



# The Montessori Schoolhouse

Dear Families,

This year we're celebrating all things new and familiar! Paige's new baby, new floors in our Ft. Lowell building, new staff members, and a new Middle School classroom are inspiring and novel. Meanwhile many, many long term staff, beautiful hands-on materials made with care over the decades, and faithful families who have been with us for years are holding the culture and heart of our dear Montessori Schoolhouse. Thank you to everyone for making this another successful start to the school year!

## Lower Elementary

Lower Elementary is about to begin its annual study of how life unfolded on Earth, from trilobites to woolly mammoths to Early Humans. We will spin off with those **Early Humans** to a full unit on their life, the **Ice Age** and **Evolution**.

At the same time, we are traveling west with the **Pioneers**, loading up our covered wagons and exploring **The Old West**. Get ready to churn butter, sew quilts and pan for gold!



USA Timeline beautifully laid out by Wesley

### Middle School Parent Breakfast

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park  
Tuesday, Oct 3 at 8:30AM

### Mini Fall Break

No School  
Thursday, Friday, Monday  
Oct 5, 6, and 9

### Lower Elementary Parent/Student Picnic

Wednesday, Oct 18  
12:00PM – 1:00PM

### Upper Elementary Parent Classroom Visit and Coffee

Thursday, Oct 26  
8:15AM -9:30AM

### Veterans Day Observed

No School  
Friday, Nov 10

### School Photo Days

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Campus,  
Thursday Oct 26

Ft. Lowell Campus,  
Wednesday Nov 1

Middle School Campus  
Thursday Nov 9

Mathematically speaking, **Place Value** is King (think giant millions cube) and the students are learning to “carry” in addition, now called “regrouping.”

We have a class of superb readers so, in addition to learning about nouns and verbs, they are being assigned to read chapter books from our small library. What fun!

Please note, everyone, that we will be hosting a **Parent Picnic** on Wednesday, October 18th. We will ask you to bring a picnic lunch and join your student and the staff. We can't wait to see you all!

## Upper Elementary

The school year is off to a great start! The students have been joyfully engaging with the beautiful materials in our classrooms.

In **Language Arts**, we began the school year by writing imaginative narratives; we are now moving into developing our informational writing skills.

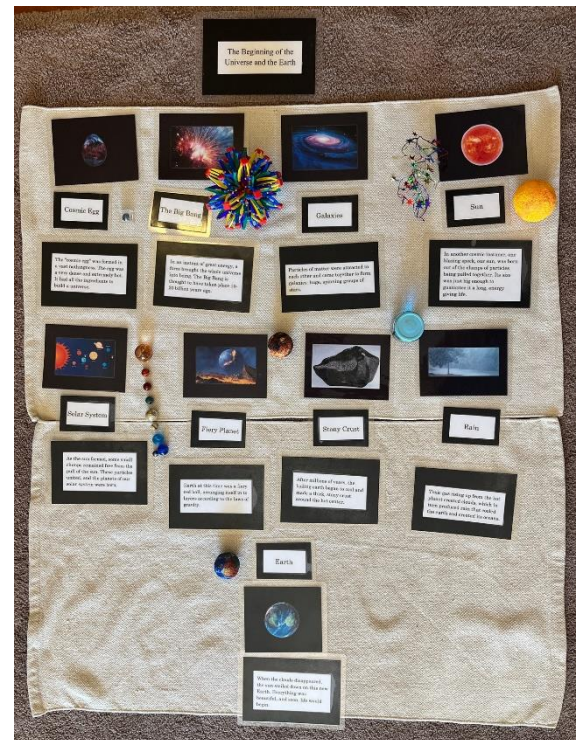
In **Science**, the students have had hands-on learning with **The Scientific Method** and the **Engineering Design Process**. This week we presented the **First Great Lesson** which describes the beginning of the universe and the earth through a story filled with hands-on demonstrations. Ask your student all about it!

In **Math**, the students have been focusing on the four fundamental operations of arithmetic: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The 3rds are currently working on their times tables, and the 4ths and 5ths are working on 1-digit and 2-digit multiplier problems, respectively. Additionally, the students have been using their math knowledge to solve intricate word problems.

In **Geography/Culture**, we have been learning about **México**. Presentations have included the **México Culture Basket**, **The Geography and Biomes of México**, **The Maya and Aztec Timelines**, and **Frida Khalo & Diego Rivera**. We will be wrapping up the unit with a cultural celebration in the coming days.

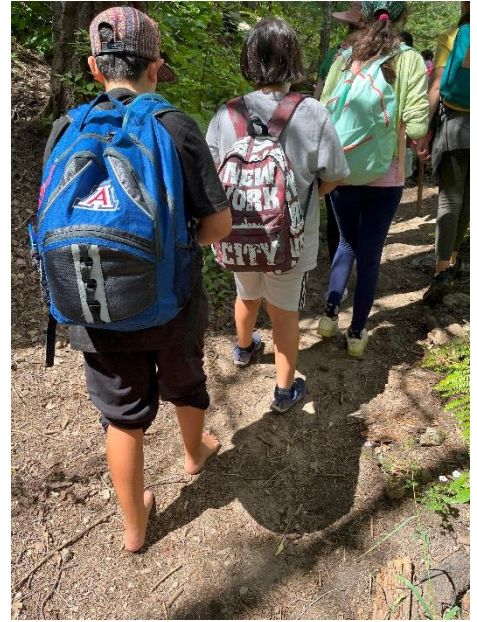
## Middle School

At the Middle School we're loving our new, temporary classroom at the Pima Community College Downtown Campus. We've been studying **World Religions**, **Algebra**, **Geometry Proofs and Theorems**, **Ecosystems**, **Spanish Verb Conjugations**, and the **Hero's Journey**. We've eaten bagels to celebrate Judaism, studied Hindu Gods and Goddesses,



First Great Lesson Layout

listened to Gregorian chanting, and written Hero's Journey narratives (the stories are exciting, full of well-formatted dialogue, and sometimes terrifying!). Our new science teacher Kateri helped each student build a living terrarium-in-a-jar with bugs, plants, soil, rocks, and mini water cycles. Most of them are still alive! Col is loving teaching a rigorous high-school prep math program, and the students are working hard using a **Hands-On Equations** material, as well as a classic **Geometry** textbook for the 8th graders. Students finished their first **Literature Study** novel of the school year by reading either Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston, Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor, or Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone. We analyzed the Hero's and Heroine's Journeys from the stories, and we celebrated by making jollof rice and crafty art projects related to the stories and characters.



We went on our first outdoor excursion to Marshall Gulch on Mt. Lemmon last week with Treven Hooker from the Arizona Trail Association, and the students took detailed observational notes in their **Nature Notebooks** after we hiked to a beautiful spot next to a creek for lunch. We did a silent, reflective hike out before driving back to school.

Students are enjoying being together and we're looking forward to our second quarter!



Exploring the Praying Mantis life cycle including the exo-skeleton found on the playground.

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

It has been a joy to witness children engaged in rich hands-on learning experiences here at the 6th Ave location. The beginning of the year is a great time to review the beginning sounds of words, refresh our memory on quantity and numerals, and dive deep into seasonal science activities. Our monsoons inspired exploration into the **Water Cycle**, and we have been enjoying ongoing **Vertebrate/Invertebrate** studies complete with real life examples (found on our playground) and art projects.

We feel very grateful to have such a kind and curious group of students this year and things are off to a wonderful start!

# AfterSchool Program (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

Our awesome AfterSchool staff from our 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue campus created a “Library” for our students to borrow and care for books. They have a library card with their picture and a reading list for the books they have checked out.



## *Odds & Ends*

### Thank Yous!

- A great BIG THANK YOU to all parents that bring **snack** on a monthly rotation. We love the cut-up fruit and the watermelon was a huge hit, as well as the interesting crackers and home-made apple bread! You have all been so generous with snack.
- Also, a great big thank you to Upper Elementary parents that sign-up to wash the towels the students use for cleanup in their classroom.
- Thank you for all the school supplies. Our students’ classrooms are well stocked for the entire year. We so appreciate all the paper products and supplies!!

### CLOTHING REMINDERS:

- Please have your student wear shorts or leggings under dresses or skirts and be cautious of too-short shorts. Our students often work on the floor and sometimes too much is exposed.
- Please remind your child to wear appropriate footwear on PE days. PE for Lower Elementary is on Wednesday and for Upper Elementary it is on Friday. Please, no flip flops or dress shoes. Inappropriate footwear can cause a student to miss out on PE.

**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** – 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.

And finally, we wish to congratulate Paige and Matt on the birth of their baby! Kizziah was born last week, and everyone is healthy and happy!

Warmly,

*Regine, Hannah, Col, Kateri, Perla, Nui, Olive, Dolores, Summer, Jesse, Paige, Dylan, Lucas, Alicia, Maddy, Alyssa, Emirse, Isa, Lisa, Luka, Roxane, Sam, Ana, Ellery, Jessica, Treven, Jennie and Rosemary*