



# The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Montessori Schoolhouse Community,

We hope you're enjoying the beautiful, sunny spring as we navigate the difficulties of these last months and years. The children are savoring their time together, completing colorful and rich work, and gearing up for their Spring Projects. Thank you for your contributions to snack in Lower Elementary, for bringing your students on time to school, for helping us with laundry in Upper Elementary, and for all of the coordination and energy that parenting requires. As always it is a joy to be with your children.

Warmly,

Regine and Hannah

## Lower Elementary

Our Lower Elementary classroom has been thoroughly engaged in two rich and extensive units: the **Wonders of Space and Astronomy** and **Life in the Middle Ages**. The students have been completely fascinated by planets, galaxies and eclipses as well as Mythical Beasts, castles and knights. Who has more fun than this?

Of course, we never stop learning and working on our Reading and Math, Prefixes, Homonyms, Poetry; Line Plots, rounding, Multiplication Sets and triangles!



### UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

#### Spring Break

Monday - Friday,  
March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
No School

#### AzSCI Test

5<sup>th</sup> Graders Only  
Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

#### AASA State Testing

Upper Elementary and  
Middle School Only  
Monday - Thursday  
April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Teacher Workshop

Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
No School

#### School Photos

Ft Lowell Campus  
Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> Ave Campus  
Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

After a period of adjustment, the students of Lower Elementary are now fully engaged in their self-directed learning. They also are deeply committed to their friendships and social discourse so, if you can, please consider arranging a PLAY DATE for your child. Some of them are really making up for lost time.

Spring projects coming soon! Look for hand-out notices.

## Upper Elementary

In Upper Elementary we just closed our unit about **Natural Resources** during which we learned how the world around us provides both renewable and non-renewable resources. Presentations about **Alternative Fuels, Climate Change and Water Resources of the World** sparked some wonderful discussion with our Upper Elementary students around how we can work together to protect and conserve. These lessons also inspired some deeper thinking about our own carbon footprints.



We have just begun our Science unit about **Physics** and have been observing force and work in action. A ball dropping, a rubber band flinging, water boiling, a ukulele strumming, all signs of the energy that is buzzing around us! With SARSEF coming to a close we are happy to announce Upper Elementary **prize winner, Alejandro Perez!** His award-winning project was “Different Ways to Water Pothos.”

Language lessons have focused on writing and reading fluency and comprehension. Additionally, our weekly silent reading time has given the students a designated time to focus on stories, characters, and plot.

Our unit about **Ancient Greece** has sparked interest and excitement about mythology, and we are looking forward to a guest lesson with Paul Amiel, an expert in ancient musical instruments. The students are eager to find out what happens next in our novel, **Percy Jackson**, as he fights mythical beasts. In addition, we are learning about **Ancient Greek** culture and how it has had an impact on modern day celebrations and art. Speaking of art, we have been creating and molding pottery influenced by ancient Greek vessels and making family trees of the Gods and Goddesses.

In Math, **Geometry** is all the rage! Our students are working on finding area, perimeter, and volume by measuring classroom objects. We have been noticing and classifying shapes in our classroom and have been using the Montessori Geometric Cabinet material.





In choir, the students have started learning **The Binding Tale of Beethoven's Bookworms**, a fun musical about the composer Ludwig van Beethoven. Melodies of the musical include "Für Elise" and "Ode to Joy." The kids love it! In other choir news, T-shirts have been handed out to students, and we all just love the new design, which was created by our Lower Elementary teacher, Maddy! The performance date is TBD but will happen sometime in May. We will keep you apprised.

## Middle School

These last few months in our 6th grade class have been full— we're preparing for standardized testing, enjoying an **Algebra Palooza**, we've read two novels, taken two field trips, we've experimented with tiny parachute designs for our **Physics Studies**, and we're traveling through **Ancient Greece**. We read the novel The Lion of Mars, a sci-fi story about a boy living in a human colony on Mars. As an extension of our imaginative studies of life on Mars, we went to Biosphere 2, which was originally an experiment to see if humans could recreate livable conditions in space! Last week for our **Biography Research Projects** we went to the Van Gogh Immersion in Phoenix... it was a sensory sensation. The kids are taking more ownership of our little library classroom by rearranging the furniture and creating their own chore chart, including jobs such as "Wiper Wizard" and "Dustin Bieber." We're excited to expand and spread our wings at our new campus next year!



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

What a great year we have been having so far! All of the children have settled into the routine of the classroom and are finding joy and pride in their work and what they are learning.

The Palo Verde class has spent the last couple of months studying **South America** and have enjoyed learning about the layers of the rainforest, flags, South American animals and culture, and even tasting Venezuelan arepas made by our very own Emirse. In the Mesquite class, the children have had a blast studying **Europe** and learning about castles, landmarks, European animals, and flags. We will be wrapping up Europe with art, music and a taste of Italy and Switzerland (thank you in advance to the Palm family). After Spring Break, the Palo Verde class will travel over to Europe, and the Mesquite class will set off for South America!



During the work period, the children have been continuing to build their Math and Language skills through working with the hands-on material in the classroom. In the Math area, the **45 Card Layout**, the **Hundred Board**, and the **Hanging Bead Chains** are always very popular. In Language we've seen many beautifully illustrated word booklets, the **Farm Job** sentences and many **Metal Inset** designs.



February was a busy month spent celebrating Arizona's statehood, the Rodeo, and our desert biome. We had our own "The Montessori Schoolhouse" Parade with a painted box decorated with paper flowers as well as all the children waving flags from Arizona, USA and even from the Yaqui and Tohono O'odham nations.

Thanks to all our wonderful families for their continued support throughout this school year.

## AfterSchool Program at Ft Lowell



In AfterSchool, we have been hard at work making art art art! From painting to paper-mache, each day we've explored new ways to express our creativity. In February, students got expressive with multi-media collages featuring fabric, sequins, feathers, and pompoms (so many pompoms...) We have also been spearheading a schoolwide collaborative quilt, which will celebrate the life of Mikayla Summers. Most recently, we have been learning





all about the world of comics - whether designing characters or making comic strips with friends, it's always a fun time.



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### Our Dear Mikayla

We are reeling from the loss of Mikayla Summers on January 6th. Our staff and community have been supporting each other and her sweet family with food, words, hugs, Sunday meetings, and art projects. Thank you so much for all of your donations and Meal Train dinners that eased the way during the weeks of acute crisis.

Olive coordinated a beautiful batik flag project in Lower Elementary centered around things Mikayla loved— cats, lizards, Minecraft, and axolotls. From the parking turnaround you can see the flags waving in the breeze over our patio, with Mikayla's name in the middle. Roxane is leading a quilting project in Upper Elementary and Afterschool that is well underway with embroidery and felt animals on quilt squares. We're working with a mosaic artist to create a memorial piece for our campus as a monument to Mikayla's goodness, joy, and light. May her memory be a blessing.



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## Reminders

**Finally, School Photos!** We have been fortunate enough to have had our wonderful Karima White take our school photos for years. This year she is too busy with a full family load, so she has recommended Che Wilson Photography. Che is a seasoned school photographer, and we are eager to get some great school photos for school year 2021/2022. ***Ft Lowell campus will take photos on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue will take photos on April 21<sup>st</sup>.*** Bring your smile!

**AzSCI State Test:** The yearly Science Test will be administered to **Grade 5 only** on **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please make sure your 5<sup>th</sup> grader is well rested, on time and has had a good breakfast on the day of the test.

**AASA State Standard Testing: Grades 3-6 will participate in the state standardized testing on April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please make sure your student(s) is on time to school, well rested and has had a good breakfast on all testing days. Stay tuned for some end-of-testing fun on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Arizona School Tax Credit:** Thank you to all the families who have re-directed their AZ taxes to our school through payment of the Activity Fee. If you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so as soon as possible. **You can allocate \$200/\$400 of your state income tax to our school until April 15, 2022** – every dollar you contribute, you receive back on your AZ Taxes! Ask Rosemary for details if you are unsure how this tax credit works.

### Montessori Quote

“Times have changed, and science has made great progress, and so has our work; but our principles have only been confirmed, and along with them our conviction that humankind can hope for a solution to its problems, among which the most urgent are those of peace and unity, only by turning its attention and energies to the discovery of the child and to the development of the great potentialities of the human personality in the course of its formation.”

Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child

Have a wonderful Spring Break,

*Regine, Hannah, Olive, Perla, Paige, Summer, Andrea, Dolores, Lil, Maddy, Nui, Alyssa, Kristine, Emirse, Leah, Estefania, Roxane, Shawnee, Sarah, Haley, Rosemary and Kerry*

