

Spring Valley Times

Educating Children Since 1951 • Training Teachers Since 1962

Message from the Directors

Voted Best School 2006!

Before we get to this year, we have an important item from last year to talk about. Towards the very end of last spring, we received the announcement from the Federal Way Mirror Newspaper that we were voted the Best School in the Federal Way and North Tacoma area!

We want to thank all of you loyal parents! We genuinely appreciate your votes. We take the task of educating your children very seriously, and we are very happy to know that you see the results of our work in the achievements of your children.

So, again, thank you very much! We hope that this year will be as successful as last year for you and your children!

Welcome!

We are excited for this new school year. We have a wonderful group of teachers (two new teachers) and a lot of eager students; this will be a great year!

Mrs. Ott is returning after a long break. She will be co-teaching with Mrs. Coad in Preschool B. We're excited to have her back with us and joining Mrs. Coad. They are going to make a great team!

Mrs. Scarsella is also returning after a long break. She will be co-teaching with Ms. Possinger in Primary A. Mrs. Scarsella is not really new to Spring Valley she taught here before she was married and had children. For years now, Mrs. Kayihan has been asking her

“are you ready to come back to teach again?” And this year she said “Yes.” We're so glad! You may recognize her because she is also a parent - her children go to Spring Valley, and last year she taught dance and movement in a few of our classrooms. She is a talented teacher, and we are excited to have her back!

We look forward to getting to know your children!

—Gulsevin Kayihan
Director of Academics

—Marta Justus Foldi
Director of Development

—Susan Hancock
Assistant Director



Gulsevin Kayihan
Director of Academics



Marta Justus Foldi
Director of Development



Susan Hancock
Assistant Director

September 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1



Susan Hancock
Editor

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
From the Office	2
Classroom Highlights	3-5
Cultural Events Planned for the	6
Dear Mrs. Justus	7
What did we do this summer?	7-8
Get involved	9
School Uniforms	9

Money for Breast Cancer... 10
We thought it would be best to show our parents and businesses in Federal Way that we were asking people if they wanted to advertise in our newsletter. Now that you can see the value in purchasing an advertising space in our newsletter, we hope you can see the value in purchasing an advertising space in our newsletter.

Contact Susan Hancock, Assistant Director, at 206-875-2557. **Advertising** 11

If she is not at the school, you can leave a message with the main office.

We look forward to placing your ad!

Calendar

Parent Night

Check the following schedule for your child's class parent night - your child's teacher will cover important information about class requirements, parent participation, etc. We know you are busy parents, but attendance is mandatory for this meeting - it will save a lot of communication time!

Preschool A ~ Thurs, Sept 14, 7:00pm
Preschool B ~ Thurs, Sept 7, 7:00pm
PrePrimary A ~ Fri, Sept 8, 6:00pm
PrePrimary B ~ Wed, Sept 6, 6:00pm
PrePrimary C ~ Thurs, Sept 14, 6:00pm
Primary A ~ Mon, Sept 11, 6:00pm
Primary B ~ Thurs, Sept 7, 6:00pm
3rd-5th ~ Mon, Sept 11, 7:00pm
6th-8th ~ Wed, Sept 6, 7:00pm

Parent Association Meeting

Sept 21 (Thursday), 6:30pm - Please join the Parent Association officers to see how you can be involved in their activities this year, how you can help (from the most minimal jobs - like working on the auction or bake sale - to an officer position), and how we can make this the best year ever for your children. They work very hard to help your children and the school, so please attend this first meeting to find out how you can support them.

The normal meeting day is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm.

Puyallup Fair Day

Sept 15 - Noon dismissal

Picture Day

Sept 22 - Don't forget to press your child's uniform, fix his or her hair! (October 13th is Picture Makeup Day, in case your child is sick, or the photographer didn't get your child's best side.)



French Trip Meeting

Sept 27, 6:00pm in the Campus I, Conference Room.

If you haven't signed up for the French Trip yet, please come to this meeting. (Students in the 1st Grade and older can go on the French Trip with their parents.) Space is limited, but we still have a few openings!

From the Office

Tuition

We don't send home tuition bills, so please remember that payments are due on or before the 1st of the month to avoid a \$40 late fee.

Campus II One-Lane Road

If you're traveling to Campus II, please plan a little extra time to get there. There is a crew working on the road. It will remain a one-lane road for about week. They are saving the big construction work for next summer time.

Staying Home When Sick

As soon as the weather turns rainy, somehow the viruses find us. If your child has a cold or is not feeling well, please be respectful of the other children and the teachers. Keep your child home. The other children and their families will thank you.

DSHS (Department of Social and Health Services) requires that your child cannot come to school with any of these symptoms:

- Fever above 99°F within 24 hours.
- Any discharge from eyes, nose, ears, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Lice or scabies.
- Rash.

Note: If your child is going to be absent (because of illness or any other reason), you must notify the office: (253) 927-2557.

Lost and Found

If you are missing any clothing, lunchboxes, and so on. Check the Lost and Found box.

- **On Campus I**, it is located by Building 1, next to the Primary A classroom door.
- **On Campus II**, it is located by the entrance to the kitchen in the Day-care. (if you're not sure where this is, just ask.)



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool A

Ages: 3 - 5

Teachers: Mrs. Williams & Miss McNabb

Preschool A's weekly schedule will include math, language, zoology, botany, and plenty of practical life exercises.

We focus on 1 letter sound each week and share an item with the class on Friday. We have French on Tuesdays, and we reinforce it on a daily basis. We would like to cook two or three times a month and have many art projects.

The month of September we will focus on personal hygiene, taking care of ourselves, our school friends, and greeting people.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Preschool B

Ages: 3 - 5

Teachers: Ms. Coad & Mrs. Ott

This school year we will be doing a lot of practical life work, learning letters, and math skills. We will also be focused on the seasons, trees, and leaves this year. We will begin with botany and zoology, and with understanding living and non-living.

This month, we will be focused on the letters: c, a, d, and g. We will talk about washing our hands and classroom cleanliness.

On Fridays, we would like children to bring in a picture that begins with our sound of the week.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

PrePrimary A

Grades: Pre-K & Kindergarten

Ages: 4½ - 6

Teachers: Mrs. Clark & Mrs. Knighten

After the first two weeks of getting settled, this will be our weekly routine:

- French—Mon, Tues, Wed 9:00am
- Music—Friday 12:50pm—1:20pm
- Sharing—Friday (sound of the week)

This month, we will be focusing on:

- Zoology—classification as living and nonliving
- Geology—land and water forms

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

PrePrimary B

Grades: Pre-K & Kindergarten

Ages: 4½ - 6

Teachers: Mrs. Sebree & Miss Leah

Mrs. Sebree is very excited to come back this year to her classroom and is eager to start the projects she has planned for the year. It's going to be a productive and fun year.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

PrePrimary C

Grades: Pre-K & Kindergarten

Ages: 4½ - 6

Teachers: Mrs. Sauer & Miss Leah

This year, in addition to our typical Montessori work, we will study various animals, plants, and Earth science.

Art in written form (poems) and traditional forms (paintings) will be a focus this year.

- Every week the children will learn and write poems.
- They will also learn about different artists' life and their unique art, and they be exposed to different painting and drawing techniques.

This month we will study the Earth and trees. Children will make a model of the Earth and various other projects related to the subject.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Primary A

Grades: 1st & 2nd Grades

Ages: 6 - 8

Teachers: Mrs. Meier & Ms. Lawson

This year

During the year, sharing will be every Friday.

- **For 1st year students**, sharing is the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.
- **For 2nd year students**, sharing is the 2nd and 4th Friday of the Month.

Here are some fun events we have planned for the year.

- 100th day celebration.
- Fish hatchery field trip
- Nutcracker Ballet field trip
- Asian New Year restaurant field trip for the study of Asia and Asian new year.

- Cooking project—Thanksgiving feast for the students
- Individual student country reports for the open house
- February is Black History month
- March is Women's History month

This month

These are the areas we will be focusing on for the month of September:

- The 5 senses
- The Bat—Parts of the bat, Life cycle, and art project
- Geology—Land and water forms
- Cooking—Applesauce
- Art—Apple stamping
- Hispanic Heritage month begins September 15th.
- Constitution Day is September 18th. We will create our own classroom constitution.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Primary B

Grades: 1st & 2nd Grades

Ages: 6 - 8

Teachers: Miss Possinger & Mrs. Scarsella

This school year sharing will be on Fridays. Live pets can be brought in by appointment only.

Homework (spelling) will start the 2nd week of school.

This month we will be studying:

- Land and water forms
- Botany—leaves
- States of matter
- Farm animals (to tie in with the Puyallup Fair)

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Upper Elementary

Grades: 3rd through 5th

Ages: 8 - 11

Teachers: Mrs. Jones & Ms. Thornton

Mrs. Jones and Ms. Thornton will join forces again supported by a 20 year history and 3 other teachers:

- **Mrs. Vidales** will lend us her art expertise.
- **Mrs. Sweeney** will jump into the Physical Education slot.
- **Madame Baslé** continues to provide us with excellence in French grammar each afternoon.

This looks like a recipe for a fantastic year.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Middle School

Grades: 6th through 8th

Ages: 11 - 14

Teachers: Ms. Day & Mrs. Johnson

This school year we will be studying:

- **Earth Sciences (geology, oceanography, paleontology, archaeology)**

- **History (from Reconstruction to WWII)**
- **Language and writing**
- **Math**
- **Geography**

This month we will be recuperating from the summer vacation, beginning an archeological dig setup and settling into our school routine.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

French Class

Grades: Preschool - 8th Grade

Ages: 3 - 14

Teacher: Madame Baslé

Ages 3-6 concentrate on conversational French.

Ages 7-14 work on conversational French as well as the written French language and grammar.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Cooking Class

Grades: Middle School

Ages: 12 - 14

Teacher: Mrs. Sweeney

This school year we will have six cooking sessions.

The students will work in groups to:

- **Plan a nutritious, well-balanced meal.**

- **Budget and comparison shop for the groceries.**
- **Prepare and enjoy the meal.**
- **Clean-up during and after preparation.**

Proper food handling technique is discussed.

Two of the six sessions will include a brunch and a barbeque. I encourage ethnic options for the remaining cooking sessions.

Teacher pictures removed to protect privacy

Cultural Events Planned for the Year

Musicals, Plays, & Operas

The past few years, we've had enthusiastic applause from students and parents loving the theater, musicals, and opera we've brought to the school. The following is a schedule for this year's cultural events. All of these events are held on Campus II in the Justus Building. Looks like another fun year!

Date	Time	Type	Title
October 19	1pm	Musical	Korean Dance Troupe
December 7	1pm	Theatre	The Lion, the Witch, and the
March 8	1pm	Opera	Barber of Seville
April 27	9:30	Musical	Klondike

Coming soon: On Fridays, Joseph Weisnewski teaches music on Campus I. We don't have a firm date set yet, but at some point this school year, Mr. Weisnewski will perform a special All School Music Program for us! We'll notify you when we have a date set.

Biennial French Trip

Every other year, Spring Valley children (1st grade and older) and their parents have the opportunity to go on a 2-week trip to France with:

- Madame Baslé (our amazing French teacher)
- Mrs. Kayihan (Director of Academics)
- Mrs. Foldi (Director of Development)

Since there is always a large group of students and parents going, we get a reasonable group rate for the airfare, hotels, and activities we plan. Many families love the trip so much that they go more than once during their time at Spring Valley.

This year's French trip is:
March 28th – April 14th, 2007.

It's NOT too late to join us for the 2007 French trip!

Go to the next meeting: Sept 27, 6pm, Campus I, Conference Room

Itinerary:

- Paris, France
- Beaune, France (first hospital in Europe)
- Torino, Italy (Olympic village, castles, palaces)
- Monte Carlo, France (castles, casinos, museums)
- Canne, France (film festivals)
- Grasse, France (perfume capital)
- Carmargue, France (olive oil mill, cowboy country)
- Carcassonne, France (historic medieval village)
- Limoge, France (porcelain)
- Paris, France (museums, culture, cafes, shopping)

Each trip itinerary is different, so that families may be interested in joining us more than once.

We hope we've tempted you, so that you're thinking about **joining us this Spring 2007!**



Dear Mrs. Justus

At Spring Valley Montessori, we are extremely lucky to have Mrs. Justus as a fount of information.



We would like to have a regular column in this newsletter (similar to Dear Abby), where you can ask Mrs. Justus questions. She is interested in sharing the knowledge, experience, and wisdom she has gained with

you. She can help you understand that although a child's phase may be frustrating, it is an important part of development. Or, she may help you understand how to modify a child's behavior to help you achieve more peace and order in your home.

We would like questions in this column to cover these types of topics:

- Child Development
- Child Behavior & Modification
- Montessori Method

You can submit questions to the Main Office (on Campus I). We look forward to receiving your questions!

What did we do this summer?

We know that your summer was filled with trips, visits with friends and family, swimming lessons, summer camps, berry picking, and many other fun summer activities. We hope your summer was enjoyable, restful, and fulfilling!

Summer School was FUN!!!

Summer School at Spring Valley is a bit different than our regular school year. During the summer, the pace is more leisurely, and uniforms are not required. The children participate in more arts and crafts, cooking and barbecuing, and physical sports, games, and roller skating. And on hot days, we allow plenty of time for running through the sprinklers. We strike a comfortable balance between fun and academics.

If you haven't joined us for summer school before, maybe you can join us next summer. You may not be aware of this, but you don't have to commit to a full-time schedule during the summer – you can have a part-time schedule.

Many parents find that a part-time summer school schedule makes the following September an academically “forward progress” month, rather than a “refresher” month.

Here are a few quotes from our summer school students:

What's the best part of summer school?

- “Sewing the tooth pillow and all math!” —Julia H. (6)
- “Math. Every kind.” —Bradley T. (7)
- “Playing with food (in practical life).” —Hannah H.(4) & Rachel T. (3)
- “Math. Fractions.” —Sami G. (9)
- “Watching the fish.” —Vishika (3)
- “The red rods.” —Hannah S. (5)
- “Math. Golden beads.” —Abigail A. (6)
- “Working on writing.” —Nate H. (4)
- “Math. Multiplication.” —Jordan J. (5)



Keep us in mind for next summer – we'd love to have you join us!

What did we do this summer?

Our garden G R E W !

Every Spring, before we leave for summer break, the Campus II students work on their garden. They remove the weeds that have grown, add natural fertilizers, plant seeds, tend to the seedlings, and lovingly cultivate it until the end of the year.

All Summer long Ms. Thornton carefully tends to this precious garden.

Look at the amazing results!



Summer Drama Program

This summer we had a drama program – twice a week. Mr. Chris came in and worked with the Elementary students (1st Grade and older). The program was a complete hit!

Here's a sample of what they did:

- Acted
- Practiced announcement
- Wrote scripts
- Sang
- Played dramatic games
- Created masks and costumes



Summer Baby Birds

This summer, a pair of swallows had two sets of baby birds in a nest next to Mrs. Williams' room (Preschool A). Adorable!

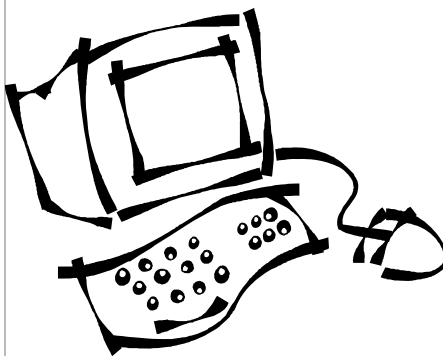


New and Improved Non-Slip Paint

Angel (our handyman) put a special kind of non-slip paint on the porch in front of the main office, on the foot bridge that goes over the creek, and on the stairs that go up to the second floor in Building #1. When the rain comes (and it will!) we will notice the difference!

New and Improved Computer Upgrades

At last year's auction, the parents' gave extremely generously to the Campus II computer upgrades. Our Computer Technician (Kelly Haggett) has been working all summer to get the hardware and software upgrades in place. We're confident the Campus II students and teachers will be very pleased with their new setup!



New and Improved

Roofs on Buildings 2 & 5

Building 2 (Main Office and Preschool A – Mrs. Williams) and Building 5 (PrePrimary A – Mrs. Clark & Mrs. Knighten) have brand new roofs. Take a look! They look beautiful!

Teacher Training Accreditation

We wanted to share our big accomplishment – we completed the onsite portion of the MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, recognized by the US Department of Education) renewal of accreditation for our Teacher Education Program.

You may not be aware of this, but Spring Valley offers a teacher education program in association with the University of Puget Sound. We train interested people in the Montessori method, so that they can become Montessori teachers. There are two classes – one for early childhood education, and one for elementary, and each class is a rigorous year-long course. All of the teachers at Spring Valley Montessori have gone through our own training program, as well as a large percentage of the Montessori teachers in Washington.

This summer, we **prepared for and passed** the onsite portion of our Training program's renewal of accreditation. It was a long, tedious, and detailed process, and we're delighted to have this complete!

The onsite team visitors that reviewed us for the accreditation were very impressed with what Spring Valley offers to teachers, adult students, as well as our children!

Let us know if you would like to become a Montessori teacher.

Get involved!

Classroom

Classroom teachers frequently have opportunities for you to become involved. For example, some classrooms have times when parents can come in and read. Or, if you are from another country, there may be a time when you can come in to your child's class and share your heritage, artifacts, objects, food, and so on from your country. Sharing what we know in a concrete way (through objects we can see, touch, taste, smell) is what Montessori learning is all about!

Parent Association

The Parent Association is a great way to get involved in the school – you can be involved as much or as little as you'd like. You can be deeply involved by holding an officer position or attending all of the Parent Association meetings, or you can be lightly involved by attending some of the meetings and helping out when they need you.

Parent Association meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month.

For additional information, please attend the first Parent Association meeting:

Sept 21 (Thursday) at 6:30pm

You can also contact the Parent Association President: Katherine Alexander at kathrynalexander@comcast.net

School Uniforms

The official plaid jumper uniform that the girls wear can be found at these locations:

- **New uniforms can be purchased at The Dennis Uniform Store**
12608 Interurban Avenue South
Tukwila, WA 98168
(206) 431-2000
www.dennisuniform.com

- **Used uniforms can sometimes be found in the main office. As girls outgrow their uniforms, we have a uniform exchange program. You can bring in your old uniforms and exchange them for larger sizes (if they are available). Also, if you wish, you can purchase used uniforms for a very small fee. Check the office for availability.**

The best places to find the white shirts and blue pants are stores that carry standard school uniforms, such as the Web sites of: JCPennies, Old Navy, Sears, Target, or Walmart.

You asked for it! You got it!

This is the first issue of the Spring Valley Montessori School Administration's newsletter.

- **You asked for fewer paper announcements.** We are going to roll as many announcements as possible into a monthly newsletter. You will still receive some announcements separately, but they will be the ones that are time-critical and cannot wait for the newsletter's publication date.

- **You said you wanted to see the entire school view.** Each newsletter will catch you up on what is going on in each classroom in the school, so even if you have a Preschooler, you will still know what the older students are doing.

This newsletter will also be available in PDF format from our Web site at www.springvalley.org If you have family from out of town, you can give them

the Web site link, and they can check in every once in a while to see what our students are up to. Or, if you'd like, you can get an extra copy from the office so that you can send our newsletter to a family member.

If there are additional ways that this newsletter can be of better use to you, just drop a note in the office for Susan Hancock (Assistant Director)!

Ms. Lawson will raise money for Breast Cancer in San Diego

Ms. Lawson is a teacher in Primary B (1st & 2nd Grade) with Mrs. Meier. She has committed to raise \$2,200 for the Susan G. Koman 3-Day (60 mile) walk in San Diego on November 10, 11, and 12th.



Many of the woman in Ms. Lawson's life have been touched by breast cancer:

- Both of her grandmothers have had mastectomies and are survivors.
- Her mother has a mass that is checked regularly.
- And, recently, her cousin (32) went through chemotherapy. As a show of solidarity, 8 of her cousin's siblings shaved their heads during her chemo. She is a survivor, and is doing well caring for her two children!

Raising money for research, development, and awareness of breast cancer is a personal goal for Ms. Lawson.

Right now she is about halfway to her goal of \$2,200 for her 3-Day (60 mile) walk.

Ms. Lawson has also made lovely pink bracelets that you can buy, helping to raise money for the cause. (Available in the office, while supplies last.)

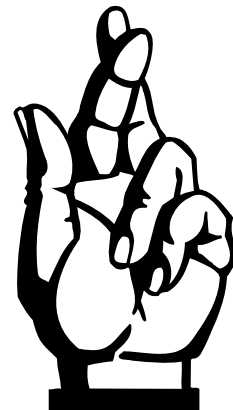
If you are interested in sponsoring Ms. Lawson in her 3-Day (60 mile) walk, the Main Office has her forms. Thank you in advance!

Wishlist

The following is a list of items that we would really love to have to help in the classroom and around our campus:

- **Sewing Serger machine**
We have a sewing machine, and we use it, but it would be very helpful to have a serger to help us make curtains for the classrooms, as well as other classroom items. If you have an old one, or are thinking about upgrading, we love "hand-me-downs!"

- **Folding ladder**
We could really use one of those ladders that extend to almost 30 feet but fold up to almost 5 feet. This would really help our handyman get to those tall ceilings in the Multi-Purpose Building!



Tuition Assistance Fund...any amount helps!

We are very proud of the fact that we are educating Spring Valley students using the proven Montessori method for **less money** than any district in Washington State using a "per student cost" comparison! And, we are one of the most affordable private schools in Washington state.

But, that's not enough for us! We want to expand our enrollment to students of lower income families – we want to include kids that would never have the opportunity to go to Spring Valley. We

want to create a tuition assistance fund. If you can find it in your heart to help, please make out a check and drop it in the office (or mail it to the school) payable to **Spring Valley Montessori Tuition Assistance Fund**. Any amount will help.

If you can afford to adopt a student, that would be **AMAZING!**

If you can only afford a small amount monthly, when you combine that with other people's contributions, we'll get

another student into the school! Remember that all donations are **tax-deductible**. AND, if you work for a company that matches charitable contributions (like Microsoft or Boeing), remember that your contribution may count **twice!**

We are a licensed non-profit 501(c)3 company. Our Tax ID # is: 91-1524441

We are also registered with the United Way Giving programs: Boeing, King County, and Pierce County.

Advertising

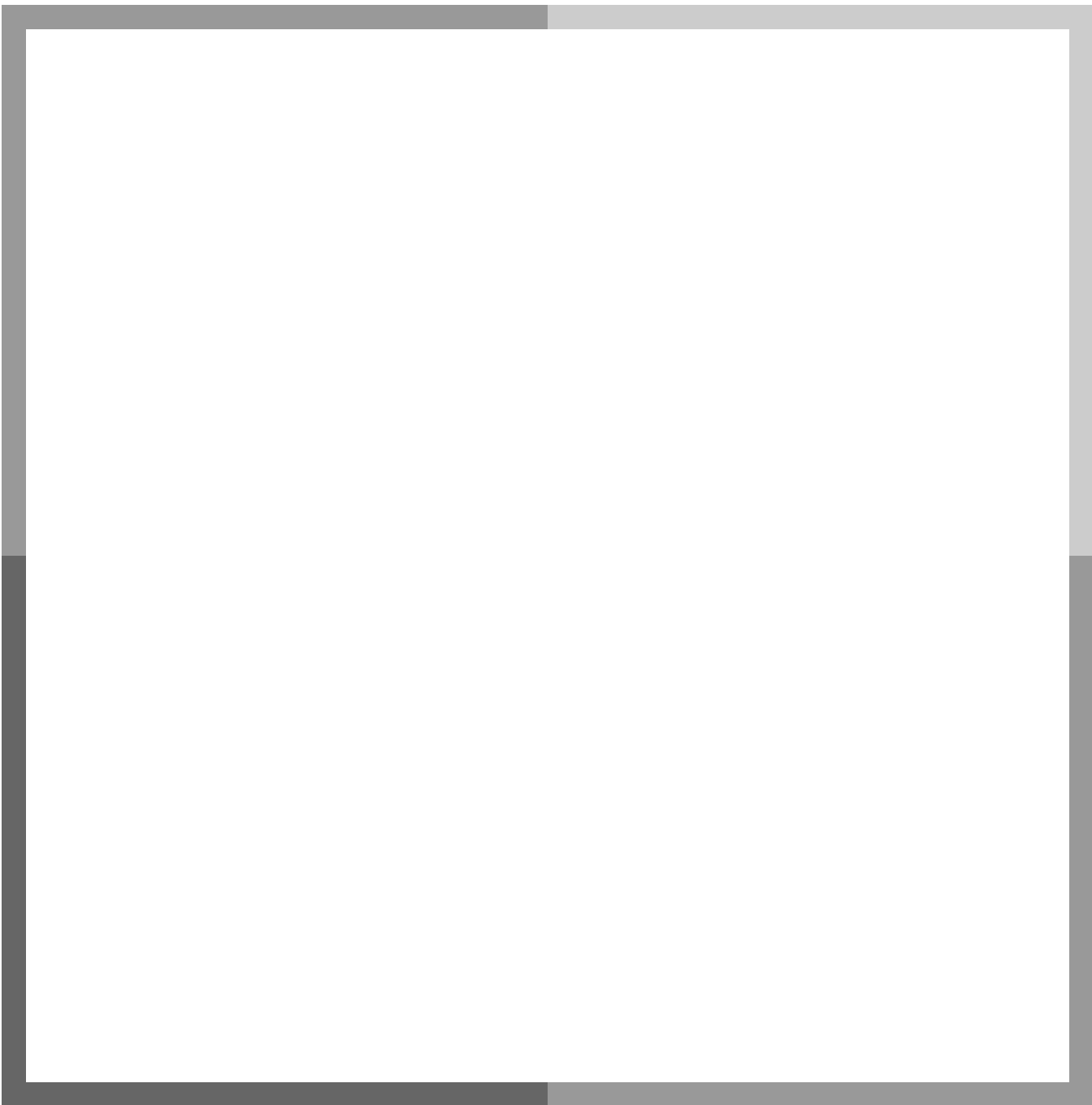
We would like to offer our parents and outside businesses the opportunity to advertise in our monthly newsletter.

- **If you are a parent** and you have a business, you can reach people just like yourselves through an ad in our newsletter. For parents, the cost per issue is **\$25**.

- **If you are a business** in the Federal Way area and would like to reach parents, you can place an ad in our newsletter. For Federal Way businesses, the cost per issue is **\$50**.

All proceeds from advertising in our newsletter go directly to the Spring Valley Tuition Assistance Fund

(described in the previous section). So you can feel twice as good about your advertising dollars, because not only will you be getting customers for your business, but you will also be helping children who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to go to our great school.



Spring Valley Montessori School

36605 Pacific Highway South
Federal Way, WA 98003

Phone: (253) 927-2557

Fax: (253) 838-5193

E-mail: justus@springvalley.org

Voted Best School 2006
—Federal Way Mirror
Newspaper

**“The most important motive for work in school and in life is:
Pleasure in work, pleasure in its result, and the knowledge of
the value of the result to the community.” —Albert Einstein**

This space is reserved for advertising.

We thought it would be best to show our parents and businesses in Federal Way our newsletter before asking people if they wanted to advertise in our newsletter. Now that you can see our newsletter, we hope you can see the value in purchasing an advertising spot in our October issue.

Contact Susan Hancock, Assistant Director at (253) 927-2557.

If she is not at the school, you can leave a message with the main office.

We look forward to placing your ad!
