



eyes wide open

THE SPRINGMONT NEWSLETTER - ALUMNI EDITION
December 2017

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Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

This frequently quoted epigram is attributed to Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr. In English, it translates to "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

In different contexts, this quote can take on different undertones. Change can be slow and frustrating or fast and unnerving. Inversely, change can also be thrilling, reaffirming and enlightening. No matter your take, change is inevitable and necessary. At Springmont, change is always thoughtful and deliberate and underlines our mission and core values.

For example, our Montessori Mile has changed in many ways. The Middle School has added a Springmont Festival to the day and an Alumni Brunch is now part of the festivities. These changes help cement this event's long-standing tradition as a spirit and community-building centerpiece of the school calendar.

On our 50th anniversary, we underwent a name change from First Montessori School of Atlanta to Springmont. We remain proud of our history and still deliver an outstanding education based on a Montessori curriculum. But our new name enabled us to enter the next half century with a more visible presence and share with the wider community our innovative spirit and progressive education model.

Year over year campus changes thanks to the generous support of donors to the Springmont Fund. These changes do not distract from the features that have always been community favorites but enhance the longevity (building upgrades), accessibility (turf on the lower field) and depth (new campus trails) of the student experience.



Field Day 2017



Field Day 2000

You've undoubtedly changed since your days at 5750 Long Island Drive, but we'd be willing to bet the foundation you built here still guides you today. We are honored to call you alumni and encourage you to be proud of your legacy here.

Come visit us. We're here waiting, pink tower and all.

Join us for the Springmont Alumni Panel on Thursday, January 11th. See back cover for more information!

"What we become as our lives evolve depends on the quality of our experiences here and now."

- Maria Montessori

What's new on campus?

If you haven't been to campus yet this year, come check out some exciting enhancements! New features promote an experiential learning environment for students.

A portion of the money raised during the 2015-16 Springmont Fund was invested last year in converting some above ground drainage space into a Community Garden. Since then, with the help of a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, students built and planted garden beds for our entire community to enjoy.

This year, using dollars from the 2016-17 Springmont Fund, a water feature has been under construction around the Community Garden. The feature will provide the practical benefit of irrigating our edible garden but is also designed to help Teachers provide hands-on lessons on the work of water.



Much of last year's fundraising dollars were invested in Phase 1 of playground reconstruction. The upper level of the playground was cleared of outdated equipment and outfitted with new elements that promote open-ended play. A giant slide was set into the hill, abutted by rocks set into the slope for climbing back to the top.

What will this year bring? Final decisions are still being made, but the money will be invested in outdoor spaces once again. Come visit us to see these incredible learning and play environments in action!



Master Teacher Marsha Fleming Meets Sir Ken Robinson!

On November 6th, our own Marsha Fleming was inducted into GISA's Master Teacher Class of 2017. In addition to being presented to the state's independent school leaders gathered for the Annual Conference, Marsha was congratulated by the President and Vice President of GISA as well as the Keynote Speaker, Sir Ken Robinson.

Marsha, who teaches middle school math at Springmont, was one of 25 honorees of an original applicant pool of 40 teachers from around the state. In addition to being included in this inaugural class of Georgia Independent School Association Master Teachers, Marsha presented two workshops at the conference, sharing her skills with colleagues from around the state. In his opening remarks, Sir Robinson remarked, "The one thing that makes a difference in schools is great teachers." He explained, as only Sir Ken can, that the many trappings of school can be stripped away, but the core, the single most important criteria, beyond curriculum, buildings, tests and the school experience, is the relationship between teacher and student. Our own Marsha Fleming is one notable example of just that! Congratulations, Marsha.



Springmont Yearbook Cover Contest

Springmont asked students to submit their artwork for consideration as the cover for the 2017-18 school yearbook. Our bright and talented students responded with such impressive ideas and drawings, they were too good not to share. You'll find the finalists below.



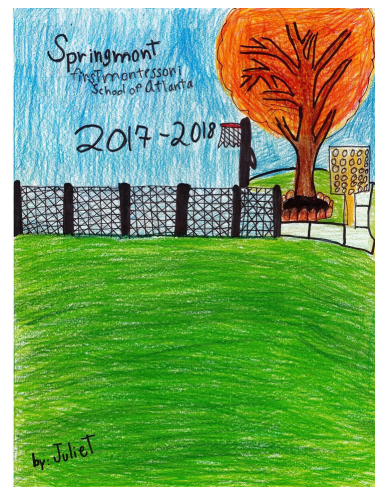
Winning submission by Lower Elementary students Jeremy, Soham and Wilder.



Runner Up submission by Lower Elementary student Nollaig.



Runner Up submission by Upper Elementary student Isaac.



Runner Up submission by Lower Elementary student Juliet.

Help us Honor Jerri King By Lauren Stevenson, Director of Development & Alumni Relations

It is a bittersweet feeling as we look forward to Spring 2018. There are so many exciting things on the calendar. We will graduate 10 amazing 8th year students, as the weather warms Landschool trips will resume, the Upper Elementary Musical and Grandparents & Special Friends Day will bring friends and family to campus, and everyone's favorite day – Field Day – will come, once again, this May.

The “bitter” in “bittersweet” however comes with knowing that this will be Jerri King's last semester as Head of School at Springmont. While we are excited to send Jerri off on her next adventure and welcome a new Head into our community, I know we will all miss her. Jerri has been a part of the Springmont community for 17 years, touching the lives of so many of us. This year, in our end of year appeal, I want to offer you the opportunity to honor her with your contribution to the Springmont Fund.

Along with the enclosed pledge envelope, you will find an optional honorarium card to include. Simply complete the card and I will let Jerri know that you have made a contribution in her honor. I've also included space in case you'd like to share a memory or well-wishes for me to pass along.

I'll be forever grateful to Jerri for giving me the opportunity to join the staff at Springmont, and I know so many of you feel similar sentiments. I didn't want to let the opportunity pass for our alumni families to send her off in style. If you have any questions or special requests, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at l Stevenson@springmont.com.

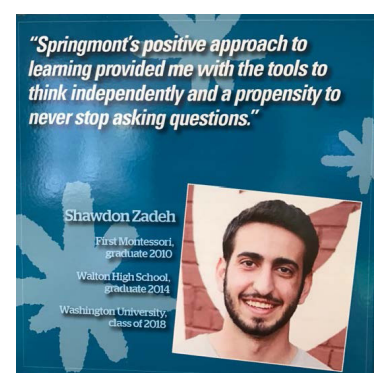
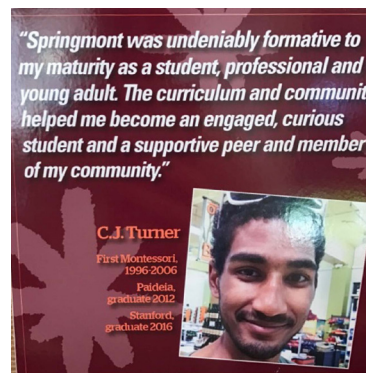


Alumni: The Faces of Springmont

For current Springmont parents, meeting alumni affirms their decision to choose a progressive education for their child. Our Portrait of a Springmont Graduate describes an individual who distinguishes him or herself in ways that underscore our mission to nurture self-directed, resilient and globally aware human beings who contribute to the world. Our alumni are a remarkable testament to a Springmont education that nurtures the whole person - one that balances intellect, raw talent and ambition with personality, imagination and inspiration.

We need your help in informing the community of the value of a Springmont education. If you completed your 6th or 8th year here, there are two ways you can help. First, send us a quote, photo and your educational history (see examples below) so we can make an alumni tile for our wall. Second...

Join us for the Springmont Alumni Panel on Thursday, January 11th. We want to see and hear from you and look forward to recording some alumni testimonials! Email Lauren Stevenson at l Stevenson@springmont.com for details.



Springmont Throwbacks



To see more, follow Springmont Alumni Association on Facebook or SpringmontAlumni on Instagram!