



**Greensboro
Montessori
School**

2018-19 FALL



ISSUE 2



2018-19

FALL NEWSLETTER

The Spiral Dance (*pictured on the cover*) and the Fall Festival (*pictured above*) are time-honored traditions at Greensboro Montessori School: moments when multiple generations come together in celebration of community and love.

GREETINGS

This fall, students and adults alike have been hard at work developing new skills, embracing complex ideas, and reveling in the joy that is Greensboro Montessori School. Jess, our three children, and I feel so fortunate to be part of this community.

Inside the pages of our Fall Newsletter is evidence of a dynamic learning community — a place where 18-month- to 15-year-olds come every single day to unearth their full potential and to develop important academic and social skills. Every day they laugh, try something new, practice something old, work hard, and ask big questions. Every day they take steps towards knowing how to impact the future of human society. Daunting? Trust me, our students and alumni are up for the challenge.

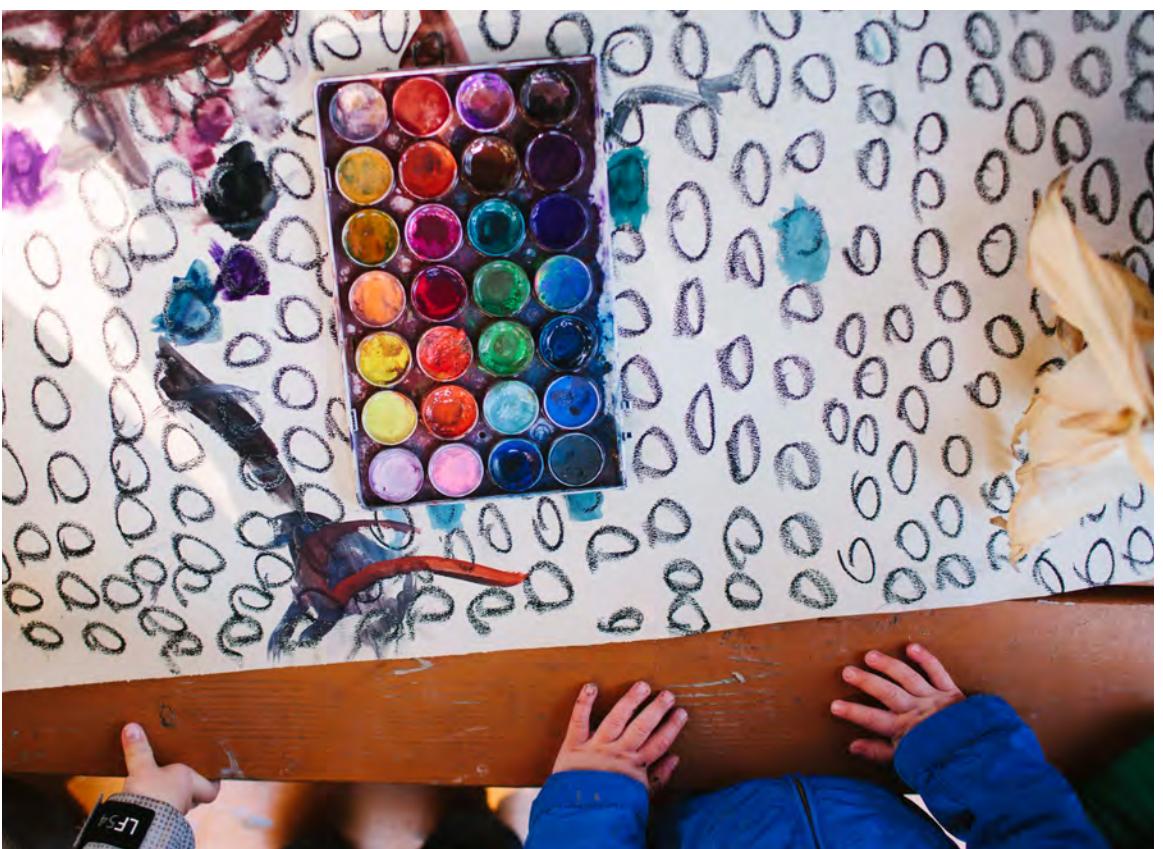
This year we have our sights set on the future. We are immersed in our reaccreditation with both the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the American Montessori Society. This process is dedicated to continuous improvement on behalf of our students and is a catalyst for self-reflection and long-range planning. We're digging into where we've been, where we are, and where we're headed. It's an exciting process.

As we move into winter and into the future, our doors remain, as always, open to you for comments, collaboration, and celebration. Whether a student, parent, alumni, grandparent, or friend of the School, thanks for being part of our team.



Dr. Kevin Navarro
Head of School





TODDLER TUESDAYS

Providing meaningful, expressive, and inspiring experiences in the fine arts is part of our curriculum in every division of our School. Students create through visual art, music, performance, production, writing, and more. In addition to their classroom arts curriculum, our youngest students also enjoy creative exploration on Toddler Tuesdays.

Toddler Tuesdays takes place on the toddler playground. Each week our visual arts teacher, Katherine Gwynn, brings a new material for the toddlers to explore. There is no right or wrong way to explore, no sample for them to follow, and no step-by-step instructions. Their time together is focused on each student's experience and exploration of the artistic medium. This type of art is called process art, emphasizing how the process is more important than the final product. The toddlers relax, focus, and feel successful as they actively create art together.

BIG WORK

PRIMARY MATH

Mathematics in Primary begins with the concrete exploration of numbers and their physical value. A variety of manipulatives, each with prescribed lessons, guide students through counting and understanding the correspondences of quantity and the number values 1-9. Then we introduce the number 10, setting the foundation for place value and the decimal system. Exploring the teens and tens leads to linear and skip counting and introduction to the golden beads. As students approach the appropriate time of understanding and begin to fully grasp what numbers and their quantity mean, we introduce addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division.

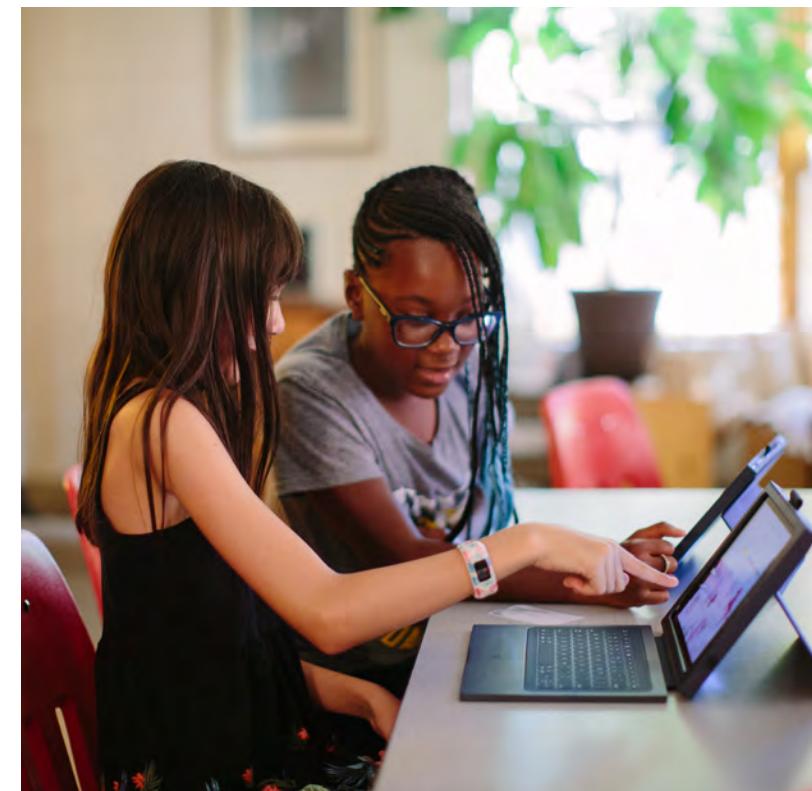


UPPER ELEMENTARY LONG DIVISION

“One day in math class I started a giant long division problem. It took a pretty long time. I kept making it bigger because I wanted to see how big I could make it and because it was fun. My classmates were excited when I finished. I tried standing on a chair to hold it up, but the chair wasn’t tall enough. We went to the playground, and I stood on top of the slide. It still dragged on the ground. My classmates were very excited and congratulated me.”

— Mick, fourth grade







CHAMPIONS

Greensboro Montessori School is a member of the Independent School League, an athletic conference including six schools competing in five sports. Eligible Upper School students compete in cross country, soccer, flag football, volleyball, and basketball. After winning the cross country season in the early fall, the Panthers also excelled on the soccer field. Their road to the championship began with a loss to Hope Academy in their final regular season match.

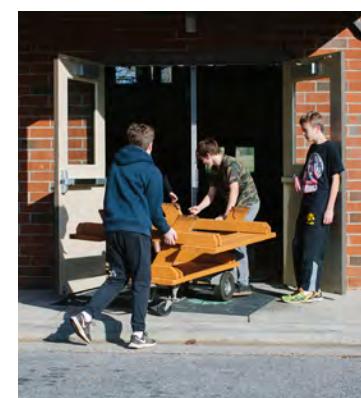
The following week, the Panthers came back to beat the same team 3-1 in the semifinal match. On Monday, November 5, 2018, the Panthers took on the No. 1-seeded team, New Garden Friends School, for the co-ed Independent School League soccer championships. Despite being the away team, the Panthers played for a large fan base of families, friends, and fellow students. With focus, determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, they won 2-1.

GRATITUDE

On Tuesday, November 20, 2018, we celebrated our second annual Grateful Gathering. Inspired by the classic tale of Stone Soup, our entire community worked together to prepare and enjoy a feast of vegetable soup, cornbread muffins, and fresh fruit. Lower Elementary harvested root vegetables, which were then scrubbed and prepped by Toddler and Primary. Upper Elementary made the scratch cornbread muffins under the guidance of a guest chef, Jennifer Bedrosian, who has served as the chef educator and culinary manager for the Edible Schoolyard at the Greensboro Children's Museum for the last six years.

Junior High folded all this bounty into a gratitude experience — toddlers to teens breaking bread together and showing appreciation for the earth, our School, and each other.

To enjoy more moments from this day, visit gms.org/grateful.





PARTNERSHIP

Learning is a lifelong pursuit which starts in our families' homes, and we know student success is maximized when we support one another in a true partnership. In addition to our back-to-school open house, curriculum meetings (*the Lower Elementary curriculum meeting is pictured above*), and parent-teacher conferences, we created four additional opportunities for our families to connect with each other and the School.

GMSCA FAMILY DINNER

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, we invited families to meet at a local restaurant for a casual dinner. 15 families participated, representing every division of our School. It was inspiring seeing our students' love for one another extend far beyond the classroom.

UPPER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

After reading "The Teenage Brain," 12 Upper School families met on Friday, November 16, 2018, for engaging discussion about how they could best support each other and their children through the ups and downs of early adolescence.

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE PARENTING

Back by popular demand, we hosted this parenting seminar the morning of Saturday, December 1, 2018. Several Toddler and Primary families gathered to learn more about the principles of Positive Discipline and Redirecting Children's Behavior.

HEAD OF SCHOOL HUDDLES

These 90-minute conversations with Dr. Kevin Navarro were scheduled at different times of the day and week, as we wanted them to be accessible to any family who was interested in participating. 26 families joined us in five sessions spread out over four weeks.

THE FUND FOR GMS

The Fund for GMS is an annual fundraising initiative focused on supporting a single and immediately actionable, strategic imperative for our School. This fall we had the opportunity to replace our 19-year-old school bus, with not one, but two multi-function school activity buses. To learn more about The Fund for GMS, please visit thefundforgms.org.



On Friday, October 26, 2018, Dr. Kevin Navarro, received a formal notice of retirement from the School's bus (*pictured above*). Seeing as the bus is a valued member of the team with over 19 years of service to the School, we felt it appropriate to share its retirement letter with the entire community. The letter is reprinted at gms.org/bus (with the bus' permission, of course).

THANK YOU!

On November 5, 2018, we launched **WE LEARN EVERYWHERE: THE FUND FOR GMS** with the intention of raising \$100,000. We're thrilled to announce that we've not only hit, but exceeded our goal! As of the printing of this publication, our community has contributed \$107,392. We have ordered our new buses, and they will arrive on campus in April. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and most importantly, our students, thank you!



WE LEARN EVERYWHERE: THE FUND FOR GMS also supports our powerful tradition of funding classroom grants. This democratic school process includes a committee of students, faculty, and administrators who review and approve grant requests from faculty. Grants focus on specific capital expenditures that will push our School to the next level. This year's grants will be reviewed in January with items purchased in the spring.



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SAVE THESE DATES!

GROW WITH US DINNER THUR., JAN. 31, 2019

Is your child approaching a transition into Kindergarten, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, or Junior High in the 2019-20 school year? If so, please plan to join us for this evening program dedicated to exploring the next step in your Montessori journey. Current parents are invited to join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Gym followed by faculty-led breakout sessions.

GREEN & WHITE BASH SAT., APRIL 13, 2019

The Green & White Bash is our annual gala and silent auction. It's also our largest adults-only community gathering of the year. 100% of the proceeds support our people in the form of financial assistance for students and professional development for faculty, making the Green & White Bash a perfect opportunity to treat yourself for an invaluable cause.

GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY THUR., APRIL 18, 2019

Grandparents & Special Friends Day is a special time for extended family members and close family friends to see the Montessori method in action. The morning begins with a light breakfast and student performances in the Gym. Guests are then invited to visit classrooms with their students and meet faculty and fellow Greensboro Montessori School families.

SPRING BREAK FRI., APRIL 19 - FRI., APRIL 26, 2019

School will be closed for Spring Break from Friday, April 19, 2019, to Friday, April 26, 2019. The building will be closed to all students on Friday, April 19. All-Inclusive CASA and All-Day Toddler will be open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning Monday, April 22 through Friday, April 26.