

# The Montessori Schoolhouse

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Dear Montessori Families,

With great sadness, I must announce the passing of my darling husband, Michael, from complications of leukemia. Michael was devoted to the Schoolhouse and all the people and children in it. He was a great believer and promoter of Montessori education and would bend anyone's ear about his own observations of its success.

With unending friendliness, he worked cooperatively with the other 2 main Montessori campuses in Tucson (Khalsa & Hermosa), wrote thoughtful articles for the Charter School Monthly and gave his life to the school and to his family. We shall miss him more than words can ever express. I also want to thank all of you who have already sent me memorable cards of support. Thank you.

~Regine

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## **LOWER ELEMENTARY**

As life goes on, the **Lower Elementary** class is enjoying its new crop of eager 1<sup>st</sup> graders, while the

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## **Upcoming Events and Information**

### **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**

**Tuesday, Sept 27th**

### **UPPER EL STAR GAZING**

**Friday, Sept 30th**

6:00-7:30PM

### **FALL BREAK**

**Monday & Tuesday**

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

### **OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

4:45-6:00

### **LOWER ELEM PARENT CONFERENCES**

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**AND**

### **UPPER ELEM PARENT CONFERENCES**

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

***Look for sign-up sheets soon!***

### **VETERANS DAY**

**Friday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

### **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Wednesday – Friday**

**Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL

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2<sup>nd</sup> graders are wise and accomplished role models. We are exploring the **Formation of the Earth**, its layers, **Types of Rocks** and the parts of **Volcanoes**. Soon we will segue into discovering **Lucy**, our ancient Australopithecus, who will lead us to our study of **Early Humans** and the **Ice Age**.

**Math** is always wildly popular and the students love reading **Big Numbers**, adding & subtracting and decoding which numbers are **Odd** & which are **Even**.

Everyone is practicing their **Reading** proficiency via Phonics books and chapter books and learning **Parts of Speech**: Noun, Verb & Adjective.

As we begin our fall study of **US History** we will go into depth with the **Pioneers** as they travel West in covered wagons. *Get ready for oil cloth and hard tack....*

## **UPPER ELEMENTARY**

The **Upper Elementary** class has started the year with enthusiasm and a contagious love of learning! Our **Language** studies have begun with an investigation of **Narratives**, including the **Elements of a Story**, the **Components of a Plot**, and **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Points of View**. Grammar studies have focused on **Complete Sentences**, **Punctuation**, and **Parts of Speech**. Students have been applying their language skills to weekly writing prompts, ranging from accounts of fond birthday memories to fictional stories about enchanted forests!

In **Math**, students began the year with **Place Value**, **Expanded Notation**, and **Rounding**. They have since delved into the exciting world of **Multiplication** and **Division** using **Arrays** and **Area Models**. *Ask your student to demonstrate how these work—you'll be amazed!*

We have also begun our fall semester **Geography** unit, an overview of **Native Americans of North America**. Students have been working with a beautiful basket of objects containing 17 different elements of Native American life, and next will be learning about regional tribes of the United States.

**Science** began with a lesson on the **Beginning of the Universe**, and from there has branched out to include **The Expanding Universe**, **The Life Cycle of an Average Star**, and **Galaxies**. We so look forward to sharing our knowledge on the Universe and Astronomy at our **Star Gazing Night on September 30, 6-7:30pm!**

In **Choir**, students have mastered singing rounds in different parts. They are taking rhythm dictation and have started work on **Solfege**, the “Do-Re-Mi’s” of singing.

**Art** is also off to a great start with unit themed lessons such as **Cuneiform Clay Tablets**, and **Cave “Paintings,”** to fundamental art concepts that include exploration of line, shape, and color.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CLASSROOM**

We must thank you all again for your cooperation and patience with various inconveniences during our construction phase. We appear to be in the home stretch and, hopefully, after our extra-long **Columbus Day holiday (October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>)** will be almost done.

Then we can enjoy more classroom space, more Parent Conference space and even choir and music space, among other things. ***CAN'T WAIT!***

## ***OPEN HOUSE***

We know we are late this year. We have rescheduled to try to coincide with the completion of the new classroom. We so *hope to see you Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>* for presentations, Q&A and viewing of the classrooms.

## **CALENDAR CHANGES**

Please be sure to refer to the **AMMENDED CALENDAR** handed out this month or see our website ([themontessorischoolhouse.com](http://themontessorischoolhouse.com)) for an additional copy. ***As noted above, we have extended the Columbus Day break an extra day to assist with some construction issues and repairs we need done at both campuses. This change also extends our last day of school to May 30<sup>th</sup>, the day after Memorial Day.***

## **NOTES**

### **LUNCHES**

Please be sure to pack spoons and forks in your children’s lunches.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

We ask that once the construction is completed, and we have a drinking fountain on the playground, that all students leave water bottles at home.

### **SHOES**

Please consider asking your child to wear school appropriate shoes to school. While we completely understand that flip-flops are the easiest shoe to wear, they are not the best for PE or climbing on the play structure. And the same can be said for shoes with a higher heel. Also, until construction is finished, it is good idea to wear **closed toed shoes** out on playground.

### **SNACKS**

Thank you so much for signing up for snack! We love all the healthy veggies and fresh fruit! *Also, big appreciation to those of you that cut up snack. It makes our snack preparation so much easier.*

### **DROP-OFF/ PICK-UP**

As always, please continue to pull **all the way forward when entering the Turn-A-Round during Drop-Off at 8:15-8:45 and PICK-UP at 2:15-2:45.** We respectfully ask Upper Elem parents to refrain from entering the Turn-A-Round until 2:35 to allow Lower Elem parents enough time to space to pick up their students. If you are picking up both a Lower Elem student and an Upper Elem student, feel free to pull in during Lower Elem pick-up time. **As a reminder Lower Elem pick-up time is 2:15-2:30.**

### **ACTIVITY FEE? Yes Please!**

Please do not forget your **Activity Fee** payment. It doubles as a **TAX CREDIT** on AZ state tax return and is so badly **needed for our Extra Curricular Programs** (Choir, Chess, Bruce, Yoga, PE, and Music) to continue each year.

*We look forward to a great year. See you soon at Open House!*

*Regine and Staff*