

# The Montessori Schoolhouse

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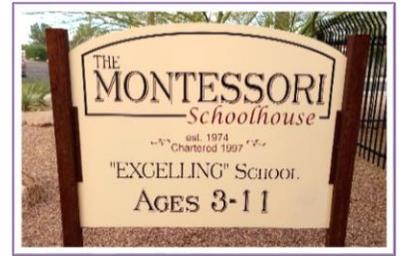
**Dear Parents,**

**Our 18/19 school year is off to a rousing start. We have a new classroom, some new faces, and our usual phenomenal staff, several of whom go back 15 and almost 30 years with The Montessori Schoolhouse!**

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

The Lower Elementary classroom with Olive, Regine and Maddie has been laying the academic groundwork with many exciting presentations. In **Math: Place Value to Millions, Symmetry and Asymmetry and Parts of a Triangle; Reading & Literature** began with **Elements of a Story, Parts of Speech and Sentence Formation**, to name a few.

**Science** is always full of life with our **Rope Timeline of Life**. In concrete form: this tells the story of when life first developed on Earth and which life came first. Trilobites, anyone? I have yet to meet a student that doesn't love this story and material....



## Upcoming Events and Information

### OPEN HOUSE-

**RESCHEDULED!**

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

4:45PM-6:00PM

### OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

Sexuality Edu. Info Session

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Only!

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

5:45PM-6:45PM

Additional info to come!

### COLUMBUS DAY

MONDAY, OCT 8<sup>TH</sup>

NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL RESUMES ON

TUESDAY, OCT 9<sup>TH</sup>.

### FAMILY PHOTO FUND

RAISER by KARIMA WHITE

Saturday & Sunday,

October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

See school photo packets for  
more information!

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Wednesday-Friday,

November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

NO SCHOOL

**REMEMBER YOUR ACTIVITY  
FEE/TAX CREDIT DONATION!**

Later, we will examine Earth's different **Biomes**: ocean, desert, forest, etc. We are just starting to build a **Temperate Forest Basket** so if you have any objects to donate, we would love them (model trees, raccoons, hedgehogs, squirrels, deer, etc.).

Our **Geography and Culture** series always begins with some aspect of **USA History**. So, we have touched on **Native Americans** with our rich **Object Basket** and the legend of the **3 Sisters** going for a moonlit walk and turning into corn, beans and squash. We soon will head further west in covered wagons with the **Pioneers**, then down to **Kenya, Africa** for safari...!

**Can't wait to show you in person at Open House!**

### **UPPER ELEMENTARY**

Upper Elementary started our first **History** unit focusing on the **American Revolution!** Beginning with a history of events including the Boston Tea Party, and moving into what a democracy is, are just some of the topics being discussed. We are also excited to introduce a deeper look in to the role of **Alexander Hamilton** during the Revolution, and present what an important background figure he truly was.

In **Science**, the Upper Elementary has been on a journey of the Earth with lessons such as **Layers of the Earth, Types of Rocks, The Rock Cycle, and Soil**. The next lesson will be **Botany**. All these topics will be the background we need to begin our hands-on experiments with plants in the classroom, but first, we'll practice **The Scientific Method!**

In **Language**, the students have been practicing the building blocks of writing. We began with jobs such as **Writing Complete Sentences, The Paragraph Sandwich, Elements of a Story, Components of a Plot**, as well as **Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives**, to name a few. These lessons have culminated in weekly writing exercises ranging from sentences, to paragraphs, to narratives.

In **Math**, the Upper Elementary has been practicing all the operations: **Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division**. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have recently learned the **Properties of Math**, while the 4<sup>ths</sup> and 5<sup>ths</sup> have worked with **The Order of Operations, Area Model Multiplication and Division**.

**Choir** is in full swing! We are enjoying singing together on Fridays. We have 50 voices altogether, and it's fabulous. *Our Winter Concert will come in January*. In the mean-time, we'll be ordering choir t-shirts. Orders coming soon!

## *A Few Reminders...*

### **WATER BOTTLES:**

We understand and support your desire to keep your child hydrated in our dry Sonoran desert. But the school has plenty of water fountains everywhere, inside and out. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH LARGE WATER BOTTLES.** ANY DRINKS, WATER INCLUDED, MUST BE CONTAINED INSIDE LUNCHBOXES. Loose water bottles can pose a danger from spilled water on floor to tripping over the bottles themselves.

### **DROP-OFF:**

If you are dropping off your child and the gate is closed, you must walk your child all the way in AND sign them in. Assisted Drop-Off is offered from 8:15-8:45 each day.

### **PICK-UP:**

Please remember to pick up your child **ON TIME**.

**Lower Elementary** pick-up time is **2:15-2:30**.

**Upper Elementary** pick-up time is **2:30-2:45**.

### **LATE DROP OFF/LATE PICK UP:**

Please be aware that chronic late drop-offs and pick-ups are a distraction to everyone, especially to the Morning Circle presentation, but also to the AfterSchool Circle as well. Please check your own time and arrive with-in the time frames designated above.

### **PARKING COURTESY:**

If you are utilizing Carlos' lot across the street please only park along Mountain Ave. Do not park in front of his business or close to his buildings in any way.

### **PIANO AND VIOLIN LESSONS:**

We are so happy to be able to continue to offer piano and violin lessons. A notice was sent out to all music parents with music teacher contact information and the responsibilities the parents have regarding these lessons. If you did not get a letter, please contact Rosemary for a copy. Please remember that if your child is not participating in the AfterSchool program, you need to be waiting for them after their lesson. Your child should not be rejoining the AfterSchool program after their lesson if they are not scheduled to attend.

### **EMAIL CHANGE:**

Please make a note. Our email has officially changed to [1301msh@gmail.com](mailto:1301msh@gmail.com).

## EXTRA CURRICULARS:

Our yoga instructor, Ellen, is excited to be back teaching yoga on Tuesdays in Lower Elementary. For more information you can visit her website at [www.yogawithellen.com](http://www.yogawithellen.com). And for re-caps of her kids yoga classes, visit Ellen in her YouTube channel, "YouthfulYogis". Chess is off to a great start this year. Be sure to look out for chess tournament information from Coach Ken. And of course we cannot forget Bruce! He is back again for more music filled afternoons with the Lower Elementary class on Fridays. **We so hope your child/ren is enjoying these programs, fully funded by your generous Activity payment/Tax Credit donations.**

## AN IMPORTANT MATTER REGARDING TAKING TIME OFF SCHOOL:

We cannot have students missing academic lessons to take vacations. Please schedule your time off during the many holidays on the school calendar. Most morning Circle presentations are complex, elaborate, SET THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS and cannot be repeated. This goes for doctor and dentist appointments as well, of course. Schedule appointments after 12noon please to minimize the loss of valuable educational instruction for your student.

## A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS:

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and the owner of The Washington Post, surprised the education world when he announced this month that he was donating \$2 billion to support homeless families and create a network of free Montessori-inspired preschools.

It's a compelling demonstration of the power of quality early childhood education that Mr. Bezos may have been inspired by a Montessori program he attended for a year and a half in the 1960s.

## Thank You

- Thank you parents for the abundance of school supplies.
  - Thank you parents and families for the delicious snacks you have been preparing and bringing in.

*Happy Fall,*

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

