



The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Families,

With the crisp cool of autumn finally sneaking into our Sonoran mornings, we are thrilled to share with you our latest fall semester news and updates from The Montessori Schoolhouse.

From treks across the continents at the Preschool and Kindergarten to treks out into the wilderness by our Middle Schoolers, it's been a dynamic and exciting time.

Please read on to catch news bits from all the classrooms as work, learning and friendships unfold everywhere....

Lower Elementary

So wonderful to see all the Lower Elementary families at our recent Open House, many of you for the first time!

We hope you enjoyed examining some of our glorious learning materials and subjects: Science's **Rope Timeline** - Life on Earth from microscopic organisms, to Modern Humans; Literature **Elements of a Story** - What is the role of the villain?; the awesome **Millions Cube** from Math; and Geography's **World Landmarks** just to name a few.



In addition, we are currently "traveling" to **China**. In the layout to the left, our students have carefully examined and catalogued cultural, historical, and linguistic art and artifacts!

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

Veterans Day

No School
Friday, November 11th

Parent Conferences
November/December
Stay tuned for details!

Thanksgiving Holiday

No School
Wednesday - Friday
November 23rd - 25th

Winter Break

No School
Monday, December 19th through
Friday, December 30th
(School resumes Monday, January 2nd)

AZ State Tax Credit Contributions

\$200 per Single Filer

\$400 per Married Filer

Please be generous and donate today!

Upper Elementary

Meanwhile, Upper Elementary students are eagerly studying the **Scientific Method**, answering questions about molecules and density, and learning that spontaneous generation is a myth. We are practicing our engineering skills via the **Engineering Design Process** and brainstorming ways we might improve the world around us. Students were challenged to make solid chairs out of paper and tape that can hold weight and the results did not disappoint! In **Math**, students are working away on two-digit long division, two-digit multiplication, and honing their multiplication facts.



Our **Geography** work and lessons on **Indigenous Americans** provided insights into where we live. Plus, we were so excited to welcome Maegan and Rodger with the **Mission Garden** to The Schoolhouse! Their gorgeous first round of presentations included details about native plant species and how we can carry on the gardening practices of our native ancestors. Exploring dried gourds, creosote, sun dried squash, and agave with our hands was quite the sensory experience. The students enjoyed illustrating what they learned in their

hand-crafted thank you notes, and we are looking forward to welcoming them back for their second visit soon.

Also, we want to thank all the families who have volunteered for laundry service so far this year. We do like to keep our classrooms tidy!

Middle School

The Montessori Schoolhouse Middle School is thriving at our Dunbar Pavilion campus. Students have enjoyed activities such as **computer dissection** and **frog dissection** (two very different things), a **Hero's Journey obstacle course**, reading literature books (we're currently reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry), and our first **camping** trip just before Fall Break.

Our new Dr. Michael Turner is teaching an incredible **STEM** curriculum! We're getting along great and enjoy laughing together every day. Hannah loves teaching **Humanities**,



including **Economics** and **Government** as a precursor to studying **Revolutions**.



Treven Hooker is leading a rich and experiential nature program every Friday. We're learning fire skills, nature appreciation, species identification, and more.

We look forward to hosting a Middle School Information Session in December, details TBA!

6th Avenue (Preschool & Kindergarten)



We have begun our year learning about our “world”. The children are busy exploring the **continents** with globes, puzzles and our “**Culture Baskets**”. As we learn more about our world, we begin with our very own Continent of North America and then travel across the globe to Africa and Antarctica.

Our **Science** area is very busy with children working with simple anatomy, colors of

the rainbow, magnets (always attractive) and classification.

In **Language** we are listening for the sounds that words make and the symbols for those sounds. Students work with the **Moveable Alphabet**, the **Sound Trays** and the **Sound Bingo** game daily. And, many of our children are practicing their writing skills with the light table and the **Metal Insets**.



Math is full of units, 10-bars, 100-squares and 1000 cubes, and the **Memory Games** and our **Colored Bead Materials** (from the **Bead Stairs** to the **Long Chains**) remain ever popular job choices!

AfterSchool Program at Ft Lowell



AfterSchool at our Ft Lowell campus is well underway. We’ve delighted and enthralled our students’ eager minds and senses with projects ranging from origami to clay creations to beading, weaving, collaging and more!

Through these hands-on projects, we’ve explored mythology, history, and storytelling as we play with color, texture, forms, and shapes.

Ask your child about their favorite AfterSchool activities! Also, stay tuned for details about our AfterSchool activities at our other campuses in coming newsletters.



Reminders

Student Absences: Nothing is more important in a Montessori classroom than attendance. Every day missed means vital academic presentations missed that are not repeated. We encourage parents to have their child attend school every day possible and certainly avoid family vacations on top of regularly scheduled school holidays. Thank you!

Also, please remember to always call the school if your child will be absent that day. Per our school policy, we need to know when a student will not be joining us and whether that's due to illness or some other reason.

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, 2023 – every dollar you contribute, you receive back on your AZ Taxes! Ask Rosemary or Jennie for details if you are unsure how this tax credit works.

Lastly, we want to welcome our new staff this school year. Welcome to Michael, Treven and Dylan at the middle school, Rhonda, Ana, and Rue at 6th Ave, and Jennie, Jessica, Emmaline and Paige Isom, at Ft. Lowell. We are enjoying a wonderful year so far and are so grateful for all our staff!

Warmly,

Regine, Hannah, Jennie, Olive, Perla, Paige Noble, Summer, Michael, Rhonda, Jessica, Dolores, Maddy, Nui, Paige Isom, Emirse, Leah, Ana, Roxane, Treven, Dylan, Emmaline, Alyssa, Lil, and Rosemary

A BIT OF LITERARY NEWS!

Regine has recently published a book of poetry called *Oxidized Pennies* (Alien Buddha Press, 2022). It is for sale on Amazon, or you can pick up a copy directly at the Fort Lowell campus. Enjoy!