



The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Parents,

In spite of everything, we're having an incredibly successful start to the school year. Students are sharing wonderful anecdotes about work and friendship, and we're all learning so much every week. We are still enjoying the **Rope Timeline** with its trilobites and woolly mammoths; learning lots of **Place Value** with its thousands and millions; and loving the **Elements of a Story** with its characters and villains.

The students are working hard and accomplishing so much. The presentation videos at all levels are crucial to this process, the equivalent of Morning Circle every day. Please watch all of these every week.

Lower Elementary



Lower Elementary is getting ready to begin its big fall Science and Cultural units. Look for the YouTube presentation next week of **Intro to Human Anatomy** and the week after that, the **Australia Basket**. These will launch those two big units which will continue

throughout much of the next two months. We are looking forward to studying how the human body works, its various systems and organs, and we will also be fascinated by the **History of Medicine**.

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

Fall Break

No School
Friday & Monday
October 9th & 12th
*(*Packet pick-up this
week will be Thurs,
Oct. 8th)*

Veteran's Day

No School
November 11th

Thanksgiving Break

No School
Wed – Fri
Nov. 25th – 27th

Australia, of course, is a cornucopia of intriguing animals and topics to explore endlessly and has the wonderful distinction of being the only country which is also a continent. Or vice versa.

Math rolls along with more geometry and number processes and we are always working on reading and writing skills.

Our Lower Elementary contract assignments have recently expanded to include the addition of **P.E. with Kevin** and **Yoga with Ellen**. And we all LOVE having Bruce back with us singing every Friday at both 6th Ave. and Ft. Lowell. Bruce is indeed a treasure.

Many thanks to all of you parents, for diligently picking up our weekly packets and guiding your student through them. We are very happy so far with both the quality and quantity of work being done.

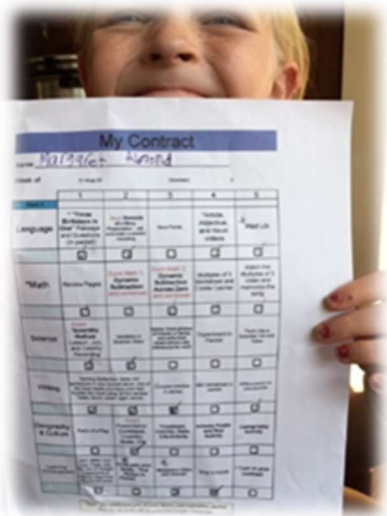


Upper Elementary

In Upper Elementary we've been enjoying our studies of **Arizona**, **The Scientific Method**, and **Narrative Writing**. The student work that we're seeing each week is impressive! It seems like everyone is getting a lot done, and enjoying the creative process of synthesizing new knowledge.

We're learning how to **build community** over Zoom by playing games, having free time in break out rooms with friends, and reading the best-ever read aloud book: *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio. The students are resilient and delightful as usual, and it's been amazing how much fun we can have on our screens together!

Next up we'll be studying the **Engineering Design Process**, **Simple Machines**, **Informative Writing**, and the rich culture and history of **Mexico**. Translating the Montessori hands-on philosophy to the At-Home Learning packets and schedules has been surprisingly inspiring. Miniaturizing our classroom materials, sending little hands-on pieces as much as we can, and really trusting the self-direction of the students has continued to deepen our faith and commitment to the Montessori learning process.



6th Avenue (Preschool & Kindergarten)

What a year! It's exciting to have the preschoolers in person, and it helps to create a sense of community that continues into the afternoon with our kindergarteners on Zoom. We have been exploring our world beginning with **Living/Non-living** , **Plant/Animal** , and **Vertebrates/Invertebrates** , all while learning how to navigate new technologies for at home learning!



We love singing with Bruce on Friday mornings (Reminder: join us at 9am!) and our kindergarteners enjoy story time with Lil on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (Reminder: join us at 11am or 11:30am!). We appreciate the help and support of our families during this interesting time!

AZ SCHOOL TAX CREDIT INFORMATION

Thank you to all the families who have already re-directed their AZ taxes to our school. These are dollars well spent on our abundant safety precautions and extra technology during this time, as well as on the extracurricular activities we can provide virtually.

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 15th—for every dollar contributed, you can receive it all back on your Arizona taxes!** Ask Rosemary for details if you are unsure how this tax credit works.

At-Home Learning Highlights

We are all so proud of our teachers, staff, students, and parents for adapting to these unique times and creating a way to continue our joyful learning and acquisition of knowledge from home! Our innovative At-Home Learning Kits, unique amongst kindergarten and elementary programs, have been a huge success enabling our students to continue their hands-on education and learning. We have also moved our minstrel sessions online for our Lower Elementary students, so they have been able to sing and dance at home. We hope your student is enjoying the yoga and P.E. videos!



Reopening Plans

We continue to monitor the Arizona Department of Health Services for re-opening guidance. In a nutshell, we are waiting for the Pima County positivity rate of the virus to go down. It must at least be at 7% to even consider a part time reopening schedule. 5% or less is better. We will certainly keep you up to date on our decisions!



Thank Yous

- Thank you to all parents and families who continue to support us with their tax credit contributions. We cannot overstate the immediate value of these.
- Thank you to parents for the generous donations of supplies and cleaning products.
- Thank you for diligently picking up your At-Home Learning Kits on time each week.
- Thank you for keeping your families and kids safe, and supporting their education with encouragement and structure at home!

Warmly,

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