



Escuela de los Amigos de Monteverde/Monteverde Friends School  
Monteverde 5655, Puntarenas  
Costa Rica  
Telefax: (506) 2645-5302/5530

Dear Prospective Monteverde Friends School Parents:

We appreciate your interest in our school. On the first two pages of the document that follows, you will find information regarding our mission, our expectations of students, our expectations of parents, and monthly tuition rates, which you may keep for your records. The Student Registration Form, will enable us to consider your child as a student at our school, once it is filled-out and returned to the school. You may e-mail or fax your documents instead of mailing them, if you prefer. All potential students are placed on a waiting list while we determine availability in each class and in the school as a whole. You will be contacted as soon as we have definite information regarding space for your child at our school.

Sincerely,

Annika Fjelstad  
Director

## **Important Information about the Monteverde Friends School**

### **MFS Mission Statement**

Monteverde Friends School is under the care of the Friends Meeting. Its mission is to provide challenging academic instruction in an atmosphere of love and respect. We aim to be a nurturing and supportive community which recognizes and encourages each student's spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical gifts and potential. We want students to cultivate the understanding, skills, and personal qualities that they need to contribute toward a peace-filled and just society and be responsible participants at school and in their local community. Students are encouraged to develop their creative abilities and critical thinking. The school promotes and appreciation of nature and wise use of natural resources. We strive to create to continue in higher education if they choose. We endeavor to meet the educational needs of children of the Monteverde Friends Meeting and of families who value a Quaker education, without regard to financial need.

### **The Quaker Religion**

Quakerism (officially known as the Religious Society of Friends) is a religion of Christian origin which was founded in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Quakers created a form of spontaneous, open worship which eliminated clergy and placed the focus on the direct religious experience and insight of each person. Each individual is believed to have the ability to interpret the Scriptures with the help of the Christ within, without a human priest or pastor. The Bible as written is not considered to be infallible by most Quakers. Direct messages, or leadings, from the Divine Spirit are also looked to for guidance.

### **Meeting for Worship**

Every Wednesday at 9.00 a.m. the school participates in the regular mid-week worship of the Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends. Our worship has no minister or pre-determined program. It is based in silent group meditation. Each person uses the silence to "center" spiritually. The time can be used for prayer or for reflection on one's own life or on more general concerns. The goal is to achieve direct communion with God. If, in the silence, a thought or a message comes to someone, which they feel internally compelled to share with the group, they stand and speak. Anyone, child or adult, is welcome to share in this manner.

Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings for worship, on Sundays at 10:30 or Wednesdays at 9:00. Translation is always provided. We especially encourage parents who are unfamiliar with Quaker worship to attend, as we feel it will give you a more complete understanding of the school.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

We the students of the Monteverde Friends School have decided upon the following conduct code for our school:

"All students attending the Monteverde Friends School are expected to respect themselves, respect others, respect the buildings and school grounds, and respect the practice of Wednesday Meeting. In addition all students are expected to put forth their best effort toward learning."

This code implies the following behavior at Monteverde Friends School. It implies affirming other people's worth, no put-downs of self or others, talking and listening without interrupting, respect for other people's ideas, cooperative participation in all school activities, taking care of the school property and grounds, respecting the philosophy and role of the Meeting in the school, taking active responsibility for your learning, and behavior that makes a positive environment conducive to learning.

## Parental Involvement and Tuition Information for the 2009-2010 School Year

### PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

*Your tuition covers most of the school's costs, but not all. This is why it is important to help in other ways. In addition to reducing costs, the volunteer assistance of parents helps to promote the values of co-operation, service, and individual responsibility.*

**(These expectations are waived for students who are here without their parents)**

### Each family should contribute to the school in the following ways:

- Participate once a year in the monthly cleaning of the school (families of the month)
- Help in the all-school clean-up before the opening of school
- Attend parent-teacher meetings
- Be willing to confer about your child when necessary
- Participate in all of the fund-raising activities of the parents
- Participate in organizing one of the parent fund-raising activities

### We hope that you can also participate in some of the following ways:

- Serve on a subcommittee
- Sponsor a new teacher: help to orient him/her and to get established here, invite them to dinner or to other gatherings.
- Offer to substitute teach, tutor a student, help a teacher, or teach a mini-course...
- Help with maintenance and repairs (mechanical, carpentry, electrical, plumbing); office and administrative support.
- Help with field trips

### Fees and Tuition Costs for 2009-2010

(Families who have been residents of the Monteverde area for more than one year receive a discount on tuition)

<b>Application Fee</b>	\$30
<b>Registration Fee</b>	\$150
<b>Kinder – 3 days/week</b>	\$130 per month for 10 months
<b>Kinder – 5 days/week</b>	\$215 per month for 10 months
<b>Preparatorio</b>	\$290 per month for 10 months
<b>Elementary (Grades 1–6)</b>	\$400 per month for 10 months
<b>High School (Grades 7–12)</b>	\$460 per month for 10 months
<b>Spanish Tutoring (Grades 7-12)</b>	\$170 per month in addition to tuition
<b>Spanish Tutoring (Grades 3-6)</b>	\$140 per month in addition to tuition
<b>Home Stay (Room and Board)</b>	\$480 per month or \$16 per day

## ACCULTURATION ISSUES FOR STUDENTS COMING FROM ABROAD.

Please print out and keep for your reference

Living in another country is a huge change for a high school student (or anyone else). Know what some of the common reactions of visiting students and volunteers are before you set out

### Positive reactions

- feeling proud to be independent and adventuresome
- pride in self for being on one's own
- appreciation of one's own family
- appreciating the generosity of one's new host family or host school
- feeling you can be a new person in a new school. You can shed old habits or traits you don't like.
- appreciating your opportunity to join a new community and make new friends in another part of the world
- learning or improving your second language
- experiencing the wildly different environments of the tropical cloud forest
- finding commonalities between Quaker communities

### Common negative reactions to being in a foreign culture

- homesickness
- helplessness
- mood swings
- dislike of or even anger about aspects of host culture
- feeling your school or home is superior to those in your host culture
- introversion, spending time alone with the door closed, declining invitations to go somewhere with host family or friends
- disorientation, feeling the loss of one's own identity
- wanting to call home a lot
- feeling inadequate because you can't express yourself in your second language as well as you'd like or you can't understand what you're hearing
- feeling squeamish or even endangered by a new ecosystem (spiders, scorpions, snakes...)
- different combination of many of these

### Positive steps you can take in your new setting

- know these feelings happen to just about everyone, even adults
- trust that by the end of your time you will be sad to leave and happy to have had the experience—and you'll be proud of yourself
- be willing to suspend judgments about the host culture for a while, until you are able to see beyond your initial impressions
- let people know how you feel whenever you can. They will not judge you for being unhappy and you will feel better sharing your thoughts.
- keep busy. Go for walks, practice your second language, or help a younger child at home or at school. Organize a game or a walk or let someone else know this would be helpful.
- ask your host parents if you can bake cookies or a special meal for them
- try to accept invitations from family and friends
- spend time in a common room at your house, rather than lots of time alone in your own room
- keep a journal of questions and observations about your feelings and your ideas
- keep a dictionary of the new words you learn each day
- spend time hiking in the reserve, listening to biologists or guides, and keeping track of the many new species you see

### Steps for parents

- write regularly
- ask teachers and homestay family questions about your child's environment
- help your child remember he or she is on an adventure and that you are proud of them
- remind them that hard things get easier and give them hope that they'll be happy soon.
- consider coming to visit them close to the end of their time here
- read up on the community and country your child is visiting
- trust the natural process of acclimation and acculturation