



# Fall Newsletter



**MONTESSORI**  
HOUSE FOR CHILDREN & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## Letter from Head of School

*Dear Montessori Community,*

*As we begin our twelfth school year, I want to welcome the thirty new families who joined our school and of course, all families who are returning. We are delighted to see you and excited about the year ahead.*

*At the beginning of every school year, parents naturally are curious about how their child adjusts to the day after they've left their parents arms or the carpool lane. I offer this behind the scenes experience of the first weeks of school.*

*Starting from the first hour of day one, the help and influence of our returning students, which make up two-thirds of our population, is evident and up-lifting. I see them offering assistance to new and younger students - helping them find their classroom, showing them around the classroom and helping them learn the community routine. New students benefit tremendously from this mentorship and develop an understanding of their future role as a leader.*

*Returning students are eager to get back to their favorite work, and it's as if they never missed a day! Also, they know they are "older" and look forward to helping others. Being a role model, leader and mentor build self-confidence and establish a strong sense of community.*

*It is by viewing these scenes from the hallway, that we appreciate again, the beauty and functional appeal of a mixed age classroom and Montessori! As we continue into our third week of school, we do so with the understanding that the storm and subsequent flooding has impacted many students, either directly or indirectly, and we are here to extend patience, emotional support and love.*

*Warm regards,*

*Barbara Nelson  
HOS (Head of School)*

## MEFI Annual Campaign News

The Montessori Education Fund Inc. (MEFI) Annual Campaign! MEFI is a 501c3 public charity, which is chartered to offer tuition assistance, educational services and professional development to the community.

Proceeds from last year's annual campaign totaled \$11,000. The MEFI Board of Directors voted to allocate the following for the 2017-18 School Year:

\$9,000	Tuition Assistance
\$500	CPA
\$1,500	Slush Fund

The MEFI goal for this year is \$15,000. The MEFI Annual Campaign Kicks Off September 22. Look for details in your child's Friday folder.



## *Up-Coming Events*

<b>Sept. 21</b>		National Peace Day
<b>Sept. 22</b>	1:00-2:00 pm	Eco Action Team Meeting #1
<b>Sept 22</b>		Kick Off: MEFI Annual Fund Campaign
<b>Sept 29</b>		Early Release
<b>Sept 29</b>	5:00-7:00 pm	PAV Community Meet Up: La Centerra - <b>Wear your Green School T-shirt!</b> Details to follow in Friday News Blast
<b>Oct 3</b>	8:30 – 9:30 am	PAV Meeting
<b>Oct 6</b>		Kick Off: Artworks to Remember Fundraiser
<b>Oct 7</b>	8:00 – 11:00 am	Family Garden Day
<b>Oct 9</b>		Montessori Holiday/Staff In-Service (Only “Full-day” Students Attend)
<b>Oct 10</b>		School Portrait Day
<b>Oct 11</b>		School Portrait Day
<b>Oct 12</b>	8:30 – 9:30 am	Parent Coffee Guest Speaker: Amy Harkins, Ph.D. (Kirby’s mom, EC1) “Fostering Resilience after a Crisis ” (relating to Harvey)
<b>Oct 13</b>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Eco Action Team Meeting #2
<b>Oct 14</b>	9:00 – 11:00 am	Parent Enrichment: Bridge between Home & School: All Communities; Toddler through Upper Elementary (childcare provided RSVP Barbara at <a href="mailto:barb@mhfcschool.com">barb@mhfcschool.com</a> )
<b>Oct 27</b>		<b>Early Release</b>
	5:00 – 7:00 pm	PAV Community Meet Up (details TBA)
<b>Nov 5</b>		Daylight Savings Ends
<b>Nov 6 – 10</b>		Book Fair
<b>Nov 9</b>	8:30 – 9:30 am	Parent Coffee

<b>Nov 10</b>		<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> - Parent/Teacher Conferences
<b>Nov 16</b>	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Parent Enrichment: Webinar Watch Party (Childcare provided for enrolled students)
<b>Nov 17</b>		Early Release PAV Community Meet Up (details TBA)
<b>Nov 20 – 22</b>		Montessori Holiday/Thanksgiving (Only “Full-day” Students Attend)
<b>Nov 23 – 24</b>		<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> – Thanksgiving Holiday

## Letter from PAV (Parent Association of Volunteers)

Dear Families,

I truly hope that this letter finds you safe, supported and in the arms of our community as we all work to re-establish our lives in the aftermath of hurricane Harvey. The few weeks have been such an incredibly difficult time for our community and nearby cities. Whether you were evacuated, sheltered in place or helped loved ones in need, all of us were greatly affected by this disaster. Faith and Strength will see us through this and it is heart warming to see our school families helping one another in this time of need. Upon return on Tuesday, Sept. 6, as I entered the school building, I was amazed to notice that it all looked the same, with its warmth and welcoming atmosphere you always find when you enter our school. Our school was incredibly blessed not to have sustained any damage, unlike many schools in surrounding areas.

We have a number of families in our community greatly affected by the storm. **All donations are greatly appreciated.** I also ask you to please follow our school Facebook Page and use the “Sign Up Genus” link, where you can electronically sign up for things needed by affected families (i.e. Carpooling, Laundry, Meals, etc.) I guarantee there will be a multitude of opportunities to support others affected by the storm in the coming weeks from physical labor and volunteer work, to supplying gift cards and necessities for those that are displaced. If you are in need of assistance at this time, please make us aware. Together, we will ensure that the needs of our families will be addressed in an organized and efficient manner.



We already have so many wonderful people helping in our school community. I am amazed at the beautiful bonding in our community. It is a reassuring and an uplifting reminder of the caring human spirit. Please stay safe, and do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of help. We are one family.

Warmly,  
Charlotte Arojo (EC2, EC1)  
PAV President

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## Harvey Relief Update

Our loving community has provided incredible support to affected families in ways that are too great to entirely mention; still, we would like to take this time to highlight accomplishments in general:

- As of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, the relief fund as received **\$1595** in donations! Your generosity provides meals for all affected students/staff for the month of September and October.
- All affected families received donations of supplies/equipment necessary for immediate cleanup.
- All affected families are receiving meals from those in our community.
- All families have had assistance with one or many: demolition, laundry, childcare, car pool, supplies and cash donations.

PAV members coordinated relief efforts by connecting those in need with resources from within our community. Many hands make the load lighter and spirits brighter, thank you!

Our families will require ongoing support, please check the following links on a regular basis:

- [Click Here](#) for Sign Up Genius (volunteer services & goods) **Updated Every Wednesday**
- [Click Here](#) for how Flood Victims Can Get Financial Help
- Follow us on Facebook for updates:
- <https://www.facebook.com/MontessoriHouseforChildren/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Montessorihouseelementary/>



### *From the Eco Action Team...*

Greetings,

On behalf of the Eco Action Team we would like to welcome the MHFC community to a new and greener semester. National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is a voice for wildlife, dedicated to protecting wildlife and habitat and inspiring the future generation of conservationists. NWF has registered Montessori House for Children and Elementary School as an Eco School since 2015 and has granted the Silver Award.

The goal of an Eco Schools is to guide our children to prioritize environmental needs of the school by focusing on one or many of the following eco school pathways: education and sustainability, energy, water, schoolyard habitats, consumption and waste, climate change, biodiversity, healthy schools, sustainable food, healthy living and transportation.

The Eco-Action Team (EA Team) is the driving force behind the Eco-Schools process. Establishing an EA team is the first step to take towards becoming an Eco-School. Ideally, the EA Team should represent the whole school community - including people beyond your school walls, whereby the students play a leading role on the team and represent the views of the entire student body.

The Eco-Action Team can be comprised of students, administrative staff, teachers, parents or grandparents and resource professionals from local environmental or conservation organizations. We are currently seeking parent volunteers to assist

With the establishment of the Eco Action Team, the next step is conducting the Environmental Audit. The Environmental Audit is an essential tool for understanding the current environmental situation in the school. It will provide the basis for your Eco-Action Plan and is dictated by the pathways assigned. The pathways for this year include:

- Biodiversity
- Consumption and Waste
- Schoolyard Habitat

We are currently seeking parent volunteers to assist with the Eco Action Team and take lead on any of the following tasks:

- One person per pathway to lead during monthly team meetings

- Two volunteers to oversee the organization of Garden Days
- One volunteer to assist in development/establishment of Peace Garden

**Meeting Date and Times 2017 - 2018: Held Fridays, from 1 - 2 pm**

2017: Sept 22, Oct 13

2018: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, March 9th, and April 20th

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Reisha Bouska at [Reisha\\_bouska@hotmail.com](mailto:Reisha_bouska@hotmail.com) or 281-686-5000 (cell) or Stacey Ripple at [staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net) or 713-562-8705 (cell).

We thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you.

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## Looking Back...









