***CONSTRUCTION UPDATES!***

The fence has been moved to provide greater access to the track around the Spark Park. Please continue to exercise an abundance of caution and patience as we all deal with traffic and parking challenges. The campus opens at 7:15am every day for your convenience and we have staggered start times to help with the flow of traffic. We ask that Children’s House students arrive by 7:30am, 1st – 6th grades officially start at 7:45am and 7th/8th grades officially start at 8am. Remember your children are listening and watching your example as you interact with others! Thank you for modeling grace and courtesy to each other and our neighbors!

We will have an official ground-breaking ceremony in February. If you are interested in helping plan the event, please let me know! Thank you in advance for being flexible as we navigate this adventure!

**Leader In Me – Highly Effective Families**

Wondering how to incorporate the 7 Habits into your home life? We are launching our Highly Effective Families initiative this spring. Based on the work of Steven Covey’s 7 Habits. Covey was abest-selling author, and father of nine. In 7 Habits for Highly Effective Families, espouses the same seven habits to live by as he did in The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (S. & S., 1989), but this time the focus is strictly on the family. While his message is not new, it is written with sincerity and simplicity, and even the most career-driven individual should feel passionate about family after reading this book. Covey contends that all families get off track, mostly because they don't know where the track is headed. The remedy: develop a sense of destination. Our initiative will help families implement strategies such as writing a family mission statement and tracking progress toward becoming a “Lighthouse Family”! Sign up in the front office to be added to our email list for regular updates!

**Montessori Moment**

“He who is served is limited in his independence.” *– Dr. Maria Montessori*

**Montessori School Accreditation**

We are working on Montessori school accreditation through the International Montessori Council. If you are interested in helping with this project we still have room for you on a committee!

**Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction!!!!**

Our annual community event is Saturday, February 4th from 8a – 10:30am here at Garden Oaks. Invite your friends and family to join us for free pancakes, Katz coffee, fun for all ages and silent auction bidding!

***January Calendar Reminders!***

4th First day back for students! HOORAY!

6th Report card day Kinder – 8th gr

12th PTO General Meeting 6pm

16th Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday **– No school**

19th Curriculum Night – STEM

23rd SDMC Mtg – 2pm

25th Early Dismissal

25th HISD Spelling Bee

27th Pastries with Pollock/PAC/Parent Ed.

***Stay healthy! GO to bed early and eat “clean”!***

***MONTESSORI FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE***

Did you know we are hosting this national conference June 22 – 25? We are looking for host families, underwriters and volunteers!

**PTO Executive Board NEEDS YOU!**

Are you interested in serving on the PTO Executive Board? The nominating committee is now accepting names. Nominate yourself or someone else to serve on this important leadership team! See Dr. Pollock or email lpollock@houstonisd.org