

MGNS NEWSLETTER

January 2020



CALENDAR

Jan 6 – School Resumes

Jan 6 – First Day of Toddler Time Session 2

Jan 7 – First Day of Lunch Bunch Session 2

Jan 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School

Jan 26 – Revel "Share" Night

Feb 1 – Saturday at School for Dolphin class 9-10am, Manatee class 10:30-11:30am

Feb 8 – Open House for New Families

Feb 10 – Enrollment Current Families

Feb 15 – Saturday at School Starfish Class 10-11am

Feb 17 – Enrollment New Families

Happy New Year to all of our MGNS families. We are so excited to start off our 62nd year with you!

Our staff and board have recently completed a very extensive accreditation process with the City of Madison, and we had a wonderful review. Congratulations to our phenomenal staff who worked very hard on a detailed packet about their teaching, and also received several positive observations from our accrediting specialist. As a result, we were awarded a \$1000 grant from the city of Madison which we are using on more technology upgrades, and a new shade for the playground which we will build this spring.

Thank you to our entire MGNS family for your patience while we have worked through the quirks with both the security door system and a new phone system. Both installations had a fair share of glitches, but now we feel much more secure and our phones are working well!

We are looking forward to a great winter and a super spring! In January, you will begin to be inundated with information for registration next year. Do not hesitate to call, email or stop in with any questions.

Finally, thank you everyone who brought us cards, drawings, tasty treats and gifts for the holidays. We all so appreciate your warm thoughts.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Reminder! When we return to school after the winter break, our schedule will be reversed for ALL classes. The Penguins and the Starfish will meet their teachers at the playground gate, and will dismiss out of the classroom. The Dolphins and the Manatees will greet their teachers at the classroom door, and will dismiss from the playground. Please have your child use the school bathroom before coming out to the playground or into their classroom. Remember that in bad weather, MGNS closes when MMSD closes. AND - MGNS kids go outside to play when the "feels like" temperature is above 0 degrees.

PARENT MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey surrounding winter parent meeting topics! The response rate was the highest we've ever seen and we are so thankful to have received your input. The top three topics our MGNS families are most interested in, based on the survey results, are Discipline, Screen Time and Literacy. We are working with highly rated organizations around Madison to provide two separate, one-hour presentations on two of these three topics. Final dates and topics will be announced in just a few weeks. As MGNS co-op members, your family will be required to attend one of the two presentations (though you're welcome to attend both if you'd like). These presentations will occur near the end of February or early March from 7 - 8 PM in Fellowship Hall at MGNS. Watch for communication about both presentation and child care offerings. Questions can be directed to MGNS Vice President Sarah Kopczyk, sarahkopczyk@gmail.com.

JOIN THE BOARD

Are you interested in making a meaningful impact on the future of our school? Please consider joining the Monona Grove Nursery School Board of Directors. The MGNS BOD sets policy, supports decision making about school programs, and serves as the key advisory group to the school director, among many other things. To learn more, [please complete the form](https://tinyurl.com/mgnsbod2021) at <https://tinyurl.com/mgnsbod2021>. Someone will reach out to you to discuss your interests further and answer any questions you might have.

OPEN HOUSE

Our Winter Open House for POTENTIAL new families is on Saturday, February 8 from 10:30am-1:30pm. To folks who may be looking for a preschool, our parents are our best source of new families, so please spread the word. All of our teachers will be here, our classrooms will be ready to play in, and we would love to meet anyone interested in preschool next year or beyond, or in Toddler Time. Remember - if you are named as the referral on their application, MGNS sends you a gift card to a local coffee shop!

2020/2021 ENROLLMENT

Registration for next year! For our current families, it is MONDAY, February 10 starting at 8am. Doors open at 7:45am and coffee and donuts will be available while you wait for registration to start at 8am. Registration information, applications, and directions will be coming home in your brown bags in late January. "Current" is defined as a family enrolled in any of our 4 classes this year, or any Toddler Time Classes, either semester.

And a reminder about 4K: we are a 4K site for the Madison School District. Any current student can attend our school for 4K at no cost, no matter where you live. Stay with us and have another fun, play-based, loving year of school.

TODDLER TIME VISITATION WEEK

Are you a current Toddler Time family? Do you, and your child, ever wonder about what goes on in the "big kids room?". Toddler Time visitation week is coming up the week of February 3. During this week, while in your toddler time class, you will get a chance to go down and hang out with the big kids in the preschool room for a short 15-minute visit. You will be joining us during our open exploration time, which will be near the end of your toddler time class!

Looking forward to seeing you Turtles with us Starfish and Penguins!

Coming up in the spring are lots of our favorite units - Under the Sea, Camping, Community Helpers, and more. One of our favorite units is our BOX WEEK. Please save your big boxes for us and bring them in whenever you choose! We clear out our rooms, fill them with boxes and lots of tape, and we watch what happens. Fun!



UP COMING EVENTS and FUNDRAISERS

REVEL "SHARE" NIGHT

Sunday, January 26, 2020 (5:00-9:00pm **Adults-Only Event) - Revel is a DIY Craft Bar located just off the Capital Square (right across from the Children's Museum -107 N. Hamilton). With such a terrific line up of "Craft Bar" projects to choose from, there's something for everyone! Check out the menu here: revelmadison.com/craftbar. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend out, get a group together, or just come for some "you" time (treat yo self!) - all are welcome! Space is limited for this sure-to-be-a-good-time event. RSVP at revelmadison.com/mgnssharenight. Contact Fundraising Coordinator Kathryn Mingione with any questions (kpmingione@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

SPRING FLING

Mark Your Calendar! This year's **Spring Fling & Silent Auction** will be here before you know it! Save the date: **Saturday, March 21, 2020** (That's 3/21 from 9:00 -11:00am). Live music with David Landau is booked, silent auction items from some great local businesses are already rolling in, and we know you'll be ready for that tasty pancake breakfast! 3... 2...1 blast off into spring with MGNS's biggest annual event! More info coming soon!

CONTACTS

If you have questions about fundraisers, please feel free to contact any of your Fundraising Coordinators: Kathryn Mingione (kpmingione@gmail.com), Kelly Griseta (grisetakj@gmail.com), or Danielle Goldsmith (dkgoldapple@gmail.com).