



MAY SANDS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

A public school of choice

1400 United Street #110, Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Families of May Sands Montessori;

Each year, we look forward to helping create an extraordinary educational experience for our children and school community. May Sands Montessori is not just a school; it truly is a community, comprised of students, families and school staff, working together. May Sands Montessori continues to be an A+ Rated public school of choice, and it is evident from how our students continue to thrive and demonstrate leadership in academic excellence, outstanding citizenship, and show courtesy, grace, & respect towards the Earth and their fellow humans. It is also one of the reasons that you are choosing to send your children to school here.

Montessori is a unique educational approach characterized by an emphasis on independence, freedom responsibility, and respect for a child's natural psychological, physical, and social development. There are many unique costs associated with creating a Montessori environment, some of which include: special Montessori materials, curriculum training for guides (teachers), two adult guides in each classroom creating a low student/teacher ratio, experiential learning, and external enrichment programming. Each year, there is a financial gap between what the Florida Public School system funds and the unique costs of running a tuition-free, Montessori school of choice. This year, that gap is \$115,000.00.

May Sands Montessori fundraising committee works together with the school and community at large to put together a fundraising campaign to bridge that gap and raise these needed funds. There are many events scheduled throughout the year that require your participation to be successful. There are volunteer opportunities for each event that will count towards completing your required 25 hours of school community service (5 of which must be in fundraising). All of the FUNdraising events are designed to be fun and to bring the community together in support of our remarkable school. Some of the events are student based. Some of the events are parent based. Some of the events are community based. They ALL require the input, enthusiasm and participation from our May Sands Community and families. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work". All of the scheduled events are posted to our school's online calendar: www.maysandsmontessori.com

One very important fundraiser that we kick the school year off with is the Annual Fund drive. This is the only direct financial ask that we make of our families, board members and school staff. This year we are asking that each family contribute just \$100.00. That is only \$10/month for the school year and can be made by clicking on the green Support Us button on the school's website. Each year our goal is to get 100% participation in the Annual Fund drive. These funds lead directly to the success of our students by providing the talented, caring team of assistant guides in each classroom. Please make your contribution today!

Respectfully,

Jenn Stefanacci

Parent and Fundraising Chairwoman