

Border Star

Montessori

PTA
WELCOME
PACKET
2011-2012



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Montessori

PTA WELCOME PACKET

2011-2012

Dear Border Star Families,

As the newly elected PTA President, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2011-2012 school year at Border Star Montessori. The purpose of the PTA is to support the faculty, staff, parents, and most especially our students. Over the years, the PTA has become one of the strongest voices in the educational process that directly supports our children and school. This year will be no different. Your PTA Executive Committee has been busy developing the details for a very productive and exciting year aimed at enhancing the educational environment for all of our students.

In order to be successful, we know that the support and involvement of the parents of our students, the faculty and staff at Border Star, as well as the business leaders in our community will be of utmost importance. Your first opportunity to show your support will be to become a member of the Border Star Montessori School PTA. We encourage each of you to show your commitment by joining.

The second way to show your support will be to participate in the numerous events and programs that we have planned throughout the year. Your participation might be that of a committee member, volunteer, or merely as an attendee. Whatever level of participation you select, your time and involvement will certainly be appreciated.

You also can show your support a third way by providing us your comments regarding our PTA efforts or suggestions or ideas for other potential PTA initiatives. To facilitate this, please feel free to contact me directly.

We already have several events planned in September where you can get connected to other Border Star families:

- PRINCIPAL COFFEE (Monday, September 12th at 8:30 am) – Come by to share coffee and conversation with our principal and other parents.
- PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETING (Tuesday, September 13th at 5:30 pm) – PTA provides a light dinner in the cafeteria, followed by a meeting at 6:00 pm in the auditorium. Come learn more about Border Star Montessori and our wonderful parent organizations (PTA, SAC and LINC Site Council).

We in the PTA believe that it is of the ultimate importance that we do everything we can to enhance the learning environment of our children as they truly are our future. It will take all of us working together to ensure that this happens.

I look forward to working with you this year.

Thank you,
Jamie Straley
PTA President
(jstraley1966@gmail.com)



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WHAT DOES THE PTA DO FOR OUR CHILDREN & OUR SCHOOL AT BORDER STAR?

OUR PTA SUPPORTS TEACHERS BY

- Granting each teacher \$200 yearly for classroom supplies and needs
- Also providing an additional \$200 yearly for professional development or additional classroom needs
- Recruiting room parents/helpers for interested teachers
- Celebrating personnel through Staff Appreciation Week via meals, gifts, massages and more
- Supplying dinner and refreshments during parent/teacher conferences

THE PTA HOSTS PARENT MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Uniform Exchange
- Back-to-School Barbecue
- Dinner at monthly PTA meetings
- Book Fair
- Parent Education Nights
- Participation in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade
- End of the year Carnival
- Family Movie Night

PTA VOLUNTEERS ENRICH OUR SCHOOL IN DOZENS OF WAYS

- Greet and welcome families at school events
- Provide refreshments and treats at various occasions
- Beautify school through painting, prairie and garden box management and other projects

OUR PTA HELPS FUND FIELD TRIPS AND ARTS/ENRICHMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN

In 2010-2011, Border Star students enjoyed the following (This is just the short list)

Children's House (P3-Kindergarten)

- The Nutcracker
- Science City
- Pumpkin Patch
- Kansas City Zoo
- Powell Gardens
- Treasure Trunk
- Nelson Atkins

Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3)

- The Nutcracker
- Paul Messner Puppets
- Children's Lit. Fest
- Harriett Tubman
- Coterie

Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6)

- Nelson-Atkins
- Literature Festival
- Snow Creek Ski Trip
- Jazz Museum
- International Bazaar

THE PTA COMMUNICATES VIA

- Monthly newsletter
- Blue folder
- Monthly meeting
- website
- Principal Coffee
- Bulletin Boards & Posters (keep an eye out)
- Email (sign up to be included)

THE PTA DOES ALL THIS THROUGH

- Fall Fundraisers - catalog, cookie dough and coffee sales
- Ongoing fundraising - Best Choice & Box Tops for Education labels
- Art Fair Parking
- Everyone sharing their time and talent



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PTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	PHONE
Jamie Straley	President	jstraley1966@gmail.com	816-210-9632
Jennifer Wolfsie	Vice President	jjgraham@yahoo.com	913-707-2550
Shakeena Richards	Secretary	shakeenarichards@yahoo.com	913-850-3717
Abby Mueller	Treasurer	abbymueller@earthlink.net	816-305-6660
Dwon Littlejohn	SAC Chair	dlittlejohn@yahoo.com	816-669-4178
Dorna Edgar	Audit	bernicedorna@yahoo.com	816-726-5113
Angela Blackwell	Back-to-School BBQ Beautification Committee	angelablackwell@hotmail.com	816-582-4181
Cassy Kelly	Book Fair Carnival	ckelly411@gmail.com	816-898-0091
Jennifer Davis	Communications - Bulletin Board	jen@megadoodle.net	620-204-0246
Jennifer Davis	Communications - Directory	jen@megadoodle.net	620-204-0246
Matt Davis	Communications - Email	mulcyber@sbcglobal.net	620-278-6349
Jennifer Davis	Communications - Newsletter	jen@megadoodle.net	620-204-0246
Matt Davis	Communications - Website	mulcyber@sbcglobal.net	620-278-6349
Kim Riehl	Fundraising Fundraising - Art Fair Parking Fundraising - Coffee	kim.riehl@gmail.com	
Abby Mueller	Fundraising - Catalog/Cookie Dough	abbymueller@earthlink.net	816-305-6660
Kim Riehl	Fundraising - Labels/Target	kim.riehl@gmail.com	
Martina Messmer	Fundraising - Square1Art	alexis0124@yahoo.com	913-223-6418
Molly Gosnell	Garden Boxes	molly.gosnell@gmail.com	816-305-0614
Mary Silwance	Green Team	silwance@gmail.com	816-510-4870
Heather Gibbons	Health & Wellness	heatherwgibbons@mac.com	816-679-1460
PTA Exec	Hospitality (Food/Bev for Mtgs)		
Bronwyn Werner	Membership Nominating Committee	bronnepickle@yahoo.com	
Dwon Littlejohn	SAC Chair	dlittlejohn@yahoo.com	816-699-4178
Teresa Ratliff	Safety Committee	sydteresa@yahoo.com	
Shakeena Richards	Spirit Wear	shakeenarichards@yahoo.com	913-850-3717
Robynn Nevins	St Pat's Parade	robynns@gmail.com	816-304-8257
Ann Davis	Staff/Teacher Appreciation	adavis6@kumc.edu	913-226-1758
Edwina Littlejohn	Uniform Exchange/Lost & Found	miss_ed75@hotmail.com	816-674-5117
Jennifer Wolfsie	Volunteer Coordinator/Parent Involvement	jjgraham@yahoo.com	913-707-2550
DiAnn Lewis	Welcome Committee	diann_jlewis@yahoo.com	816-728-6659



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2011-2012 **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012**

Individual Memberships @ \$5.00 per person = \$_____enclosed

1st Member

2nd Member

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone(s)

Email (check here if you would like to be included in our email updates)

Child's name

Class/Grade

Child's name

Class/Grade

Child's name

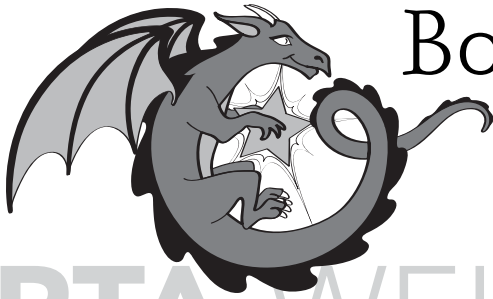
Class/Grade

Child's name

Class/Grade

Complete this form and return it with your check (payable to Border Star PTA) or cash in the amount of \$5.00 for each membership to the PTA box in the school office.

Form and check can also be mailed to PTA Membership, 6321 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64113.



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2011-2012 **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012**

Memberships @ \$20.00 per business = \$_____enclosed

Business Name

Contact Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone(s)

Email

Complete this form and return it with your check (payable to Border Star PTA) or cash in the amount of \$20.00 for each membership to the PTA box in the school office.

Form and check can also be mailed to PTA Membership,
6321 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64113.



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Dear Border Star Families,

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again!

At Border Star back-to-school usually means lots of activities and/or events to get excited about. Things like Back-to-School BBQ, field trips, PTA meetings with Parent Ed nights and Book Fair to name a few. To learn more, plan to attend the first PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 13th from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Dinner and child care are provided.

All those activities and events are only able to occur due to the overwhelming support and involvement of parents like you. And every year the PTA asks each parent to make a commitment to volunteer in some way. Because a little volunteering goes a long way. And over 30 years of research shows that when parents get involved, children do better in school.

So, how do you get involved? Just take the time to review the glossary of volunteer opportunities available on the reverse side. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Then simply complete the Volunteer Survey and return it to your child's teacher. We'll do the rest!

As always, we commit to match you to a volunteer opportunity that meets your interests and availability...whether at school, at home or in the community.

Volunteering at Border Star Montessori is easy, fun and a great way to get to know other parents. Once you get involved I know you'll find yourself hooked.

Jennifer Wolfsie
jggraham@yahoo.com
(913) 707-2550

GLOSSARY OF VOLUNTEER CATEGORIES

BEAUTIFICATION (Inside/Outside): Cleaning closets, painting, tidying grounds/landscape

BOOK FAIR Take a shift in the library when the Book Fair comes to town

COMMUNICATIONS Need help with writing, design/layout, photography and content

- Bulletin Boards
- Directory
- Email
- Newsletter
- Signage
- Website

EVENTS

- Back-to-School BBQ (Fall)
- Movie Night (Winter)
- Carnival (Spring)
- St Pat's Parade (Spring)

FUNDRAISING

- Catalog/Cookie Dough (Fall)
- Coffee (Fall)
- Square1Art
- Art Fair Parking (Spring)
- Target/Labels (year round)

GARDEN BOXES Help bring students out to plant, maintain and harvest in our garden

GREEN TEAM

- Assist with all school and PTA recycling
- Work with other committees to implement and grow our reduce, reuse, recycle efforts

HEALTH AND WELLNESS Work to promote healthy endeavors for students, teachers and staff

HOSPITALITY Help with food/beverage for events/activities

- Principal Coffee
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Open House (Winter)
- Monthly Parent Involvement Meetings

MEMBERSHIP Promote and sell individual and business PTA memberships

MISCELLANEOUS

- Open House – host prospective families
- Field Day/Kickball Game – assist with activities
- Picture Day – assist with shuttling classes to/from the photographer, combing hair, etc
- Take Your Family to School Day

OFFICE HELP Answer phones, make copies, assemble Wednesday folders

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- Contact new volunteers
- Maintain list of opportunities for classrooms, school and PTA
- Recruit volunteers for events
- Recognize volunteers

ROOM PARTIES/EVENTS Help room parents with classroom events, field trips, and anything else needed.

SAFETY Work to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students

SPIRIT WEAR Keep the Dragon spirit growing by helping design, order and distribute cool spirit wear

TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK (1st week of May) Help plan and provide recognition for teachers and staff

UNIFORM EXCHANGE AND LOST/FOUND Manage the cleaning, sorting and donation of clothing

WELCOME COMMITTEE Help make families and visitors feel welcome in the school and at events/activities



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VOLUNTEER SURVEY - CONTACT INFO

Please fill out one pledge form for each parent/guardian in your family.

- Art Fair Parking
- Back-to-School BBQ
- Beautification
- Book Fair
- Carnival
- Communications
- Field Day
- Fundraising
- Garden Boxes
- Green Team
- Health/Wellness
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Movie Night
- Office Help
- Open House
- Parent Engagement
- Picture Day
- Room Parties/Events
- Safety
- Spirit Wear
- St Pat's Parade
- Take Family to School Day
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation
- Uniform Exchange/Lost & Found
- Welcome Committee

Parent/Guardian's name _____

Address _____ City, State & Zip _____

Phone number (include area code & indicate HM CELL) _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Child's name _____ Class/Grade _____

Child's name _____ Class/Grade _____

Child's name _____ Class/Grade _____

Child's name _____ Class/Grade _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS & AVAILABILITY

I'D BE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH the following activities and/or committees. See glossary for further clarification. (Please check all that apply. Make notes below about specific skills related to a certain interest, i.e. building decorations for carnival or writing articles for the newsletter.)

Special Skills I'd Like to Share _____

QUESTIONS?

Please call or email if we can be of any help or if you have any of your own ideas for getting involved. Contact: Jennifer Wolfsie at 913-707-2550 or jggraham@yahoo.com



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SCHOOL DIRECTORY FORM

We would like every set of parents that wish to be included in the school directory to complete the form below. If we do not receive your form by **Friday, September 16th** your contact information will not be listed.

Please contact Jennifer Wolfsie at 913.707.2550 if you have any questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Only include the information you wish to have published in the directory.

STUDENT INFORMATION

DO NOT include my contact information (address, phone, email) in the school directory (i.e. publish only my student's name under each classroom).

_____	_____
Child's name	Class/Grade
_____	_____
Child's name	Class/Grade
_____	_____
Child's name	Class/Grade
_____	_____
Child's name	Class/Grade

PARENT #1

_____	_____
Name (first, last)	Email
_____	_____
Address	City, State & Zip
_____	_____
Home number (include area code)	Cell number (include area code)

PARENT #2

_____	_____
Name (first, last)	email
_____	_____
Address	City, State & Zip
_____	_____
Home number (include area code)	Cell number (include area code)



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HOW TO STAY INFORMED/HELPFUL HINTS

NEWSLETTER Published the first Wednesday of the month

BLUE FOLDERS Come home in your child's backpack every Wednesday

WEBSITE Subscribe to blog posts at www.borderstarmontessori.com

EMAILS Add your name to the list by going to the website and clicking on 'Join Our Email List'

BULLETIN BOARD Inside the hallway by the door near the playground; highlights the month's activities

MEETING OR COFFEE Attend a monthly Parent Involvement Night or plan to stay for a Principal Coffee on the first Monday of each month.

MEETING OTHER PARENTS

ATTEND A MONTHLY PARENT INVOLVEMENT NIGHT What better way to meet other parents than over a meal and conversation

JOIN A COMMITTEE You'll meet other parents with shared interests

HANG AROUND THE PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL You'll enjoy the fresh air, watching the kids play and meeting other parents.

ATTEND A PRINCIPAL COFFEE This relaxed venue held on the first Monday of each month is a great way to connect with the principal and other parents.

PLAN AN ACTIVITY Take the initiative and plan a fun activity inviting the other parents from your child's classroom. Examples: Mom's night out, Dad's breakfast, after school or weekend play date at a park or the zoo.

ASKING ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DAY

When asking your new Montessori student about their day, try using these phrases:

- Did you have any lessons today?
- What work did you choose today?
- Did you do your work on a rug or a table?
- When you finished your work, how did you put it away?
- What are your favorite materials so far?



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APPROPRIATE UNIFORM ATTIRE

All students must wear a uniform

- Tan/Khaki or Navy Blue pants, skirts, jumpers or shorts (no denim will be allowed)
- White or Navy Blue short or long-sleeved shirt with a collar or turtleneck shirt
- White or Navy Blue sweater or sweatshirt
- No logos or pictures on the shirts unless it is the school logo or design

Uniforms can be purchased at any retail location and do not have to be any specific brand as long as they conform to the guidelines listed above.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

The Border Star Montessori PTA provides a uniform exchange program on the honor system. It will be located in the Parent Resource room (Room 113). One piece of clothing is \$1.00 or you may exchange one piece of good quality but outgrown uniform clothing such as slacks, shorts, skirt, jumper or shirt/blouse.



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RULES FOR OBSERVING IN A MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

We encourage parents and other visitors to observe children in our classrooms. In order to maintain the most normal and uninterrupted environment for the children, we must insist that the following guidelines be respected. We place a priority on our children and the needs of their lessons.

1. Please stay in the seat assigned to you for the entire observation period (15 to 30 minutes)
2. Do not walk around the classroom as this distracts the children from their work.
3. If the children come over to talk with you, keep the conversation short and remind them that you are here to see them work.
4. Please refrain from helping or interrupting the children's work.
5. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the classroom.
6. Please refrain from conversation with other observers, as it is distracting to the children.

In order to make your visit more meaningful, here are some questions to consider as you observe your child:

- What kinds of activities is your child choosing?
- Do they choose activities independently?
- Do they use the materials with care?
- Do they complete the activity and return it to the shelf properly?
- Are they working with focus and concentration?
- Do they work through difficulties or do they frustrate easily?
- Are their movements controlled and settled?
- Do they seek help when needed?
- How do they interact with the other children?
- Do they respect the work of others?
- Do they participate in group activities?
- Do they work cooperatively with other children?



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STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At Border Star Montessori School, we believe all students have rights and responsibilities:

RIGHTS

We believe all students have the **right** to:

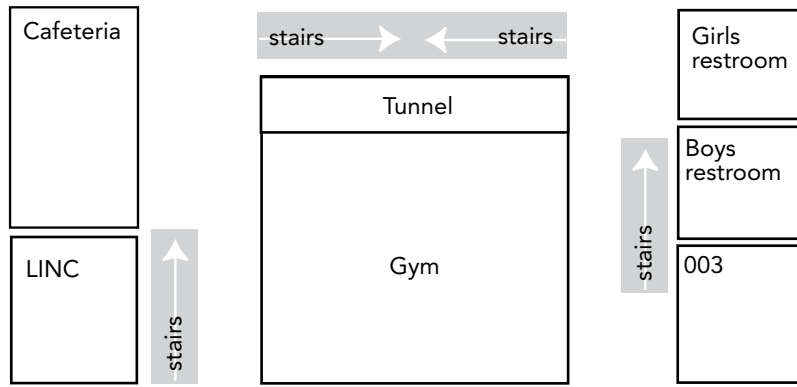
- A peaceful community
- Learn
- Be treated with respect
- Voice opinions or comments respectfully
- A clean, safe school
- Build friendships through work and play

RESPONSIBILITIES

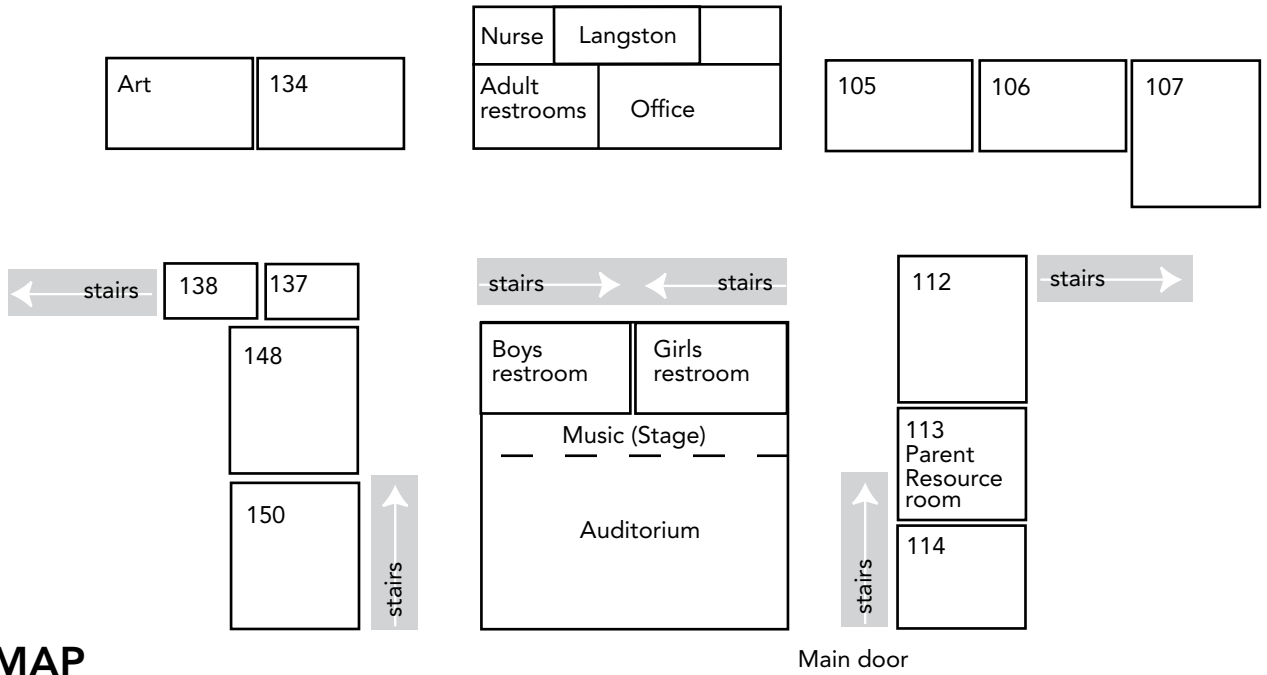
In order to ensure all rights we must:

- Be responsible for our own actions
- Respect materials and environment
- Treat others with respect
- Respect other people's differences
- Cooperate with each other
- Use good manners and show courtesy

GROUND FLOOR MAP



FIRST FLOOR MAP



SECOND FLOOR MAP

