



The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Families,

Our post-lockdown classrooms are well underway now, thankfully. Teachers and students alike are working very hard, still adjusting, still picking up a few pieces from being at home nearly a year, but are now thriving.

Thank you all so much for sending everyone in masks.

Let's peek into our humming classrooms:

Lower Elementary



Lower Elementary is diving into **Early Humans and the Ice Age**, a rich science unit. Who doesn't love woolly mammoths, Smilodon saber-toothed cats and Giant Sloths? Not to mention cave art, frozen lichen and moving glaciers? This unit will be one of the students' choices for

Fall Projects.

In history and culture we are going west in covered wagons, panning for gold, building sod houses and sewing quilts. We will also be meeting some Native Americans on this long, dusty trip, and churning some hard-earned butter.

Math is going strong with number processes, counting and adding **money** and “paying” for snack. A home suggestion: put a price on dinner or some other activity and have your student “pay” for it... We also love geometry and are introducing **lines** and **angles** as well as a perennial favorite: POINT, LINE, PLANE, SOLID...

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

Veterans Day Break

No School
Thursday and Friday,
November 11th and 12th

Thanksgiving Holiday

No School
Wednesday – Friday
November 24th – 26th

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Kindergarten:
Oct 25th – Nov 3rd
Lower Elementary:
Nov 1st – 10th
Upper Elementary:
Oct 25th – Nov 5th

Fall Projects Due

December 1st
Lower Elementary &
Upper Elementary/Middle
School

Winter Break

Monday, December 20th
– Friday December 31st

School Resumes
Monday, January 3, 2022

We have a group of fantastic readers running through workbooks like butter (speaking of butter), laying out **Elements of a Story** with great enthusiasm and matching **Synonyms**. We are focusing on **Reading Comprehension** and soon we'll be doing more writing.

Speaking of **SNACK**, we cannot thank you enough for all the great treats you have been bringing. Our cupboards and tables are full of interesting and delicious things that the students rush over for every day. Thank you for signing up and bringing such delicious food for us.

We will soon be starting **PARENT CONFERENCES**. Yay! These will be done on ZOOM so we will upload the SIGN-UP GENIUS for this process. Please sign up for a spot during this two-week conference window.

Olive and I so look forward to meeting with you and talking about your student(s).



Upper Elementary



The Upper Elementary classrooms are buzzing with so much energy! The students are very engaged with the beautiful materials and are enjoying each other's company. So far, we have worked through a **Chemistry** unit that began with **Stellar Nucleosynthesis** and ended with **The Law of Conservation of Mass**. Additionally, during one of our lessons, we broke glass and fried an egg to experience **Physical and Chemical Changes**. Now we are off to **Thinking Like a Scientist**, and we will be doing **Scientific Experiments** in the coming

weeks.

In **Math**, students have been practicing the four operations, and some students have been working on **Long Division** with our amazing **Division Test Tubes**. **Fraction Camp** is well under way for 5th grade math students, and 4th and 3rd graders will begin their **Fraction Camp** soon. We begin lessons by singing camp songs around a "campfire."

In **Language Arts**, we have been studying the **Parts of Speech** beginning with **The Noun Family** and most recently, **Prepositions** and **Conjunctions**. We have also studied **Elements of a Story** and **Components of Plot** which culminated in a narrative writing process they completed over a few weeks during our weekly writing time. This week, we began **Informative Writing**, which



will help the students be prepared to write their **Fall Project** reports (project notices coming soon).

In **Culture** and **Geography** we had a wonderful time studying **Ancient Mesopotamia** - everything from early inventions to **Hammurabi's** brutal legal code. We made barley stew for our **New Moon Festival!** Now we're wading into the Nile in **Ancient Egypt...**

Our wonderful **yoga** and **chess** programs are well underway, and **choir** has also started! We have close to 60 kids in the Tutti Choir, and about 30 in the Advanced Choir. Ask your student all about it!

*Choir T-Shirt order forms coming soon.

Middle School

The Montessori Schoolhouse Middle School is off to a great start with our nine 6th graders! We began our **Language Arts** studies with Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey and character archetypes. We've been reading and discussing fabulous chapter books, enjoying science lessons on **Scientific Thinking** and the **Characteristics of All Living Things**, using Duolingo to practice **French** and **Spanish**, and practicing notetaking during our lessons. As the kids navigate the increasing complexity of adolescence we're also having lessons about Communication Choices and I-Messages, and sitting together for **Empathy Circles** based on the Nonviolent Communication framework. Stay tuned for updates on the continuing build-out— we look forward to adding 7th grade next year!



6th Avenue (Preschool & Kindergarten)



The children at 6th Avenue are settling in nicely, making friends, working independently and constructively. We began the year discovering our natural world, from **Living vs Non-living** to **Plants vs Animals**, **Plant Life Cycles**, **Parts of a Tree**, to **Vertebrates vs Invertebrates**, and now taking a closer look at our vertebrates. Students are exploring geography with globes, puzzle maps and "Culture Baskets." We will spend the next several weeks studying North America and then travel around the world to South America and then off to Europe. During the work period the children are learning about Math and Language through individual and small group lessons. Every day brings new experiences of sounds and symbols and numerals, rhyming words, **I Spy**, **Sandpaper Letters**, **Sound Trays**, **Objects Boxes**, **Moveable Alphabet**, **Magic "e"**, **Hanging Beads**, **Teens**, **Making Tens**, the **45 Layout**, the **30 Board**, the **100 Board**, addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division!!

This year in our classrooms we have Leah assisting Andrea in the Palo Verde classroom and Emirse is assisting Summer in the Mesquite classroom. We are so pleased to have Dolores returning to the classroom a few days a week and we welcome Estefania as an assistant to both classrooms in the morning and to our afternoon program. We welcome Sarah who will be joining Estefania in our afternoon program. Check out our current Bios on our website, we will be updating for our newer staff members soon.



Points of Interest at 6th Avenue

- Please label all of your child's belongings..... lunch box, water bottle, extra clothing.
- We are a "PEANUT FREE" school so please check all food packages and lunch items.
- Our KINDER/ PRE – 1st Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the Weeks of October 25th and November 1st. Pre-school conferences will be announced soon after.

Montessori Philosophy

Reasonable *choices* are what we offer all children in order to build their sense of agency and skills in decision making.

"Would you like to find a job in the Math area or the Science area?"

"Would you like to walk up the stairs yourself or do you need my help?"

"Do you want to wear the blue shirt or the red shirt?"

Reminders

Parent Conferences: We are hosting Parent conferences on Zoom again this Fall for the Ft. Lowell campus. We look forward to catching up with all our parents! Please sign up and be prompt to your Zoom appointment.

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.

Other Miscellaneous

The **Bake Sale for Mikayla** was a huge success! It was so heartwarming to see all of the kids, families and strangers come enjoy cupcakes, buy plants, and marvel at the crafts. Parent volunteers were organized and spirited. It was an excellent community event and we raised over \$5,000 for Mikayla's family. Thank you EVERYONE for showing up and participating! We're holding the Summers family in our hearts and in the support of this loving community.



We want to **welcome our new staff** this school year. Welcome to Leah, Estefania and Sarah at 6th Ave, and Roxane, Shawnee and Kerry at Ft. Lowell. We are enjoying a wonderful year!

Warmly,

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

Poetry from Lower Elementary

Once you see the ocean
It's blue just like the sky

Its waves are like wings
Lifting them up to the clouds

Once I see it
I imagine being the blue sky
I see it like a pattern going on forever
There's so many beautiful things on the Earth
I look at it and think
I have to take one more peek.

By: Spencer Carillo

The Moon's Melody

I was looking at the moon when I felt a sliver in my eye.
I wondered how it came across from my body to my mind.

Its feeling was like a shining moon
making its way through the night using its dark light.

A thought went in my head
saying the blue sky is just a feeling to you.

I closed my eyes and imagined the moon in my head.
It spoke to me, saying I will find my way to myself.

By: Gabby Mendez