



# Weekly Message

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*“The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but **for life.**”*  
—Dr. Maria Montessori

## MORE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS STARTING MONDAY



Next week we welcome both Groups 1 and 2 Blended Learners in K-3rd grades to campus each week. This means there will be more students on campus each day! Please continue to use caution during carpool as well as practicing all safety protocols requested.

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## ACADEMY CLASS SIZE

At Thursday's meeting, the LHU Board approved an increase of our Academy class size from 19 to 22 (maximum) students. Our usual class size for this level is 25, but we had reduced the numbers to maintain social distancing. With the return of more students to campus, the Board approved the increase. Sterling will continue to follow all safety protocols required.

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## RETURN OF TECHNOLOGY

We **require** that all Children's House and Lower Elementary Blended Learning students who borrowed Chromebook devices, and will start on campus full-time next week, **return them to school** starting March 1st. They can be sent in with the student and returned to the student's teacher. Please be sure to include the power supply! Thank you.

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## UPPER ELEMENTARY HEALTH LESSONS

This year we will provide health lessons for our UE students through a webinar-style session via Zoom on Friday, April 9th @ 2:00-3:30pm. Students will be separated into groups by grade and gender. Each group will be led by a Sterling faculty member and an assistant.

On Tuesday, March 23rd, we will have an Upper Elementary Parent Info Chat Session over Zoom from 4:00-5:00pm. Prior to the meeting we will provide families with a link and an opportunity to preview all curriculum information.

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## POSITIVE DISCIPLINE FOR CHILDREN'S HOUSE FAMILIES

We are offering a new series facilitated by our Director of Children's House, Fay Masterson, on **Positive Discipline** for the CH student. Registration closes Friday, March 5th, with the first meeting on Thursday, March 11th from 6:00-7:30pm. Please check your email for registration information and join us!

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL BLACK INNOVATORS PROJECT



As we come to the end of Black History month, we share with our community a compilation of some of the projects our students presented.

Their research and creativity is to be commended!

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## PFA VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR - BATTLE OF THE BOOKS IS ON!

**Sterling's Book Fair/Battle of the Books has BEGUN!**

Now through March 5th, check out the virtual site and make your selection, raising funds for Sterling AND providing valuable resources for our classroom and your students!

**Battle of the Books**

-  Download your blank bracket
-  Choose the books you think will win each round
-  Submit your bracket by February 19
-  Cheer on your books February 22 - March 5!

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## STERLING'S 2021 YEARBOOK

Let the Yearbook Committee speak for themselves! **This year's Yearbook will highlight memories for ALL our students during this memorable 2020/21 school year - from Academy through Middle School.**

**Please pre-order by Sunday, February 29th to guarantee your copy.** Any orders after that will be first-come first-serve until yearbooks are gone. We are not ordering many yearbooks over the guaranteed orders placed before 2/28. We cannot print after we run out. If you are unsure if you've ordered, please email [smacyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:smacyearbook@gmail.com).

**8th GRADE PARENTS:** Please make sure your graduate has a yearbook! We still show a number of 8th graders without yearbooks!

Books can be purchased at [www.Jostens.com](http://www.Jostens.com). The current price is \$50.

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## STERLING WORKS AROUND CAMPUS



**Hard work on that Montessori Hundred Board**



**An impressive presentation of a student's timeline research**



**Geography exploration, safe AND collaborative**

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## COVID EDUCATION

**Should I wash my mask?**

Yes. You should wash your cloth covering



We know that masks help prevent spread. Keep those masks clean and washed daily! Parents, please be sure to send your students to school with a clean and well-fitted mask each day!

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## REMINDER

We have a number of items available for pickup in the Main Office. This includes picture proofs/packages from Lifetouch, Sterling's Spirit Wear orders and even prizes from the Scavenger Hunt! We are keeping them all safe and sound and would love for them to go home to their rightful owners.

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## STERLING VIRTUAL ALUMNI DAY



On Monday, April 5th, we will hold our third annual Alumni Day! We are in the planning phase, but keep an eye out for more details. If you know of alumni that haven't received messages from Sterling, please email [sdeming@sterlingmontessori.org](mailto:sdeming@sterlingmontessori.org) to be added to the list!

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## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **2021/22 PUBLIC CHARTER LOTTERY** - Monday, March 1st
- **LHU DIVERSITY EQUITY and INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE MEETING** - Monday, March 1st @ 4:00pm
- **LHU COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING** - Tuesday, March 2nd @ 8:00am
- **LHU POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING** - Wednesday, March 3rd @ 4:00pm
- **LHU GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** - Wednesday, March 3rd @ 5:00pm
- **MS MATERIAL PICK-UP/DROP-OFF & 8th GRADE ROCK PAINTING** - Friday, March 5th. Pod A: 9:30-10:00am; Pod B: 10-10:30am. This will take place in the back Carpool Lane at the Town Hall Drive entrance.
- **PFA BOOK FAIR/BATTLE OF THE BOOKS ENDS** - Friday, March 5th

- **LHU DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** - Wednesday, March 10th @ 2:00pm
- **PARENT CONFERENCES/REMOTE LEARNING DAY** - Thursday, March 11th
- **TEACHER WORK DAY/REMOTE LEARNING DAY** - Friday, March 12th
  - *On Remote Learning Days there will be **no LIVE LESSONS**. All teachers will send assignments for students to work on through their learning platforms. Students must complete some assignments to be in attendance for the day.*
- **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS** - Sunday, March 14th @ 2:00am
- **LHU BOARD MEETING** - Wednesday, March 17th @ 6:30pm
- **LE/UE/MS PROGRESS REPORTS** - Friday, March 19th via email.
- **UE HEALTH CHAT FOR PARENTS** - Tuesday, March 29th @ 4:00pm
- **SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL** - Monday, March 29th - Friday, April 3rd.
- **TEACHER WORK DAY/NO SCHOOL** - Monday, April 5th.
- **ALUMNI DAY - SAVE THE DATE** - Monday, April 5th. Information coming soon!

See all meeting details on the [Event Calendar](#)

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## STERLING FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Puja Mitchell, Lower Elementary Lead Teacher**



*“Before I taught at Sterling, I worked at another Montessori school where I developed my awe and appreciation of Montessori education. I went to school for my undergraduate degree in music and I am a classically trained opera singer but I am not very competitive, so the world of auditions and travel was not where I saw myself in 10 years. I worked in many camps and substituted in schools in my home state of Maryland before I moved to NC where I found myself subbing in public and private schools in the Triangle. After one year at Montessori Community School in Durham, I started pursuing my Montessori certificate. Flash forward 15 years, I am convinced that the Montessori classroom is the most dynamic, challenging, engaging and appealing place to work. I learn something from the*

*students everyday and hope that the time I spend in this environment allows me to have a small part in preparing children for the future. A future where there is a heightened understanding of human responsibility to take care of the earth and each other.”*

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