

# The Montessori Schoolhouse

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Dear Montessori Families,

It was wonderful seeing you all at Open House and in recent conferences. We got a chance to share with you our inspiring classrooms, enjoy presentations by Judi and Perla about Montessori education and rave to you about your amazing children.

This is always a rich time of year for the students as we segue into Fall Projects, higher math and writing.

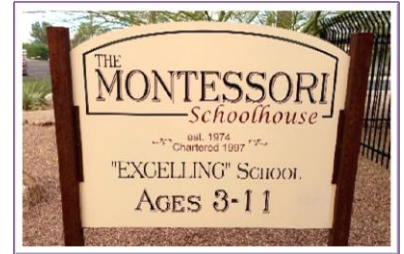
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## **LOWER ELEMENTARY**

Lower Elementary loves its **Pioneer Basket, Wagon Train Timeline** and **Gold Rush** jobs as part of the **Pioneers Going West** cultural unit. **Biome** study has included our very own **Sonoran Desert**, the Great Barrier Reef for **Ocean**, the **Polar Regions**, and Brazil's **Rainforest**. These are the two Project units this fall.

Our students have been working relentlessly on math processes, mastering the difficult tasks of **Regrouping** (we

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## Upcoming Events and Information

### **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Wed. Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fri. Nov 25<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

School resumes Mon. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>

### **PROJECT DUE DATES**

- **LOWER ELEM,  
MON. NOV 28<sup>TH</sup>**
- **UPPER ELEM,  
TUES. NOV 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### **WINTER BREAK**

**Mon. Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

School resumes Mon. Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **UPPER ELEM**

#### **CHOIR CONCERT**

**Friday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30P.M.**

**5:45 P.M. Call Time**

Venue TBD

### **MLK DAY**

**Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

### **RODEO HOLIDAY**

**Thurs. Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fri. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

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used to call it Carrying & Borrowing!!). **Column, Row & Array** introduce multiplication sets in a most colorful way.

In Language, we are mastering the **Parts of Speech** and, in particular, focusing on importance of the **Adjective** as preparation for quality writing. (*Which is better, **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, or ...**The Caterpillar?***) (*Which is better, **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish** or ...**Fish Fish Fish Fish?***)

## **UPPER ELEMENTARY**

The Upper Elementary classroom is bursting with the love of learning! **Fall Project** presentations are in full swing, and will be covering the engaging subjects of **Native Americans** and **Simple Machines**. **Projects are due Tuesday, 11/29/2016.**

Our class pet, Bubbles the betta fish, has been a big hit! Our Science unit that centers on our class pet includes lessons on the **Scientific Method, Experiment Design, Animal Classification, Parts and Habitat** of the betta fish and much more! **Simple Machines** is on the horizon for our next Science unit.

In Language, students have been mastering their **Research** writing skills with **Research and Note-taking, How to Write a Report,** and **Proofreading and Editing.** Ask your student about their in-class animal report they just completed! **Comparing and Contrasting Essays** will soon be presented with an essay assignment comparing the first Thanksgiving with today's modern Thanksgiving! In addition, recent grammar studies have included **Commas, Quotation Marks,** and **Conjunctions.** (*Conjunction Junction!* Remember that School House Rock song?)

**Fourth and 5<sup>th</sup> grade** Math students are finishing up their study on **Fractions,** and will soon be working with **Decimals** and **Pre-Algebra** concepts. **Third-graders** are beginning their study of **Fractions,** and students of all grade levels have been studying the **Order of Operations** and **Word Puzzles.**



Pioneer Basket in Lower Elem

In Geography, we are nearing the end of our fascinating unit on **Native Americans**, which has included lessons on the **Tribal Regions of North America**, **The Three Sisters** and **Native Seeds**, and **Tribes of the Southwest**. This unit has provided much inspiration for **Fall Projects!**

In Art, students are thoroughly enjoying their lessons given by Gabriella, our new art teacher! Projects include **clay sculpture**, **line drawing and painting techniques**, among many mediums! **Upper El Choir** had the privilege of using the new classroom for the first time for choir rehearsals! Students are very excited about their upcoming choir performance on Friday, January 13 at 6:30 P.M. **Choir t-shirt order forms have been sent out and are due Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**



## 2016 AzMERIT and AIMS 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Results

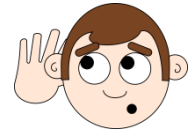
We are immensely proud of our Montessori students and how they performed on the state standardized tests this past spring. **All our Fourth graders met the standard on the AIMS Science and almost all exceeded the standard.** Our AzMERIT scores showed **80% of our students passed the language portion** and a whopping **97% passed the math portion!** **Our overall passing rate was 88%** while the statewide passing rate was a mere 44%. Congratulations to our amazing teachers and students! **Our students continue to outperform every year on standardized testing!**



Joaquin & Jack working the Symmetry/Asymmetry job in Lower Elem.

### OVERHEARD

Lower Elementary, Kyrie, regarding the Fall Project topics:



*“It’s hard to decide between Pioneers and Biomes because I love both of them SO much!”*

### NOTES

#### **FAMILY VACATIONS AND SPECIAL TRIPS**

This school year we have had a large amount of families taking **critical educational days off** to go on vacation. We must remind our parents that each day your child is absent, he/she misses important academic presentations that are not repeated during the school year. **All absences that are not related to illness are recorded as unexcused.**

### **SICK DAYS : EXCUSED, UNEXCUSED?**

Remember to call the school each and every day your child is home from school. Unreported absences are considered unexcused. Per Arizona Department of Education, all absences, excused or unexcused, over 10 in a school year are required to be recorded as unexcused.

### **SHOW & TELL and TOYS AT SCHOOL**

We encourage students of Lower Elementary to only bring educational items for Show & Tell. It is school policy to leave all toys and game-like toys at home.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

I know it made sense this fall to bring **water bottles** to school. But we now have fully operative water fountains in multiple locations. ***Please begin leaving water bottles at home.*** Send your student with a beverage in the lunchbox and the rest of the day, they can go to the water fountain as often as they like. We do not need water bottles at school. **THANKS!**

### **PE DAYS**

Please be sure to have your student **wear tennis shoes on PE days.** *Lower Elementary has PE on Tuesday and Upper Elementary has PE on Wednesday.*

### **ACTIVITY FEE/STATE TAX CREDIT**

***PLEEEZE remember your Tax Credit Donation NOW: \$400.00 per married couple, \$200.00 single. You can choose: give the same money to the government or give it to your school. We use EVERY PENNY for our **MINSTREL, CHESS, CHOIR, YOGA, PE AND MUSIC lessons. THANK YOU!*****

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone! See you Monday,  
November 28<sup>th</sup>!

Regine and Staff