



# eyes wide open

THE SPRINGMONT NEWSLETTER -  
ALUMNI EDITION  
Fall 2022

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Dear Springmont Alumni and Alumni Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the 2022-23 school year! Our theme this year is Anchored in Service, derived from Maria Montessori's quote, "The teacher must be the servant of nature." This theme honors the myriad ways in which every member of our community serves our students. Whether they serve as Teachers or Assistants in our classrooms, provide administrative direction and support, volunteer for community events, develop our school's strategic vision, or are parents who serve as "teachers" at home, we are each called to follow the lead of children who are discovering their unique purposes in the world.

Dr. Montessori called this their "cosmic task" and believed "we can only better humanity through the child" as they fulfill this cosmic task.

As alumni, you have been the beneficiary of this service. We are, of course, proud of all you have accomplished as scholars, athletes, and artists – individuals working to forge a path in this world by using your knowledge and talents to achieve "success." But we are prouder still of who you have become as humans – people who approach the world with thoughtfulness, peace, and compassion. We believe that as you've grown and moved out into the larger world, you use what you learned here to better humanity and create a more peaceful world.

As alumni, there are opportunities for you to serve our current generation of students. Please consider visiting a classroom as a guest speaker, sharing your experience with current and prospective families, volunteering your time to serve on the board, or contributing to the Springmont Fund. Your service helps to ensure Springmont will be here to assist future generations of children as they discover their unique purposes and how they will better humanity.

However you choose to serve, at Springmont or in the larger community, thank you for being the leaders our world needs right now.

Sincerely,  
Megan Hakerem  
Interim Head of School



## Congratulations Springmont Class of 2022!

We were so proud to graduate another impressive group of students last year. Welcome to the Alumni Club, Class of 2022!

Maria Godoi is attending Atlanta International School this fall.

Lily Kalin is joining Riverwood International Charter School.

Penelope “Kaz” Keromytis is a freshman at The Walker School.

Ellia Meisinger is attending Riverwood International Charter School.

Aidan Mong is a student at Walton High School’s Biomedical Stem Academy.

Marina Santos is a freshman at Riverwood International Charter School.

Adam Zelis is moving to Dallas, Texas where he will attend high school.



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## Chris Cone Retires from the Classroom

Congratulations to Chris Cone on her retirement from the classroom! Chris served the Springmont community as a Lower Elementary Teacher for 17 years and has touched the lives of many of you. She is an incredibly dedicated teacher who has upheld our Montessori beliefs and Springmont’s mission with passion, kindness and creativity. Her students have benefited greatly from her engaging, hands-on learning instruction and her talent for nurturing the curiosity of young children. Over the years, coworkers have come to rely on her experience and knowledge, and parents have appreciated her wisdom and guidance.

Fortunately for us, Chris is still around campus in her new role as the Elementary Curriculum Specialist!





## Expanding Student Social & Emotional Support

The COVID-19 pandemic had significant impact on the social and emotional well-being of children, but even before March 2020, cases of anxiety and depression were on the rise among children 3-17.

In response to the increased need for social and emotional support demonstrated by students, Springmont has added new resources to our curriculum.



Last year Ann Van Buskirk joined the Springmont community as our School Counselor. Ann retired from the DeKalb County School District after serving there for the past 31 years. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Certified School Psychologist, as well as an adjunct faculty member of the Psychology department at Emory University. Ann works with individual students, small groups of students, Elementary & Middle School classes, parents, and families.

This year we have added Kimberly Robinson to support our youngest children in Toddler and Primary. She can be found observing in classrooms and offering support to faculty who have students with developmental concerns. We are also happy to welcome Chaela Nutor, a graduate student from Emory doing a practicum under Ann, to Springmont each Wednesday.

Finally, we have established a new soft sensory space on campus supported by Title IV Funding through the state. This is a place where students may go to regulate their emotions, and practice strategies for optimal energy level. The expectation is that this designated area will improve student ability to attend to lessons and collaborate with other students, as well as decrease class disruptions that occur when students experience dysregulation.

At Springmont, we pride ourselves on meeting each student where they are and are thrilled to offer a greater suite of social/emotional support services this year!

## The Middle School Returns to the Landschool

Our Middle School Class was excited to kick off the 2022-23 school year with a trip to the Landschool. Given renovations and health/safety concerns of the pandemic, the Landschool has sat largely unused for the past couple years. We are thrilled to resume this incredible Springmont tradition, with some wonderful new updates!



*Blankets? In August? That's right! The Landschool has central air conditioning now.*

*Students and Faculty are enjoying cooking in the updated kitchen! There's even a restaurant style dishwasher - no more single use servingware!*



*Students are enjoying everything the Landschool has to offer and kicking off a great school year!*

## Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2018!

In May 2018, Springmont graduated eight 8th years from the Middle School program. They've since graduated high school and are off on new adventures. Here's a look at where they have been and where they are going.

Aidan Hess attended North Atlanta High School and went on to Eckerd College this fall.

Delaine Foster spent four years at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School and has now entered the Material Sciences Engineering Program at Georgia Tech.

Edward Crawford attended The Galloway School and is now attending Elon University.

Jasper Hsieh attended Chun-I Senior High School in Taiwan. Jasper, let us know what is next for you!

Laine Caiaccio graduated from Holy Innocents' and is a freshman at University of Colorado Boulder.

Molly Devinney graduated from Woodward Academy and is attending Texas Christian University where she plans to earn a Business Degree.

Rosie Meizen attended The Galloway School and has started her study of Biochemistry at Georgia Tech.

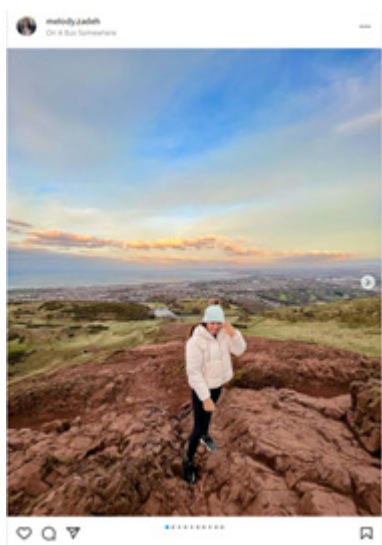
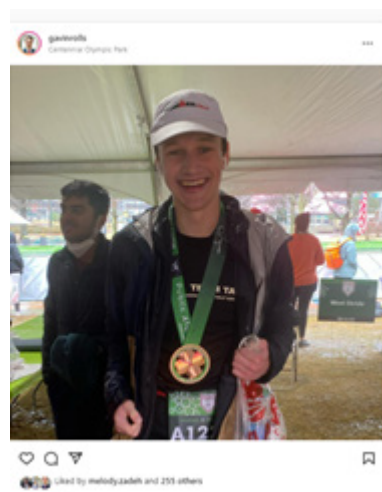
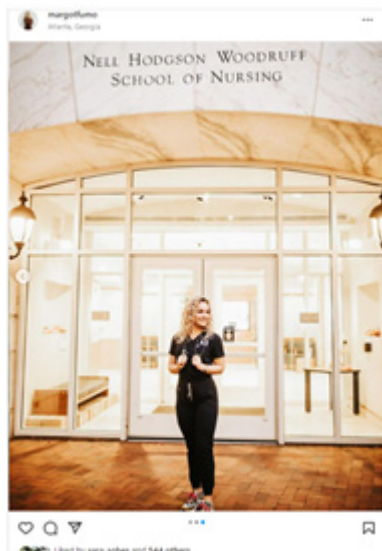
Samory Marshall participated in the High Achievers Magnet Program at Chamblee Charter High School and is attending MTSU.





## As Seen on Instagram

Thanks to social media, we can keep up with our alumni! Here are some recent highlights!



**FOLLOW  
SPRINGMONTALUMNI  
ON INSTAGRAM!**

## Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2014!

Eight years ago, seventeen students became Springmont alumni. Since then they have graduated high school and many graduated college this spring!

Alex Lubsey graduated from the Paideia School and went on to Wake Forest University where she earned degrees in Economics and Sociology.

Carlin Blake attended Lassiter High School after Springmont and went on to matriculate to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Education and is teaching at May River High School in Bluffton, SC.

Christopher Sims graduated from Walton High School and went on to Purdue University. Christopher - where are you now?

Clementina Eterovic attended Mount Vernon High School and then University of Colorado Boulder where she graduated with a degree in Public Relations, Advertising and Applied Communication.

Dakota Survanco went on to Mount Vernon High School and recently graduated from Georgia Tech with a BS in Computer Engineering.

Jack Friedline attended high school at Blessed Trinity and has one more year at Kennesaw State University where he is pursuing a degree in Biology.

Josie Fumo went on to The Galloway School after Springmont and graduated from Clemson University with a degree in nursing. She is currently a Pediatric ICU nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Kat Orr graduated from Campbell High School's IB Program and went on to University of the Cumberland in Kentucky on a full scholarship for academics and athletics. Since then she has discovered a passion for cars and is currently attending Atlanta Technical College to study auto collision repair and hopes to open her own shop one day.

Lane Cannon graduated from Cherokee High School and went on to attend Centre College where she has graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in English and Classical Studies and a Minor in Linguistics. She is currently writing a book proposal for a collection of French poetry translations and was working at Hasty Pope Davis LLP until she began her studies this fall at Emory Law School.

Madison Boyce attended Lassiter High School and earned a BFA in Illustration from SCAD. She is currently an Illustrator and Concept Artist.

Maxine Monroe completed high school through home school and we'd love to know where she is today!

Owen Rohm graduated from The Paideia School and earned his degree in Industrial and Product Design from Georgia Tech.

Rachel Strickland attended The Galloway School and recently graduated Cum Laude from the University of Georgia. She has a degree in Business Administration and has started her career as an Account Manager at Gartner in Fort Myers, Florida.

River Ross, we'd love to hear from you!

Ryan Polk attended St. Michael's Catholic Academy in Austin Texas and went on to the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University. He has one more year to go in the Meteorology department. After college, he will join the US Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. He plans to become a Weather Officer and enter Kessler AFB for advanced training.

Samantha Fleming went to Lassiter High School and has recently graduated from UGA with a degree in International Affairs.

Sarah Tolchin graduated from The Paideia School and went on to the University of Michigan where she earned a double major in Political Science and History and a Minor in Law, Justice, and Social Change. She is currently a Legislative Affairs Intern at the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities.



## Come Visit Us!

Campus has largely been closed to visitors given the health concerns of the last two years but the 2022-23 school year will be very different. We hope to see many of you at the Springmont Festival & Montessori Mile this Saturday, October 22! However, you never need to wait for a big community event to come visit your old campus and classrooms. Individual or small group visits can be arranged by contacting Andrea Restifo.

Given the curriculum and three-year cycle, Montessori students have a special connection with their campus and teachers. Alumni families remain an important part of our community beyond their years enrolled in our program. Come visit us and reconnect with your Springmont Family!



## #SpringmontTBT

