



Dear Bay Farm Community,

On behalf of the Montessori Parents Association [MPA], I would like to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year at Bay Farm Montessori Academy! The fall is such an exciting time with so many new adventures starting. We are thrilled to have welcomed our new Head of School, Conrad Wildsmith, in July. He, along with all of the Bay Farm staff, have been very busy planning and preparing for the year and are ready to welcome all of the students in September. There are already so many fun and exciting things planned for this year for the students and families.

I feel so fortunate to be part of the Bay Farm Montessori community, where the dedicated staff creates a uniquely caring, supportive, and challenging environment for our kids. My daughter, Charlotte, is entering Elementary I and has benefitted in uncountable ways from her last three years in the Children's House. I have watched her grow from a very reserved, tentative preschooler to a confident and courageous kindergartener. I also value the support of other Bay Farm parents and caregivers tremendously, especially when I was a new parent navigating our first few years at the school.

The purpose of the MPA is to help the school administration and staff achieve their annual goals and to strengthen the school community. The MPA provides all of us with opportunities to get involved in planning school events, organizing social gatherings, celebrating our teachers and staff, and even educating ourselves on ways we can enhance the Montessori education our kids experience at Bay Farm. By getting involved in the MPA, you can contribute greatly to your child's experiences while also getting to know other members of the of the Bay Farm community. I can promise you that doing so will be both rewarding and fun.

Over the course of my last three years of involvement in the MPA, I've been so inspired by how dedicated and generous our parents are. Last year, we were able to sponsor a fun parent social and several student events, including a movie night and Halloween party. We also honored our teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, and we provided them with dinners during their busiest time of the year. In previous years, we enhanced our performing arts program by underwriting the cost of a new stage curtain, and we helped fund a new climbing structure and swing set.

We are excited to introduce new opportunities for you to get to know other families this year. We will kick off the year with a **family ice cream social on Saturday, September 9th** where all students and families can meet the teachers and other members of their classroom. Please join us for this fun new event on the playground behind the Children's House on the Bay Farm campus. Please also visit the MPA table in the Great Room on **Registration Day, Tuesday, September 5th** to let us know how you would like to be involved with MPA activities this year. We would also love to see you at Parent Socials and Family Fun Nights throughout the year. So please come see old friends and make new ones, too!

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve as the MPA President this year. I look forward to getting to know each of you and discussing your vision for the school and your

ideas for enriching the community. We would love to see you at our monthly meetings and welcome ANY ideas you have for events you would enjoy, suggestions for fundraising activities that you feel would be beneficial, and of course, your contributions to the Annual Fund.

This year promises to be one of the best ever at Bay Farm, and I look forward to seeing you at events throughout the year.

Amy Bennett

MPA President

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