

The Montessori Schoolhouse

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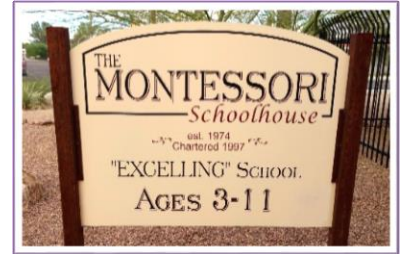
Dear Montessori Families,

We have so enjoyed meeting with all of you recently for Parent Conferences. We always have much to say about the industrious success of your students and we deeply appreciate the support you give to us.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Lower Elementary is roaming the outback of **Australia** and searching the **Ice Age** for **Giant Mammals**. We are learning about the biological differences between reptiles and mammals and about the crazy, mixed-up creatures of **Australia** that scientists can't even classify.

Which means **Fall Projects** are here! Help your student to carefully choose a topic to explore and write about. Then they create a model, diorama or poster or other hands-on to present to the class. Can't wait for projects! (**Due December 4th**)



Upcoming Events and Information

STAR GAZING NIGHT

Upper Elem Class
Fri. Nov 17th 6pm-8pm

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Wed. Nov 22nd – Fri. Nov 24th

NO SCHOOL

School resumes Mon. Nov 27th

PROJECT DUE DATES

- Lower Elem,
Mon. Dec 4th
- Upper Elem,
Tues. Nov 28th

PICNIC LUNCH

Lower Elem Class
Thurs. Dec 7th 12-1

WINTER BREAK

Wed. Dec 20th – Tues. Jan 2nd

NO SCHOOL

School resumes Wed. Jan 3rd

CHOIR CONCERT

Upper Elementary

Sat. Jan 13th,

Time & Venue TBD

All welcome to attend!

MLK DAY

Mon. Jan. 15th NO SCHOOL



Lower Elementary studying the **Ice Age Timeline**.

We have also been doing a lot of **Writing**, composing full sentences that reflect our real knowledge and writing our first **Poetry** of the year. I am always amazed at our young poets. They seem to instinctively grasp that poetry has its own elegance and beauty and can be written about anything at all that is meaningful to them.

Math has been a whirlwind of angles and triangles, computation, rounding and **Expanded Notation**. (See "Overheard"). Our students often tell us that **Math** is their favorite subject which we love to hear.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

In **Science**, the students recently wrapped up their in-class science experiments, which were very successful! Currently we are studying the **Hydrosphere**, with lessons such as **Water Resources of the Earth, The Water Cycle, Water Pollutants**, and **The Watershed**. In addition, Hannah Ebner joined us for an outdoor activity where the children "became" water molecules and traveled through the water cycle. Ask your student all about it!

In **Language Arts**, the students have written reports on a variety of animals by researching, writing outlines, writing first drafts, proofreading and editing, and writing or typing final drafts! In other **Language Arts** lessons, the students have reviewed the parts of speech, like **Noun, Adjective, Verb, Adverb, Conjunction, Preposition**, to name a few.

We have just wrapped up **Arizona** as our first **Geography** unit and are now studying the **USA**. UE students have been working with beautiful **State Baskets**,



Upper Elementary students testing friction via **The Scientific Method**.

learning the state capitals and **Geography and Climate. US History** will continue with a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries.

Choir is buzzing with the **Sound of Music!** The students are preparing for the Winter Concert on Saturday, January 13, 2017; call time is 1:00 P.M. Selections will include music from **Annie, Mary Poppins, Hansel and Gretel,** and **The Sound of Music.** Additionally, as part of our **USA Unit,** we will be singing patriotic songs! It's going to be a great concert! **Choir t-shirt order forms have been sent out and are due Friday, November 17th.**



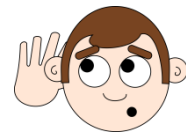
2017 AzMERIT and AIMS 4th Grade Science Results

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 73% exceeded the standard.** Our AzMERIT scores showed **84% of our students passed the language portion** and a whopping **97% passed the math portion!** **Our overall passing rate was 91%** while the statewide passing rate was below 50%. Congratulations to our amazing teachers and students! **Our students continue to outperform every year on standardized testing!**

OVERHEARD

Taiga, after eating his tortilla chip snack:

“I got four acute angle chips!”



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.**

Chess News from Coach Ken

We had six chess players attend **League Match #1, October 7th at the Gregory School**. These 2nd and 3rd graders formed two teams: **Daniyal, Shivank and Kyrie** on the A Team; **Elliana, Jack T and Jack H** on the B Team. The Board 1 Team Captains, **Daniyal** and **Elliana**, had the hardest match-ups. In the end, our six players scored very well. *Three players (**Daniyal, Shivank and Kyrie**) all won ribbons; **Jack H** won a medallion; **Jack T** scored a perfect 3-0 to earn a trophy. Both teams placed in the awards as well. Our A Team finished 3rd in the top Gold section and our B Team took 1st Place in the second ranked Silver Section.*

We then had six players compete at **League Match #2 on Nov. 4th at Sonoran Science Academy**. **Daniyal, Jack T and Shivank** comprised the A Team and **Kyrie, Jack H,** and first-time player, **Steve** comprised the B Team. *At this match, two players earned trophies: **Shivank** and **Jack H**. Ribbons went to Board 1 players **Daniyal** and **Kyrie**. The A Team tied for Second Place, but after tie-breakers, finished in fourth place. The B Team, however, won every match to take home the trophy for 1st place, Bronze section!*

The Montessori Team for all grades 1-5 are looking very strong this year. Congratulations players!

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

*Please 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 & MUSIC lessons. THANK YOU!***

"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit." (Education for a New World)



*Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!
See you Monday, November 27th!
Regine and Staff*