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—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—  
SPRINGMONT CELEBRATES 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

February 24, 2014—Since its founding in 1963, Springmont School has shaped the futures of many of Atlanta’s school children by engaging their hands and minds in active learning and their hearts in the discovery of their world. What began as a group of visionary Atlanta parents looking for an alternative to traditional education who started a small Montessori classroom in the basement of Pace Academy, is now one of the most preeminent progressive programs in the area, as well as the oldest Montessori school in the Southeast. Today, Springmont’s curriculum is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools™ (SACS) and is recognized by Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Its elementary program boasts a 99 percent cumulative ITBS score. Thirty-one highly experienced teachers and assistants educate nearly 300 children from 18 months to 14 years each school day. Families speaking nearly a dozen languages and celebrating all major world religions make up the Springmont community.

“Celebrating 50 years, as Springmont is, there have been people—parents, trustees, donors, faculty and staff, friends and most of all, students—for whom we are eternally grateful,” said Jerri King, Springmont Head of School. “This is a time to celebrate and to say thank you to these wonderful people who have made a difference in the life of our school and to look toward the next 50 years.”

Springmont, originally named the First Montessori Class of Atlanta, made its permanent home in Sandy Springs in 1973, developed a land-based learning camp near Rome, Ga., in 2002 and added a Middle School Program in 2003. Today, Springmont has a long history of providing experiential educational crafted to each stage of a child’s development. Students learn to responsibly direct their education, apply their knowledge as a demonstration of accomplishment, view teachers as resources and collaborate in their learning every day. Instruction is highly individualized, and classes include students of mixed ages to enhance dynamic learning. Gardens are a feature of every classroom so learning can continue indoors and out, as it often does. Materials specially designed for each stage of development are used as teaching tools, fostering a depth of understanding.

The school community is grounded in seven core values emphasizing respect, global awareness and engaged learning. The compassion of the students spills off campus, touching the community and people experiencing tragedy around the world. These unique features mix character and personal development with problem solving and creativity resulting in a collaborative learning environment where students identify and fuel their affinities. The dedicated and experienced faculty cultivates the inner spark of each student. Students





approach the classroom and the world with excitement and curiosity and as a result matriculate and to succeed in Atlanta's finest independent and public high schools.

In honor of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Springmont is working toward accomplishing 50 acts of kindness, extending this year's celebration into the community and the world. Students will be burying a time capsule filled with school mementos representing 2014, and dignitary and alumnus, John Stephenson, President and CEO of The National Football Foundation, will join grandparents and alumni in a campus-wide celebration. Also this year, parents and alumni will gather at the annual auction, "A Golden Gala," to raise funds and dreams for the next 50 years.

"As today's parents continue to seek collaboration, initiative, creativity and learning opportunities bigger than any office can hold, we look forward to serving an even larger student body and continuing to make an impact in the world for another 50 years," added King.

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At Springmont, lessons are experienced, not just taught. Springmont's progressive approach balances individualized learning with challenge and expectation. Our engaging environment equips students with the communication, collaboration and leadership skills needed to be effective in the future. Celebrating 50 years this year, Springmont is the oldest Montessori school in the Southeast. Located on seven acres in Sandy Springs, Ga., the school is accredited by SAIS and SACS and serves children ages 1½ to 14. Springmont provides students with a foundation for learning that supports problem solving, develops collaborative skills, grows self-awareness and ignites imaginations. Visit [www.springmont.com](http://www.springmont.com) or call 404-252-3910 for more information.

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