



MGNS Newsletter October 2014

We had a great, smooth start to the school year. Thanks to all of you who got your paperwork in, and got your kids ready for school. We are all excited about working with these kids this year! Thanks!

If you have not yet turned in your Child Health Report, your Immunization Report, or any other forms and payments, please do so asap. If you have questions or concerns about the forms, give Sue a call.

Join Us for Pizza!

Monona Grove Nursery School will be hosting the annual **MEET, GREET & EAT** on Friday, October 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Meet other families in your preschooler's class, chat with their teachers, explore the classrooms and eat some pizza! Toddler Time folks are more than welcome to join us as well! Registration forms are due by the 6th. Preregistration is greatly appreciated!



Second Annual MGNS Resale!

We are collecting gently used clothing right now for our second annual MGNS resale fundraiser! Please consider donating your outgrown jackets, boots, mittens, snow pants and winter gear! Also consider donating your Halloween Costumes of all sizes!

Then come shop- starting the night of our Meet Greet and Eat (October 10)- and on through the next week. (October 13-17). Great deals to be had all week long! Don't miss it!

Fundraiser Updates: Fall Fundraisers end **Thursday, October 3.**

*Butter braid orders can be turned into your teachers this week. Please remember to write one check to MGNS to turn in with your order form. Butter braid pick up dates are October 16 and 17 from 11:30-1 pm.

* Labeling our clothes and items is SO important. Don't forget our Oliver's Labels Fundraiser. www.oliverslabels.com/mgns

*Fun fabrics and sizes are featured in our snack taxi Fundraiser. The lined cloth sandwich and snack bags are perfect for lunch packing for years to come!

Just imagine how many plastic bags you will not use!

<http://fundraising.snacktaxi.com/details/rid/206.html>

REMEMBER TO INDICATE THAT YOU ARE SHOPPING FOR MGNS!

*We also offer the option of a \$50 buy-out since we know that some people prefer this option. Just write a check to MGNS and we will make sure that you get a letter you can use for tax purposes.

Thank you to our hardworking Fundraising coordinators-

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Our Parenting Library is open and ready for Check out! Our parenting library contains a wide range of titles including some teacher favorites like Parenting with Love and Logic, 1,2,3, Magic, and Positive Discipline for Preschoolers. Feel free to borrow any books and just sign them out on the clipboard. The cart with the books lives in the office, and gets wheeled out when we think of it. But come down and take a look!



Lunch Bunch Update! We have room in our fabulous lunch bunch sessions. If you are interested, sign up! If you would like to try it for a day, that is also welcome! Lunch Bunch is available for drop in with prior notice for \$6. Sadly, we have had to bid goodbye to our Lunch Bunch Coordinator, Valerie White. We will be introducing a new Lunch Bunch Coordinator to you soon!



Happy Birthday to TIM! Friday, October 3! What would we do without him?



We are a play based preschool and believe that kids learn best through playing. Here is an article that further helps explain our philosophies.

<http://www.naeyc.org/content/research-news-pretend-play-is-important>

Introduction to the Board: (Each month, I will feature another one of our fabulous board members)

Hello! My name is Katy Kaufman. My daughter, Vivian, and I did all three sessions of Toddler Time last year, and this year, Vivian is enjoying being part of the Seahorse class.

In my life before Vivian, I managed a non-profit theater company that created original work for children, which I loved doing. Now, I focus on managing family life, which I also love doing. On the side, I volunteer as one of Madison's La Leche League leaders, and I also triage requests for donor milk and serve on the board of a local milk-sharing organization called Mothers' Milk Alliance. In my truly spare time, I like making things, reading, and doing puzzles of all kinds.

This is my first year on the MGNS board of directors, and I serve as the treasurer. In that role, I reconcile monthly statements, present the board with financial reports, and work with Sue both to prepare budgets and to make sure we stay on them. If you see me in the hall, I would be happy to assure you that your tuition dollars are being well spent to make the school the very best learning environment it can be for your child!



One of our spectacular corporate partners is our credit union-Summit Credit Union. They have generously offered to provide an article about money for each of our newsletters. Please see the end of the newsletter for this month's article about Halloween- Spooky Savings.

Helpful Hints from the Staff

From all staff members- please please please take your child to the bathroom before class—we really need them to go! Even if they say they do not have to go, please ask them to go and try.

Please label all coats, sweaters, mittens, hats, backpacks, and anything else your child brings to school. Show your child where the labels are placed so they can find their own things easily. *Remember Oliver's Labels is a yearlong fundraiser....*



Children at MGNS will be using the playground whenever weather or ground conditions permit. If your child is at school, she will be included in outdoor activities, so dress appropriately.

Is your Calendar Marked??

Meet Greet and Eat

Friday, October 10th 5-7
pm

2nd Annual MGNS Resale:

Starts Friday October 10
Runs Oct 13-17

Butter Braid Orders DUE:

October 3

Butter Braid Pick Up-

October 15 and 16

No School October 24

Fall Break!

Halloween Parades:

*Penguins, Dolphins
Manatees, : Oct.31*

Starfish: October 29

Seahorses: October 30

Scholastic Book Fair:

November 3-7

Pajama StoryHour-

November 5 at 6 pm

"Fired UP!" fundraising event

November 23 11-3pm

T-giving Feast Days:

Penguins:Nov. 21

*Dolphins & Seahorses:
Nov 25*

Manatees & Starfish:

Nov 26

No School: Nov. 27 & 28



From Summit Credit Union:

Spooky Halloween Savings

Did you know that Halloween is the third-most expensive holiday of the year, right behind Christmas and Valentine's Day? From candy to costumes, celebrating Halloween can take a toll on your budget. Keep Halloween spending under control with some simple tricks.

Costumes. Costumes consume the biggest chunk of the average Halloween budget. Save a bundle by uncovering hidden treasures in your own closet, exchanging with friends or scouting out bargains at your local thrift store.

Shop Thrift Stores. Scout out thrift and consignment shops for costumes or materials to make one. Usually Halloween costumes will be barely worn and in great condition. Or you can also make costumes from old clothes, hats, scarves and jewelry.

Costume Swap. Swap costumes with other parents. Parents who still have their child's costume from last year are usually more than happy to give it away.

Get Crafty. If you're good at sewing, the opportunities are endless. You can

easily find simple Halloween costume patterns by searching online and pick up inexpensive materials at your local fabric store.

Shop Early. If you must buy a new costume this year, shop early to save money. By starting early, you can compare prices around town to get the best deal.

Shop Late. Try shopping the day after Halloween. If you like to plan ahead, it's a great way to find costumes 30-50% off to save for next year.

Candy. Purchasing candy to hand out to all the trick-or-treaters can quickly become an expensive proposition depending on how you approach the buying.

Buy Just What You Need. It's easy to go overboard and spend more than planned when buying Halloween candy. Not only will you put a dent in your food budget, you'll probably get stuck with extra bags at the end of the night. Use last year's turnout as a guide for how much to buy this year. Or if you're new to the neighborhood, ask your neighbors how much Halloween traffic your street gets.

Buy in Bulk. A large bulk bag of Halloween candy is usually much cheaper than buying several smaller bags. Buy candy in bulk and split the bag with a friend, neighbor or family member. Generic brands of treats are also significantly less expensive than brand candy bars.

Skip the Candy. One alternative to giving away candy is to give away Halloween themed items such as pencils, plastic rings and other toys. There are plenty of opportunities to buy these items in bulk. Another option is to give away healthy snacks. Check out the grocery store for individually wrapped items like cheese and cracker packs, fruit cups, fruit rollups and sugar-free gum. If you have any leftovers, you can put them in your own kid's lunchboxes so they don't go to waste.

Freeze Leftovers. Some Halloween candies, such as mini chocolate bars, Hersey Kisses and Reese's Pieces freeze very well. Just fill a large Ziploc bag with your Leftover candy and pull it out when you start baking for the holidays.

Décor. Save money and have fun by gathering family or friends to make your own decorations. Hold a pumpkin carving contest or create clothespin bats to hang. For just a few dollars, you can create a memorable annual tradition with your children and decorate your front porch or window at the same time.

Entertainment. Many schools, churches and community organization host free festivals and events around Halloween that are open to the public. Check the local calendar section in your

local newspaper to find hayrides, haunted houses and pumpkin patch events and even admission coupons.

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