



# The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Families,

It is so good to be back! We all love being in the classroom with our eager students, presenting our wonderful curriculum, watching students work and learn, and seeing friendships unfold into lasting bonds.

## Lower Elementary

This unusual spring, we are reviewing certain foundational lessons in **Math, Reading and Science** to make sure they have been fully grasped. Our classroom is bursting with incredible work— students laying out materials on every square inch of rug and creating beautiful and intricate posters about the **Timeline of Life and Stellar Nucleosynthesis**. In many ways, the students haven't skipped a beat and it's like they were never gone. In another way, we can feel their hunger for learning and inspiration being back with their friends in the classroom. Students are excited about **Spring Projects** on the two subjects of 1) **Russia** and 2) **Simple Mechanics and Inventions**. If your child has not yet



decided on a project, please speak to Olive.

Spring Parent Conferences will be coming up in early May. We will post the sign-up options soon and will conduct these over Zoom, as we did in November.

We look forward to talking with you soon! The students are doing so well and I can't say this enough: welcome back!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

### Teacher Workshop

No School  
Friday, April 30th

### Memorial Day

No School  
Monday, May 31st

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Kindergarten:  
April 19<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>

Lower Elementary:  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Upper Elementary:  
May 10th – 20th

### Spring Projects Due Dates

Lower Elementary:  
April 26th

Upper Elementary:  
*TBA*

### Summer Art Camp

Begins June 28th ☺

### Last Day of School

Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

# Upper Elementary

Our transition to in-person school in Upper Elementary has been delightful and grounding. There is an atmosphere of gratitude and humility in the classroom after the year of at-home learning, uncertainty, and time away from friends.

We've had a blast studying the hydrosphere and can't get the **Water Cycle Song** out of our heads. You can sing it too! It's to the tune of Clementine: "Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation on my mind... It's all part of the **Water Cycle** and it happens all the time..." We look forward to our **Atmosphere** studies to learn about **Weather, Clouds**, and more. Our history studies have taken us far, far back in time to the dinosaurs in the **Mesozoic Era**, and next up is the **Ice Age**. We're doing an in-depth **Poetry** study after testing and will be reading and writing our hearts out.

Testing week has been an odd mixture of quiet, strange, and fun. The rigid structure of testing is unfamiliar in our sweet Montessori classrooms, but the novelty is engaging. We enjoyed our celebratory pajama and movie day at the end of the week.

Our at-home friends are feeling some FOMO, but we're still sending home packets and welcoming them "into" the classrooms over Zoom. We look forward to a world that is safe enough for everyone to feel comfortable coming back to school!



# 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Preschool & Kindergarten)

This has been quite the rollercoaster year bouncing between at-home and in-person learning, but we have been so excited to connect with the children and watch them blossom no matter where they are learning. The Palo Verde class has begun their studies of **Asia** and the Mesquite Class has now traveled over to **Australia!**

With the turn of season into Spring, we have also been studying **Parts of a Flower**, **Life Cycle of a Daffodil**, and **Pollinators**. Speaking of pollinators, we found 19

Monarch caterpillars on our milkweed this week at school and we are all excited about our **Life Cycle of a Butterfly!** We are looking forward to finishing out the rest of the year as we continue to grow and learn!



# Student Poetry

## A Poem That Has No Name

Majestic,  
towering above.  
Providing life just by breathing.  
The gentle stance,  
Structure of the future.  
Like a chameleon, the drops of chlorophyll  
in its mossy fur unconsciously change  
their moods  
Through years and years of  
our troubled atmosphere, the trees  
see all.  
And with a mastered patience,  
the leaves begin to fall.

By: Elsa Holst Reilley, Grade 5

## Somewhat Lonely

Somewhat  
lonely  
two words that don't  
just intertwine  
they are words that want to meet, for years  
they  
try and try but can  
not defeat the boundary  
that said "you're  
just too lonely to  
be."

By: Anya LeBauer, Grade 4

## Reminders

**Parent Conferences:** We are hosting Parent conferences on Zoom again this Spring. They were a huge success in the Fall, and we look forward to catching up with all our parents! 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue conferences are underway and sign-up information for Lower and Upper Elementary will be emailed out very soon! Please sign up and be prompt to your Zoom appointment.

**Summer Art Camp:** We are so excited to offer 3 weeks of in-person Summer Art Camp! Summer Art Camp will be from June 28 – July 16 at our Ft. Lowell Campus! Bring a friend or cousin to share The Montessori Schoolhouse with them! Be on the lookout for a flyer and email to sign up.

**Change of Contact Info:** As we prepare of the coming year and move to more electronic communication, please keep us updated on any changes in your home address or email address.





*A BIG thank you to everyone in our Montessori Schoolhouse community for making this year a success! We are grateful for the flexibility and support of our families, teachers, and staff throughout this all. From contributing supplies, showing up on time for Zoom, and sending your children to school in masks, to making your tax credit contribution and sending appreciative notes to our teachers, we are so thankful for all of you.*

Warmly,

*Regine, Hannah, Olive, Perla, Paige, Summer, Andrea, Dolores, Lil, Maddie, Nui, Alyssa, Kam, Zoe, Emirse, Rosemary and Matt*

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

—Maria Montessori, *To Educate the Human Potential*