

ALPINE MONTESSORI

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled"
— Plutarch

Notes from 908

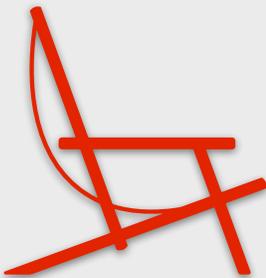
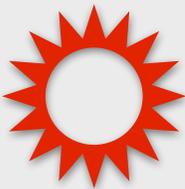
DATES TO REMEMBER

3/10

Daylight Savings

3/18-3/22

Spring Break,
School closed



Hold on to your hats! The spring weather is blowing it's way in, and another transitional time is upon us. It's always interesting to see how the renewal on our playground, even a few blades of fresh spring grass, or a blooming tree, seems to invigorate the students, and they often find new things to be curious about. If your son or daughter is feeling the doldrums of midwinter, and already longing for summer, there are some things you can do to help them over the hump of academic hurdles they may be experiencing. Make a point of incorporating lessons in math, language, and science into your daily lives. Children benefit from learning and practicing how to make change at the store, reading instructions (such as recipes), or regularly telling time on an analog clock. These simple exercises outside of school will help your child get the most out of the work they do inside the classroom. We can't urge you enough, however, to stay vigilant in practicing daily reading and math facts recitations at home. Nothing garners so much progress in these areas as regular practice. Even a short while each day makes a big difference!



We welcome input from our families! If you have something that you would like to see covered in our newsletter, or if you have something that you would like to contribute, please email us at admin@alpinemontessori.org. Articles, ideas for articles, events to put on our "dates to remember" calendar, and more are welcomed!

The Primary Side



Ms. Irene reports that the primary students have been particularly enthralled with “Practical Life” lately. If you’re unfamiliar with this area of study, it is an amazing learning tool for children of their age, and so satisfying for them. The activities are practice for the child’s fine and gross motor skills, allowing him to become better coordinated and learn how better to control and use his own body. The child might be washing, pouring, or stirring, but the work is designed to mimic things that children

see adults doing every day. This is an indirect preparation for later, more complex exercises and activities that require fine motor control and concentration. You can read more about practical life and other Montessori teaching methods at mariamontessori.com, or ask in the office to check out one of our many wonderful books on the subject! The students had a wonderful presentation from Ms. Betsy for Chinese new year...she shared a scrap book with them given to her from the school where she worked in China. Betsy will be out of the classroom for a while, as she recovers from back surgery, and we are all looking forward to her speedy return. Many of these ever-growing children have shot up in height and shoe sizes since the beginning of the school year! Please make sure that your child has a pair of inside shoes that fit him, it helps to keep the classroom clean. Thanks!

From the AP



The AP students finished up their “Identities” cycle with a trip to Seminole Canyon, where they hiked into Fate Bell cave to view ancient pictographs of the early inhabitants of the lower Pecos region. It was a memorable day, complete with a picnic near the Pecos High Bridge! The seventh graders are now diving into their next cycle, this time focusing on “Systems” of all kinds. Coming into play are economic systems, writing systems, animal systems, and social systems. The children are learning how to write essays, looking at how the stock market works, and reading titles such as “The Outsiders.” The discussions and lessons have been lively, as they observe the differences between a market economy, a command economy, and a barter economy. This theme of systems continues into their science curriculum with the study of vertebrates and invertebrates, and their skeletal, circulatory, digestive, reproductive, and nervous systems. We can really start to see how this method of education teaches that there are parallels everywhere, a wonderful tool to equip young adults with as they prepare for what’s ahead.



Our elementary students have been a busy and industrious bunch lately! With the onset of slightly warmer temperatures, they recently began clearing the raised beds in the garden in preparation for spring planting. Students also enjoyed learning about Chinese new year with a wonderful presentation from Jiakun Wang, parent to Annika and Dylan Wang. Jiakun sang in his native tongue and played guitar beautifully, and the children were rapt. The kindergarteners also joined in observing this wonderful presentation, one of the ways the teachers gently introduce them to the elementary classroom. The elementary students have been studying the pre-history of humans, the clock of eras, and the distribution of life on Earth. The upper elementary recently attended “Geometric Origami Day,” a fun and cool interactive project through STEM Fridays at SRSU. We have several upcoming field trips planned for the students, notably at trip to the Marathon Basin Wool Mill. We are really excited about this trip because the children have been studying wool all year as part of their cultural studies. Next up, the McDonald Observatory! This is always a satisfying favorite for the students, as they are naturally curious about the great big universe out there at this stage in their development. Be aware that book reports on the classic of their choice will be due from the

students shortly after we return from Spring Break. A handout is available to students in the classroom that will help them get started if they haven’t already. Since this is a take home project, some parental involvement may be necessary.



HotLunchProviders



Thanks to the families of the following students for providing hot lunch in December and January!

Abby and Jane Scott

Otis Maxwell

Ellis Lancaster

Lilah Kuehne

Lennox Meyer

Sofia and Leonidas Rothey

Davis and Everett Edwards

Eleanor Pugh

When you host Hot Lunch we invite you to participate in the meal with us. If your schedule permits, please know you are welcome to help us serve and then sit and have lunch with your child. This is a great time to get to know your child’s friends, and it also presents an opportunity for the teachers to get to know you a little better too!

WE THANK YOU!

We get by with a LOT of help from our friends. We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions to our school.

Jessica Bassham, for donating a few much needed kitchen materials to the elementary classroom!

Jiakun Wang, for giving a presentation on Chinese new year and singing songs to the children!

Mark Hannan, for donating wish list books to the elementary classroom!

MONTESSORI AT HOME

Should my child attend Montessori Elementary?

As spring draws near, we begin planning for out next school year. Thoughts turn not only to gardens, but also to our blossoming six-year-olds. As they end their cycle in the primary, what will be their next step? Our elementary program supports grades 1 through 6 and is a natural transition from our primary classroom. Children entering the elementary in the first grade have the support of familiar materials which they use to build upon their studies of math, language, and “culturals,” a Montessori term that encompasses sciences, geography, and art. Just as with our primary program, children work at their own pace and are able to fully explore subjects of their own personal interest while receiving exposure to a wide range of topics. Our multi-age classroom provides a special structure, known as the three-year-cycle. The older children naturally step into roles of leadership as they help the younger children transition into the classroom and learn the “rules of the road.” By observing the studies and conversation of older students, the first and second year students expand their own personal interests. As in the primary, established students gain a sense of leadership and confidence as they help maintain the classroom environment. In addition, many opportunities arise for students to suggest and offer lessons to each other. In Montessori, the student is always the focal point, not the teacher. In a sense, they direct much of the activity through their interests and needs. Children who learn in our program tend to be very flexible and adapt well to change. They



often perform at the top of their class once they enter the public school system. We are proud to boast several AMS alumni achieving valedictorian and salutatorian of their graduating class. Whether our students transition to public school after their third year or sixth year of elementary, they enter with the ability to research and find answers on their own through an inner motivation that we strive to encourage at this school. Our goal is to assist children with life-long skills for learning. Equipped with these tools in their mental toolkit they are able to accomplish all things.

If you are interested in investigating what our elementary program has to offer, please visit with Amelie or Nan Hatty to schedule a classroom observation. We also welcome you



to request a conference with the elementary teachers. We would be happy to answer any questions and look forward to showing you the magic of Montessori elementary.