



eyes wide open

THE SPRINGMONT NEWSLETTER -
ALUMNI EDITION
Summer 2020

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Dear Springmont Alumni and Alumni Families:

What a trying year 2020 has been so far! In my 19 years as a Head of School, this has easily been the most challenging to navigate, and I'm sure many of you have had similar experiences at work and at home. I owe a great amount of gratitude to the Springmont community for the many ways we have pulled together to handle this unprecedented situation and the obstacles it presented.

Springmont's last day of on-campus lessons was Thursday, March 12th. On March 13th Parent/Teacher Conferences took place as scheduled, and we dismissed for the weekend with plans for Faculty and Staff to return to campus the following Monday to organize and strategize for what we thought would be two weeks of remote learning. By Sunday, I alerted Faculty and Staff not to report to campus the following day as the risk of infection was increasing by the moment.

It's said that "necessity is the mother of invention" and that certainly was accurate. Many in the modern workplace are equipped to work from home as needed, but that was not the case for educators, especially those dedicated to the hands-on/experiential pedagogy of the Montessori experience. Our teachers, assistants, specialists and administration worked tirelessly to launch a Learning From Home program that was student-centered and honored Springmont's mission and core values.

The initial two-week period passed, and it became clear that it would not be feasible to return to campus before the end of May. Our Learning From Home model was evolving and improving with each passing week, and we adapted to share time-honored traditions in a virtual format. Two highlights were our virtual Upper Elementary Musical performance of Madagascar, Jr. on May 10th and the culminating event of the academic year, the 8th Year Commencement Ceremony, held virtually on May 22nd.

As the country began to cautiously reopen, we were shaken by the deaths of Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. In Atlanta, we saw both peaceful demonstrations of grief and anger and demonstrations that devolved into riots and looting. As a community that celebrates diversity and believes fiercely in equity, inclusion and justice, we communicated to our families that Springmont stands against racial intolerance and bigotry. Global Awareness and Mutual Respect are at the very core of our values and institutional tenets.

Experts say independent schools should expect to face financial difficulty for the next several years as families face economic hardships and explore alternative learning formats. Nevertheless, here we are, planning for an uncertain future, but resolute in
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our commitment to our mission of providing a learning environment where diversity of thought and global perspective empower students to be inquisitive, knowledgeable, independent, compassionate and effective. The legacy and commitment of our valued alumni and alumni families will be critical to the longevity of Springmont as we move forward.

We are planning for the next school year with optimism and caution and have developed a detailed Re-Entry Plan. It is too extensive to share here, but any alumni interested in learning more should contact Director of Development & Alumni Relations Lauren Stevenson at l Stevenson@springmont.com. As soon as it is safe to do so, we look forward to having you all back to campus. In the meantime, stay connected with us on social media through the Springmont Alumni Instagram account and the Springmont Alumni Association Facebook page.

These last few months have challenged us in so many areas of our lives, but Springmont remains steadfast in its resolve to live its mission and core values and leverage its educational opportunities to promote racial healing and truly change our world for the better. As Dr. Maria Montessori wrote, "Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education." (Education and Peace).

I hope the rest of this newsletter, updating you on the classes of 2012, 2016 and 2020, brings some joy during these challenging times. Our alumni are moving onto wonderful and exciting new opportunities and we are so proud of the socially-conscious and compassionate individuals they have become. After all, it will be our students who will be at the forefront of making this world a better place.

Best,
Jon Alden
Head of School

Covid-19 Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund

Given the uncertainties many families are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Springmont has established a [COVID-19 Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund](#).

Springmont has always prided itself on a strong sense of community. Although we may be separated physically at this time, support for one another is more important than ever. As a result, we now offer donors the opportunity to designate their dollars for tuition assistance for the 2020-21 school year in support of those experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus crisis.

The support of our alumni is always important but feels especially poignant at this time. If you are a parent of an alumni, you clearly understand the benefit of a Springmont education, as you chose this community for your own child. If you are an alumni, you know first-hand how the nurturing educational experience of Springmont can positively affect your life beyond your time on campus.



Help other students and families remain with Springmont despite these challenging times. Details about this financial aid investment can be found under the Giving tab on our [website](#).

Congratulations Springmont Class of 2020!

Like many schools world-wide, Springmont was forced to go virtual with our 2020 commencement program. We honored our most important graduation traditions including Teacher introductions, student speeches, and even snacks delivered straight to home! Congratulations Class of 2020!

Mialana Erdmann will attend Walton High School this fall.

Erin Fleming looks forward to joining Dalton High School in August.

Thomas Friedline will be a freshman at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School.

Alejandro Giovanni Henry-Jackson will join Capstone Academy.

Chloe Hess will be a student at North Atlanta High School.

Matthias Lamps will attend the North Cobb School for International Studies.

Zoe Luna will be a freshman at Alpharetta High School.

Thierry MacQueen looks forward to attending Chamblee High School.



Springmont Day of Appreciation to Celebrate Maria Montessori's 150th Birthday!

Springmont is extremely proud to be *Atlanta's First Montessori School!* Without a doubt, it is the community that makes Springmont the incredible place it is, but we would not have attracted such incredible families were it not for the work of Maria Montessori.

Monday, August 31st is Maria Montessori's 150th birthday! Help us celebrate her legacy and our beloved school by participating in a Day of Appreciation. Our request to you is two-fold:

- 1) Share a memory on Facebook from your time at Springmont that celebrates the Montessori pedagogy. Don't forget to tag us!
- 2) Consider making a gift of \$19.63 (1963 was the year of our founding) to support the COVID-19 Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund to help other students benefit from the curriculum.

Stay tuned for more information via email and social media as the date draws nearer!



Times, They Are a-Changin', and so is the Alumni Association...

It seems like a great time to reboot! The Springmont Alumni Association is ramping up to make some changes that will help increase engagement and keep alumni connected with our students and community!

New Association Chair - Many thanks to Clarissa Espina and CJ Turner who have served as the Alumni Association Co-Chairs. They are rolling off of their term and we are very excited to announce Gavin Rolls will take their place. Gavin's family relocated to Colorado when he was still in Ellen's Upper Elementary Class, but he is back in Atlanta to study at Georgia Tech. We reconnected with Gavin last year at the Montessori Mile Alumni Brunch, after which he was a guest speaker in Ellen's Class about materials engineering as students prepared for their Invention Convention. He also served on the Alumni Panel in January. Welcome, Gavin! A special thanks to Trevor Love who will also be vacating his seat on the committee. If you have interest in joining the committee, please reach out to lstevenson@springmont.com.

"Class Chair" Volunteer Opportunity – Interested in helping to plan reunion events, organize service projects and get connected with former classmates and teachers? The Class Chair position will help organize efforts for alumni in five-year groupings. Director of Development & Alumni Relations Lauren Stevenson will provide administrative and financial support. This is a great way to get involved at Springmont and gain leadership volunteer experience. Contact lstevenson@springmont.com for more information.

Slack Channel – The Springmont Alumni Slack Channel is designed to promote mentor opportunities and virtual connections among alumni. Connect with fellow Springmont alumni with questions about high school or college, network as you seek summer internships, and find classmates you haven't seen in years. We also hope to provide mentor opportunities for 8th-year students and find alumni guest speakers to visit classes on specialized topics. [Click here to join the alumni slack channel!](#) Contact lstevenson@springmont.com with any issues.

As Seen on Instagram

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

erin_lemmon
Atlanta BeltLine



Liked by **alubsey** and 209 others
erin_lemmon these people make me so very happy !!

riles_mac
Gulf Shores, Alabama



Liked by **claytonsinclairiv** and 322 others
riles_mac gone parasailing

juliana_dinkle
Southern Methodist University



Liked by **alubsey** and 220 others
juliana_dinkle Still trying to be you ❤️ Happy Father's Day

samory



Liked by **claytonsinclairiv** and 121 others
samory She got it right eventually

hshouser
Arrington, Tennessee



Liked by **fignewman** and 117 others
hshouser Spent time dreaming of all the wonderful things Baby Houser will be with beautiful friends and family. 🥰🌟

julius_long



Liked by **alubsey** and 220 others
julius_long Still trying to be you ❤️ Happy Father's Day

FOLLOW SPRINGMONTALUMNI ON INSTAGRAM!

Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2012!

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

Anneliese Camrud attended high school at The Galloway School. After graduation she moved to Los Angeles to work as a make up artist. Anneliese is now back in Atlanta attending Agnes Scott College and pursuing a degree in Psychology with an interest in one day working in Art Therapy.

Alex Coundouriotis attended The Wheeler Magnet Program for Math & Science. After graduation, he attended Kennesaw State University.

Juliana Dinkle attended The Lovett School after graduating from Springmont. She went on to attend Southern Methodist University where she graduated in May.

Margot Fumo attended The Galloway School and went on to Furman University where she graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Public Health. She will attend Emory's Accelerated Master of Nursing program starting in August. She was recently trained as a birth doula and has a passion for maternal and child health and birth justice. She will pursue a career in labor and delivery upon graduation.

Kieran Lehane graduated from high school at Pace Academy and is in his final year at Purdue University.

Julius Long graduated from Atlanta International School in 2015. After graduation, he attended Bowdoin University where he played soccer and earned his B.A. in Government and Legal Studies and a minor in Economics. He is now working (remotely) for Prosek Partners, a financial communications/public relations firm.

Conor Pelletier attended Pace Academy and went on to the University of Georgia where he graduated with a degree in Economics. Conor is working in Atlanta as a Business Process Analyst for FIS.

Marissa "Ruby" Stacholy graduated from Dunwoody High School and then went to University of Georgia where she is finishing up her Dietetics degree. She also runs a successful cattery.

Elsa Stallings attended The Galloway School and graduated in May from Pace University School of Performing Arts with a BFA in Commercial Dance. Elsa currently resides in New York where she is signed with Wilhelmina Models and Clear Talent Group. The future may hold a coast change for her as she considers possibly heading out to L.A. to pursue dance, choreography, and artistic directing.



Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2016!

In May 2016, Springmont graduated nine 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.

Theo DeVinney graduated from The Galloway School and will attend UC Santa Cruz where he plans to study Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Kate Kearney attended the Walton High School STEM program and will attend the University of Georgia as a member of the Honor's College where she will pursue a biology major and a film studies minor on the pre-med track.

Christian Lubsey graduated from Grady High School and will matriculate to George Mason University this fall.

Katy "Revell" McCracken graduated from The Galloway School and will attend Pace University where she plans to pursue a degree in education.

Langston Morris attended The Paideia School and will begin at Morehouse College this fall.

Evan Riley graduated from Centennial High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in Game Design and Development.

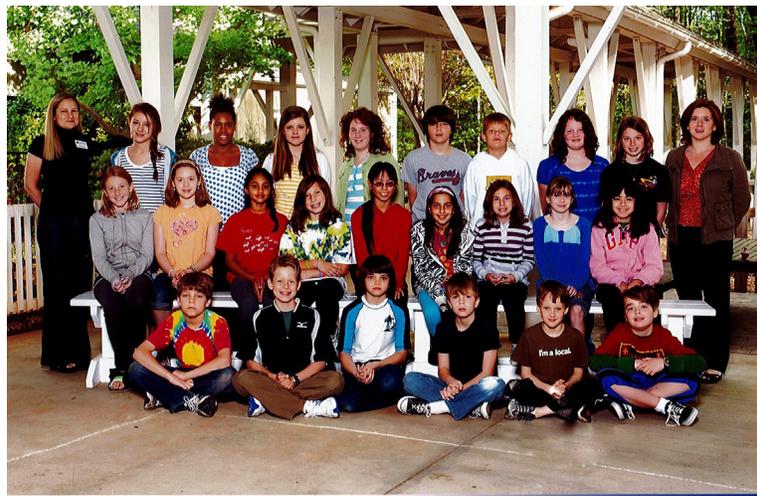
Oliver Schouest graduated from Mount Vernon Presbyterian and will attend University of Georgia.

Clayton Sinclair attended The Galloway School and will attend UC Irvine to compete on the varsity Overwatch team and major in Computer Game Science while interning at Blizzard Entertainment.

Sophie Tinley graduated from Atlanta Girls' School and will attend Colgate University to study Environmental Biology.



#SpringmontTBT



 First Montessori School of Atlanta Ellen's Upper Elementary Class 2010 - 2011

