

COMMUNITY MEETING

1/10/06

General Announcements

- Parent Satisfaction Survey closes this Friday, 1/13/06. Please go online through email link and complete. Your feedback is important to us.
- No School Monday, Jan. 16th, Martin Luther King Day. Extended care families please make your reservations at the front desk no later than Wed. 1/11.
- Open call of lead auction committee members. The auction is tentatively scheduled for 9/30/06 at Ocotillo Golf Club. We are hosting an auction workshop Jan. 19th from 8:30am-5pm. Northwest Benefit Auctions will present this workshop and share the successful strategies of the best fundraising auctions across North America. If you are interested in being a lead on an auction subcommittee we want you to attend this event. Please contact Michelle A. or Michelle B. to register.
- United Blood Services Blood Drive Jan. 26th from 1:30-6:30pm. Go to Keystone website to sign up online or call Michelle A.

Tax Credit Update

Thanks to all of our Tax Credit Captains. Please stand up when your name is called. Jenna Coates, Tammy Minnhinick, Laura Austin, Allison Krueger, Emily Wu, Ravi Kulkarni, Barbara Deppisch, Rich Iwanski, Howard Veal, Jim Fisher, Brian Rogers, Gina Abel, Helen Vodickova, Kevin Volant, Lynn Perkins and George Taylor.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the 2005 Public School Tax Credit. 137 out of 208 eligible Keystone households participated (65% parent participation) for a total of \$51,500. Although, parent participation is up from 2004's 61% and the married filing jointly limit was raised to \$300, donations from non-parent friends and families were down. Therefore, we didn't reach our goal of \$65K. Matching funds are not counted in these numbers.

The community was asked for input on improving 2006 Tax Credit participation in order to raise more money. The following suggestions were made:

- Student made signs and posters
- Reach the car line as many parents never come in the building
- Spokesperson in lobby during drop off and pick up
- Campaign all year long—especially around tax time, not just Nov and Dec
- Simplify and prefill the form for each parent

Please email additional suggestions to michelleb@keystonemontessori.com.

Construction Update

The new building is almost finished with a few minor interior tasks and the landscaping yet to be completed. However, we ran into a complication that will delay our move-in at least 3-6 weeks.

The contractor for our original campus was paid to stub-out the sewer to the site of the proposed 2-story building. Unfortunately, during the current construction that stub-out could not be located. We have spent many months working with the City of Phoenix and our contractor to come up with a cost effective and functional long term solution.

Just before holiday break, all parties agreed that we will connect to the pipes located just in front of Ms. Sue's desk. This will obviously involve trenching through the courtyard and cutting the cement lobby floor. We will announce the schedule as soon as it becomes available.

Our attorney has advised us that taking legal action against the now defunct contractor will be fruitless and cost more than the proposed solution. So, we will not attempt to recoup this expense from the original contractor.

Staffing Changes

Ms. Dawn is replacing Mr. Pat as the teaching assistant in the Owls classroom. Mr. Pat moved to Europe.

Ms. Melanie is on maternity leave. During this time, the children will be in Ms Tonya's care. She will teach the class with assistance from Mr. Mark (in the mornings) and Ms. Claire (in the afternoons). They will also have direct support from Education Director Ms. Ramya during this time.

Introduction of New Board Members

Keystone's Board of Director's has expanded from 3 to 5 members. The 2 new members will take office in January. Please help us welcome:

Holly Reynolds

Holly is in her 6th year as a Keystone parent and her 8th year as a Montessori parent. Holly works as a Contract Monitor with the Arizona Supreme Court and her experience will be helpful in Keystone's relationship with the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Education.

Howard Veal

Howard and his family moved to AZ last summer. He has been a Montessori parent, in what he describes as a "pure" Montessori environment, for 4 years. Howard's nonprofit experience includes Director of Development, Grant Writer and Consultant. He was also the Community Relations Coordinator for the Chicago White Sox. Howard also served on the Board of the nationally known Perspectives Charter School in Chicago for roughly 5 years.