



## “Montessori at Home” May 2020 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy! As we approach the end of the academic school year on June 12, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members of our Sunrise community for your dedication and resolve during the past months.



I am grateful for the way many families have responded to these changes while maintaining a positive connection to their classroom teachers and school.

Our teachers have been pouring their hearts into remote learning and the development of instructional videos, lessons and Zoom meetings. They have been able to maintain a sense of continuity and community for our students and their families during a time of tremendous turmoil. We hope you have enjoyed these videos as they conclude at the end of the school year.

### **Update on Sunrise and SBA Loan**

To date, the school has applied for financing from the SBA twice, but has not secured the funding which was designed to help businesses cover payroll and other operational expenses. We are still waiting for a decision from our bank. Once a decision has been made regarding the loan, an update will be provided to all families. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors continues to collaborate and work towards a solution that is in the best interest of the future operation of the school while remaining mindful of the impact that this pandemic has had on our business and the families we serve.

### **End of Year – Closing Ceremony**

Many families have asked what Sunrise is doing regarding closure for this school year. We are working on a Closing Ceremony video that will be sent out to all the families by June 11th.

### **Sunrise Teacher Parade**

On Friday June 12th starting at 1:00pm – 3:00pm the staff will be outside the school for a teacher parade (rain or shine)! Sunrise invites and encourages all Classroom A & B families to join this parade to close out the school year. The staff will be standing along the school and driveway for parents to drive through with their children. In respect to the state’s social distancing guidelines, Sunrise requests that all families remain in their cars throughout the parade. Teachers will be handing out student gift bags containing student’s individual certificates, along with a gift from the Sunrise staff.

*Offering quality Montessori preschool, pre-k transitional and kindergarten programs since 2005.*

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## Other Upcoming News, Fundraisers & Events

### **Thank You and Special Recognition for our Parent Representatives**

I would like to acknowledge our two Parent Representatives, Sara Allegretti and Kathi Shah for their ongoing help throughout the school year. Sara helped tremendously during the beginning stages of development of our Montessori Toddler Time program. Her dedication and support throughout the year is appreciated. Kathi is completing her final year as a Sunrise parent. Her special commitment to providing our school with years of fundraising through the Scholastic Book Club has been amazing! We will need to pass the fundraising torch to another Sunrise Parent! Let me or Kathi know if you are interested in helping with this program.

### **Special Donation Thank You to the Greenwood Family**

Before the COVID crisis closure, our school received a great addition to our playground - the Playhouse! Thank you to Michaela and Griffin's parents, Dana and Amanda for your donation. The children loved playing inside and around it.

### **Looking Ahead**

Looking ahead to the 2020-2021 school year that begins on September 9th, we eagerly anticipate a return to face-to-face classroom learning for all our students with updated protocols to ensure everyone's health and wellness. To help mitigate the uncertainty for our families caused by COVID-19 crisis, we will be updating the terms of the Tuition Agreement. Additional details about changes to next year's program will be shared as they are finalized. Please contact the office if there are any changes to your enrollment plan for the fall.

For the past several weeks, Sunrise has been reviewing guidelines from the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) for safely reopening our building in the fall. We are eager to reopen following the directives of DEEC and the recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC). Also, we have been reviewing our daily protocols for cleaning and sanitizing procedures. We will continue to adapt to the evolving situation as we develop our plans.

Our planning is guided by several key principles including:

- Safeguarding the health and safety of our entire community
- Maintaining our commitment to Montessori values
- We will be determining if any new program interior design is applicable to Sunrise and establishing the capacity of our classrooms as the DEEC protocols and policies become available over the next several weeks. There may be changes that are mandated by the State for all early childhood education programs, in addition to any new recommended guidelines. At this point the State has not finalized anything.

The COVID-19 situation continues to present extraordinary challenges for us all. I am confident that the Sunrise community will continue to work together in the spirit of understanding and cooperation.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Andrea Rossick  
Head of School