

The Montessori Schoolhouse

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Dear Parents,

Our beautiful Autumn has finally arrived and the temperatures are falling. Our students have met the classroom, the teachers are presenting fascinating subjects and all is well.

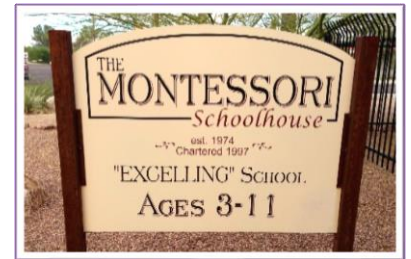
And, may I just brag once again that Niche.com has ranked us the #3 Best Elementary School in the Tucson area! Yay!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Lower Elementary is bustling with spectacular **Astronomy** presentations and work: The Big Bang!, The Solar System! Galaxies! Yet to come: Constellations! The Moon! Galileo!

We have completed our **US History** sequence (the **Pilgrims, Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea**) and soon we will introduce everyone to the history and joys of **Italy**: opera, daVinci, Galileo, the Leaning Tower!

I am always amazed at the enthusiasm with which the students embrace **Math**. Right now, we are analyzing Place Value, large numbers, Addition and Skip Counting.



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Upcoming Events and Information

COLUMBUS DAY

MONDAY, OCT 14TH

NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL RESUMES ON TUESDAY, OCT 15TH.

OPEN HOUSE-

RESCHEDULED!

WEDNESDAY, OCT 16TH

TEACHER PANEL/

Q&A @ 5:10

4:45PM-6:00PM

SCHOOL PHOTOS!

TUESDAY, OCT 22ND

SMILE EVERYONE!

VETERAN'S DAY

MONDAY, NOV. 11TH

NO SCHOOL

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY,

NOVEMBER 27TH-29TH

NO SCHOOL

REMEMBER YOUR ACTIVITY FEE/TAX CREDIT DONATION!



In Geometry, we examined and built Point, Line, Plane, Solid, types of Angles and Polygons....

Our **Language** and **Reading** studies have included **Elements of a Story (Main Character, Villain, Plot, etc.)** and Sentence Building: Noun, Verb, and complete and incomplete sentences, as well as lots and lots of reading practice....

I have attached 2 poems from last spring's collection that never got published. Ryer is now a 3rd grader in Upper Elementary. Margie is now a 2nd grader in Lower Elementary, written as 2nd and 1st graders, respectively. Enjoy.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

The school year is off to a terrific start! The Upper Elementary classrooms are chock-full of creative work by the students! They are enjoying making beautiful poster recordings of our **Geography** unit, which has included **Types of Maps, Cartography, State Capitals, and State Landmarks**. More recently, they have been working with our **Arizona** unit, discovering the **Biomes of Arizona, State Symbols, and Arizona History**.

They are also enjoying making elaborate and artful poster recordings in **Science**. We have been looking closely at natural selection and evolution with jobs such as **Darwin & Natural Selection, Amazing Evolution, Evolution of Whales, Evolution of Humans, and Adaptations**.

Math is in full swing for all grade levels. Third grade students are learning **Division** after studying **Multiplication** with arrays. Fourth and fifth grade students are feverishly working with **Order of Operations** and are creating their own equations.

Music, Art, Spanish, and Chess are off to a fantastic start. In **Choir** we are learning wonderful music, some of it *SPooky!* Art classes have had very creative projects, such as T-Shirt bags, comic strips, origami. In addition, students have sketch books that they work in on a weekly basis. **Ukulele** classes are held on Fridays on a grade-level rotation. They are learning how to read chords and how to strum.

Our **Language Arts** presentations have focused on **Sentence Analysis, Paragraph Writing, Parts of Speech**. We are currently delving into a full unit of **Informative Writing**. The students have already written mini informative essays, and we will be expanding this skill into larger essays, for which they will do their own research. This is in preparation of their **Fall Project** (notices coming soon).

A Few Reminders...



SCHOOL START TIME and DROP-OFF:

The regular school day starts at 8:30.

Assisted Drop-off is between 8:15-8:45.

SCHOOL END TIME and PICK-UP TIME:

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

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



SNACK SIGN-UP:

Please continue to sign up to **bring snack for your child's class EVERY month**. Students enjoy every morsel you bring.

WATER BOTTLES:

Please keep large water bottles at home. 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.

CIRCLE DISRUPTIONS:

Please be aware that **chronic late drop-offs and pick-ups are a distraction** to everyone, especially to the students during Morning Circle and AfterSchool Circle. Please check your own time and arrive in the time frames designated above.

PIANO AND VIOLIN LESSONS:

We are so happy to be able to continue to offer piano and violin lessons with Chia-Chun, Shen, Woan Ching and Raphael. **Please remember that if your child is not participating in the AfterSchool program, you need to be waiting for them after their lesson.**

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. 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 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:

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.

OVERHEARD

"All of my First Grade dreams have come true."

-James, 6

"I love amphibians."

-Colin, 7



AzMERIT TESTING RESULTS



For the 2018/2019 school year our students had an overall passing rate of 83% with a 100% passing rate in 4th grade Math and 100% passing rate for 5th grade English Language Arts. Statewide passing rate was a mere 42%. Congratulations students, parents and teachers!

Thank Yous

- Thank you for the abundance of school supplies.
 - Thank you, parents and families, for the delicious snacks you have been preparing and bringing.
 - Thank you for always pulling forward in the Turn-A-Round.

We so look forward to seeing you all at **Open House, October 16th**. We feel a bit silly for cancelling the original one. The forecast was for rain all day. How much did it rain? Not a drop!! Oh well, see you soon!

*Happy Fall,
Regine, Hannah, Olive, Perla, Paige,
Maddie, Nui, Alicia, Kristine, Roxy,
Josephine, Rosemary & Nancy*

