



M.I.T.C.H.

Fox Flyer

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Director's Message

Celebrate Learning! has been our focus for the 2015-16 school year which is rapidly coming to a close. We have much to celebrate and I hope you will join me for the **May 19th Annual Board Meeting** to see and hear how our students have thrived through the year.

Middle School STEA²M & Facilities: Roadblocks & Vision

We met with the Superintendent and TTSD Board Chair & Vice-Chair to request the lifting of the District's enrollment cap. While there was an interest in the development of a strong STEA²M focus, it is unlikely we will be allowed to enroll substantially more middle school students at this time. And, unfortunately, the second facility space in which we were interested is no longer available to MITCH. We continue to seek an additional 20 seats for the 2016-17 school year, and are exploring how to adapt our current space for 270 students.

One facet of our meeting with the District was both baffling, and, perhaps, illustrative of differences between the District's perception of MITCH's purpose and our own understanding of why we serve and educate students. A concern was voiced inquiring where the additional students will come from for an increase in MITCH enrollment, since

accepting students from the traditional TTSD middle schools is not a valid reason for removing the enrollment cap. It was quite clear the District does not perceive MITCH as a viable education choice for K-8 students already attending another District school.

As stated in the Director's Notes in April's *Fox Flyer*, MITCH is in a "unique situation to support the District's STEM middle school goals. We teach the CKS in a hands-on, multi-sensory approach at all grade levels, but have been quite successful in the past year with the practical problem solving requiring physical activity at the middle school level. These are the very teaching practices identified by the National Research Council and National Science Foundation as effective STEM instruction." As the District's only charter, we are in an ideal set of circumstances to provide valid research data about implementing a STEA²M program at the middle school.

Although we are not able to increase our student enrollment nor incorporate a second facility into our vision and goals at this time, we have not altered our emphasis on developing a solid STEA²M middle school program. It will just be small and intentional for the time being.

2016-17 School Year Important Dates

Returning families will receive a school registration packet later in June and will include information about:

- YMCA Aftercare program
- Student PE uniforms ordered online
- Hot lunch program
- Parent Student Handbook

You will also receive forms that can be returned to the school office during registration on **August 18th, 8:30 to noon** or **August 19th, 1:00 to 4:00pm**, or mailed back to MITCH.

- TTSD enrollment form
- *We Choose MITCH* Forms
 - Parent Commitment
 - Activity Fee
 - Annual Family Contribution
- MITCH annual school calendar

Meet-n-Greet Your Teacher: Friday, August 26th 1:00 to 3:00pm

You are welcome to drop in on Friday between 1 and 3pm to meet your teacher – it's a chance to say hello and check out your new classroom!

First Day of School: Monday, August 29th, 7:45am

All students, Kindergarten through 8th grade, start school on Monday, August 29th with their "seats in their seats" at 7:45am.

Back-to-School Night: Thursday, September 1st 6:30pm

This a Parents Only event designed for you to meet your child's teacher, learn about his or her classroom protocols, meet the PSO leadership, and meet other parents.

We hope you and your family have a restful,
exciting, rejuvenating, lazy-crazy summer!

The school office will be closed for the month of July in order for the Leadership Team to catch our breath to hit the ground running on August 1st.

From the Board Chair, Donna Capodacqua

With only four weeks (!) left to the school year, this is the final edition of the 2015-16 Fox Flyer. On behalf of the Board, I say thank you to our teachers, parent volunteers, PSO and leadership team for a successful year. I would also like to say thank you to my colleagues on the Board – we have accomplished many good things and had fun along the way.

In the April *Fox Flyer*, you read about the Board’s exploration branding campaign ideas and possibilities. I am excited to report that we have signed a contract with the O’Johnson Partners to develop our brand! We

expect to have a new website and other visuals by the beginning of next school year. There will be an opportunity for people in all parts of the school community to participate in branding workshops, so watch your e-mail boxes.

Also, we decided not to move into a second facility at this time. We are still seeking to expand middle school enrollment and are working to schedule a follow up meeting with TTDS Superintendent Brown and some of the TTSD Board on this request.

I appreciate that 121 of you responded to our annual parent/family survey – thank you very

much! Brent Savage and I will present the results at our annual Board meeting on **May 19, 2016**. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and I invite you all to attend.

Lastly, I encourage you to sign up for the MITCH 100 Gold Tournament at the Charbonneau Gold Course on **June 4th**, or to sponsor someone who is participating. The funds we raise will be directed to complete the Frontier Garden project. Contact me at dcapodacqua@mitchcharterschool.org to learn more.

Have a safe and happy summer!

All the Best, Donna

“I encourage you to sign up for the MITCH 100 Gold Tournament at Charbonneau Gold Course on June 4th, or to sponsor someone who is participating.”

Volunteers Appreciated

As we wrap up the school year, I would like to personally thank all of the hardworking volunteers that have helped make MITCH the special place it is. I hope you all know how valuable you are and how much the school appreciates your hard work.

As we move forward I would like to hear from parents on how we can

make it easier to volunteer – *what is the best way to communicate the school’s needs, how to fit volunteering into busy schedules, etc.*

I will be taking on the position of PSO Volunteer Coordinator again next year and welcome any and all feedback. In addition to working on recruiting more volunteers, next year I

would like to make a bigger push for carpooling. Fewer cars on the road isn’t just good for the environment, but it makes carline go more quickly, and in my personal experience, helps show our kids how well our community can work together. It takes a village!

Enjoy your summer!
Kate Ark

Parent Support Organization

It's hard to believe that the 2015-16 school year is coming to an end. I'm reminded of a song called "Don't Blink," that talks about how you blink and you go from being 7 to 21 and your kids are grown.

I hope you have wonderful memories of this year with your children. MITCH Charter School is truly a special place. The education is top notch, but the parents and staff help to make it a community of individuals who care about the lives around them. I want to thank all

of you that reached out with concern for our carline helper last month. It makes me proud to be a part of this community.

This will be my last PSO newsletter as President as my term will end June 30th. Sarah Gabriel (slated) will be taking my position for next year. I would like to thank the current PSO board for their support and volunteerism this year. The first year of the PSO would not have been as great of a success without you. I would also like to thank Melissa Meyer. She has been supportive of the PSO

from its inception and I hope we were able to make the classrooms and the school a little brighter because of our efforts.

In closing, I hope you all have a wonderful fun filled summer. Our family will be relocating to Austin, Texas in July. I am excited for the new adventure, but sad to leave this wonderful school and community. I wish you and your children all the happiness for the future years ahead.

Sincerely,
Renea Ostermiller
MITCH PSO President

May/June Calendar

Here is a summary of what is on the school calendar at date of publishing. It can also be found [clicking here](#).

19 th	Annual Board Meeting 6:30pm
30 th	NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
6 th	School Assembly
7 th	PSO Meeting 6:30pm
8 th	STEAM Fair
9 th	Field Day – school ends at 11:30am
9 th	Kindergarten and 8 th grade Promotion Celebration
16 th	Board Meeting

Editor's Note: This is the last Fox Flyer of the school year. If you have suggestions for future content or newsletter format, please contact [Michele Vitali](#).