

The Montessori Schoolhouse

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Dear Families,

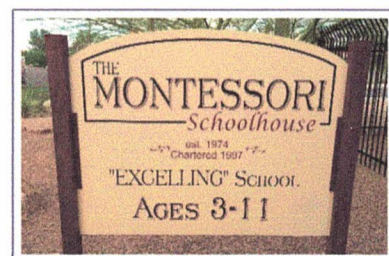
As our desert explodes into a magical kingdom, I have some wonderful news to report: 5 of our students have won and received honors at the annual Desert Museum Earth Day Poetry Contest. One 1st place (!!) Minnie Phares, 2 Second places (!!) Lila Meinecke and Marjorie Mendez and 2 Honorable Mentions: Hannah Renner and Annalie Early Clark. And we proudly attach the winning poems to this newsletter.

I must take a moment to add that we have had a banner year in Lower Elementary in poetry writing with many of our students shining with their lyrical and metaphorical poetry. Please be sure during Open House to stop and read all the poems displayed on our walls.

We enjoyed seeing all of you in Parent Conferences and look forward to celebrating again at Open House. See you then!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

In Lower Elementary we are wrapping up our amazing **Spring Project** presentations. We have enjoyed a wide range of subjects from **China** and **Human Anatomy**: everything from lungs, hearts and cell models to pandas, noodles and great landmarks of China! The students have



Upcoming Events and Information

UPPER ELEM CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

Sat., May 11th

Call time 11:00

Concert at 12:00

OPEN HOUSE

Wed., May 15th

4:45 – 6:00

MEMORIAL DAY

Mon., May 27th

No School

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Thurs., May 30th

Early Release

6th Ave 11:30-11:45

Lower EI 11:45-12:00

Upper EI 12:00-12:15

School closes at 12:15

No lunch, No AfterSchool

SUMMER ART CAMP

June 24th – July 12th

3 weeks

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wed., Aug. 14th

Early Release

No Lunch-No AfterSchool



learned so much and a special thanks to the Moores who went to China and brought us back a beautiful set of **Terracotta Warriors!**

This year it is clear that our Lower Elementary students have taken poetry writing to a new level. In addition, our language study has also included the beautiful, the popular, the always unique: **Elephant Antonyms!** Last year, our fantastic assistant, Maddie, added a whole set of these, hand-painted, and they are now a beloved activity.

Math continues to challenge and elevate our skills. We are energetically collecting data and making **Bar Graphs**, practicing **Multiplication** and learning **Coordinates**.

Science has segued from **Human Anatomy** to **Weather and Climate**. Using warm water and ice Olive demonstrated the

Water Cycle of evaporation/condensation/rain and the students were fascinated.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

In **Geography**, the Upper Elementary students are taking a tour of the continent of **Africa**. We began this unit by discussing and studying the size of this continent, the regions, and the types of biomes that thrive within. One memorable lesson was the African Serengeti. We moved into learning about the early years of Africa and explored a **Timeline** spanning 10,000 years. Next, we are focusing on learning the culture and qualities of a variety of countries in Africa, including **Morocco** and **Madagascar**. In addition to learning about Africa, the students have been looking at the **United States** more closely and becoming familiar with the **State Capitals!**

Over the last few weeks Upper Elementary has been busy writing **Book Reports**. After reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* earlier in the year, we were excited to discuss the book further and focused our reports on this thrilling novel. The students concluded that this book was one of friendship and courage! Wrapping up our **Language Arts**, we are heading into a **Creative Writing** unit about **Letter Writing**. The students are excited to dive into this meaningful form of communication. Fountain pens and special paper make the whole process more exciting!

Our final **Science** unit of the school year is **Astronomy**. With lessons such as **Galaxies**, **Hubble's Law**, **The Life Cycle of Stars**, and **Black Holes**, the students have plenty of material to make wonderful, colorful, and thorough poster recordings which adorn our walls. Coming up are lessons about **The Light Year**, **Constellations**, and the **Milky Way**! All these lessons have provided opportunities for conversations in subjects such as **Chemistry**, **Mythology**, and our place in the **Universe**.

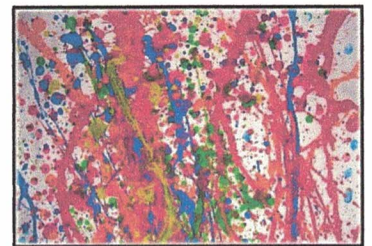
We are enjoying the final weeks of school by continuing our rich and advanced **Math** lessons. In recent weeks, the students have been learning about **Square Roots** and **Cubed Roots** by working with the wonderful **Montessori Bead Chain Cabinet**. Ask your student all about **Squares** and **Cubes**! Other end-of-year **Math** lessons for 3rd and 4th grade students include **Long Division** with the **Montessori Test Tube Division** material, **Standard Multiplication** with the **Montessori Multiplication Checkerboard**, and advanced work with **Fractions**: For 3rd grade, this means **Adding & Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators**, and for 4th grade, this means **Multiplying with Mixed Numbers** and **Dividing Fractions**. In 5th grade **Math**, students are preparing for middle school math. They have worked with **Median-Mean-Mode-Range** in a variety of ways. They have also begun working with **Positive and Negative Integers**, including adding and subtracting. Ask them all about the **Bank Account Game**! We find that **Math** is consistently a favorite subject amongst our students; we think that it is in part because of our wonderful array of Montessori math materials.

CHOIR

Our **Spring Concert** is this **Saturday at Noon** at **First Christian Church**. Call time is **11:00 AM** for singers. We are in for a treat! *In addition to singing, we will also be playing instruments!* Join us for a truly memorable end-of-year concert! Please have your Upper Elementary student fed and wearing concert attire of blue jeans and choir t-shirt.

SUMMER ART CAMP 2019!

We are so excited to announce our Summer Art Camp program, June 24th – July 12th! Week 1 will be ***3D and the Art of BUILDING***, week 2 is ***Glue, Salt & Sponges: The Art of Printmaking*** and the last week will be ***Abstract Art and the Art of Throwing Paint***. Please join us for some ***building, printmaking and throwing paint*** this summer!





TEACHER APPRECIATION

Thank you to those families who bestowed gratitude on our teachers, and if you missed **Teacher Appreciation Week**, please take a moment to show your child's teacher just how appreciated they are. Teachers work tirelessly, everyday, to assist your student in the learning process. *A simple **THANK YOU**, card or small gift means the world to them.*

YEARBOOKS

The Upper Elementary students have completed their annual yearbooks and will have a **yearbook signing party** on the last day of school. This is a fun event for our Upper El students so be sure your student does not miss it!

A YEAR END THANK-YOU!

As we close out another successful year, we wish to thank all the parents, grandparents and staff for their unending dedication to our school and to our students. We are so fortunate to continue to have *Ellen* our marvelous yoga teacher, *Ken* our amazing chess teacher, *Chia-Chun, Shen* and *Woan Ching* our extremely talented music teachers, *Perla* who really makes Upper El sing with passion and *Bruce* who brings musical wonderment to 6th Ave and Lower Elementary students!

GRADUATION CEREMONIES



Graduation ceremonies are being held at the end of May for 2nd and 5th graders. *These are heartfelt affairs for students and teachers only.* The graduates are honored by their teachers and their classmates. We wish them well as they move up to Upper Elementary or on to middle school. It is a very touching event for teacher and student!

Have a leisurely summer and we will see you in August for another wonderful year,

*Regine, Hannah, Olive, Perla, Paige, Maddie, Emily, Alicia,
Gabriella, Samantha, Rosemary, Nancy & Kristine*

The Sunset

By: Minnie

The sun sets,
The owl hoots.
The stream acts like magic as
The sky turns to red
To blue
To pink
To purple.
The mountain lion yawns
Before she eats her supper.
The wind rustles the leaves.
I yawn too.
I say, "Good night, Desert."

Grass

By: Margie

Such creatures,
Keeping their balance.
Grass as green as lime,
As pointy as dragon's scales.
It greets me with a dance.

Monsoons By Annalie

***Pouring, lightning, thunder
After days and days of heat
Finally, monsoons.***

The Desert's Song

By Lila

The coyote howls to the red blood moon
as the black bird sings a very sad tune.
The tortoise goes slowly down his trail
as the rattle snake shakes his tail.

The desert's song
plays all night long.

The bobcat purrs
as the javelina snorts, scowls and grns.
The coyote howls to the red blood moon
as the black bird sings a very sad tune.

The desert's song
plays all night long.

Sunset By Hannah

*The desert sunset barely peeking out
From behind the mountains.*

*Night begins to fall
Settling into its place.*

*Creatures run about
And the lizards find their homes.*

*Finally, complete darkness falls
Although the moon's silhouette shines softly
I say, "Hello darkness."*