.

## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

The After School Enrichment (ASEP) deadline has passed, but it may not be too late to sign up for some classes. If your child is still interested in ASEP classes please contact Judy Finn at [jazjaf@aol.com](mailto:jazjaf@aol.com) to see if space is still available. A complete listing of classes is available in the office.

Look for the Winter ASEP schedule to be available in December at [www.smpo.net](http://www.smpo.net).

## FROM THE SMPO PRESIDENT



The school year has started with a flurry of excitement and a bit of apprehension. We have a beautiful new building. But with that comes new routines, as well as some bugs to work out. I am so grateful to the teachers, staff, and parents who worked so hard to have the school ready for the kids. I am also thankful to the parents who are being patient and supportive as the Sands team determines the best way to operate in the new school.

SMPO is also ready for an exciting new year. But first, we need to say a big thank you to Brad and Shannon Roush, General Electric Aviation and 5/3 Bank for donating over 175 computers to Sands Montessori. We are so grateful that the Roushes used their contacts to communicate a major need of Sands Montessori to GE Aviation. As a result of their networking, the Sands computer lab has 24 computers, and each classroom has 4 computers.

This year we will continue to develop our efforts to be a paperless organization to save costs and preserve our wonderful environment. To further this goal, we will use the SMPO website, Facebook page and email for the majority of our communications. We will develop other communication methods as the year

progresses. We will also publish and post information in the Community Learning Center. Please let me or your Room Parent know if you are not able to access email or the internet on a regular basis.

The Rudder will also work to improve communication with parents with regard to volunteer opportunities, fundraising opportunities, hospitality events, and the financial management of SMPO funds. I hope you will join us in this goal by communicating with us throughout the year. We need your energy and feedback. We have a wonderfully diverse community, and through that community, we can help Sands be a truly unique and memorable educational experience for our children.

The first way you can help is to complete the Parent Volunteer Form so we know how you can help. If you have specific questions, the [smpo.net](http://smpo.net) website has a list of Rudder officers and contact information. Please call us with questions. Rudder members will also be at the September 21st Sands Montessori Open House to meet you and answer any questions you may have. Thank you!

*David Kitchings*  
[david.kitchings@gmail.com](mailto:david.kitchings@gmail.com)

## SMPO 10-11 CALENDAR

Here is a listing of important dates and upcoming events for the 2010-11 school year.

- September 6 No School, Labor Day
- September 21 Open House
- October 8 Grandparents Day
- October 9 Hike, Bike and Run and CARNIVAL at Lunken Playfield
- October 15 No School- Records Day
- November 12 No School-Veteran's Day
- November 24 TENTATIVE Staff Professional Development Day- No Students
- November 25-26 No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 16 Winter Concert 10am, 2pm, 7pm
- December 20- January 3 No School, Winter Break
- January 4 School Re-Opens
- January 17 No School, MLK Jr. Day
- February 14 TENTATIVE Staff Professional Development Day No Students
- February 21 Presidents' Day. No school.
- March 28-April 1 No School, Spring Break
- April 4 No School, Records Day
- April 5 Schools reopen
- May 25 Last Day of School for Students

All Rudder Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at Sands at 7:00pm. Guests are always welcome.

**The dates above are subject to change; please check SMPO.net for updates or additions.**