

Lakeshore Campus Newsletter



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April 2011

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New Mexico Land Experience Project

A project of The Foundation for Montessori Education

The purpose is to create a remote natural facility which can be self-sufficient and offer a comprehensive nature experience. There is lots of space and terrain for children and adults to explore.

- Off the power grid
- Surrounded by 1,100,000 acres of natural forest
- Bordered by a river, with irrigation canal
- Abundance of native animals
- Mountain climate 20-25 degrees cooler than Phoenix; 6,000' elevation
- Remote – no TV or McDonalds; 23 miles NE of Silver City
- Students & families involved in developing site
- Structures built using native materials
- Community living in a giving community



- Community cooking; garden/ growing projects
- Leave no trace – respect for environment
- History: nearby Native American & mining sites
- Adventure!

This is designed to be a family experience, when possible, and to build a community.

Middle school trip scheduled for: May 13, 14, 15, 16

MDS family camping trip scheduled for: May 27, 28, 29 & 30

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More info & the summer schedule coming soon!

Parents' Guidelines For Testing

With AIMS and Stanford 10 tests coming up in April, the following guidelines will help you support your child for "testing success".

1. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest (8-9 hours) the night before testing. This works best if you have established a regular bedtime and rising time for *all* school days.
2. In the morning on testing days, your child needs to get up in plenty of time so he/she won't feel rushed. This, too, works best if established for all school days.
3. Your child needs a good breakfast - every morning, but especially on testing days. Research shows that children do better on tests if they have had a good breakfast, including protein for 'staying power'.
4. Keep TVs, computers, gaming, and other screen units *off*, particularly before school. Because using them creates an addiction response in the brain, the brain must go through withdrawal before it can focus on challenging mental tasks. Substitute optimum physical activity/outlets: good blood/oxygen flow is needed for alertness.
5. Encourage your child to do his/her best. The testing experience is an opportunity to demonstrate and develop skills in a different way from daily classroom work. It highlights independent problem-solving skills. Most Montessori students view it as an adventure if the adults do!
6. Take an active role in your child's education throughout the school year. Let your child know you are interested in his/her learning by taking part in the entire process.
7. You can find out about the AIMS tests (for Gr. 3-6) by using the following link: <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/AIMS/AIMSSupport.asp>. This site has sample tests that you can share with your child.
8. When the school receives the test results (June or July), you will be notified that they are available. Your child's results will include a written explanation of what they mean. If you have further questions, talk to your child's teacher and/or principal. This will help you to understand them more clearly.
9. Remember that the tests are a 'one spot snapshot' and are by no means a full picture of your child's learning and progress, or their future success in life.



—April 11-14 AIMS Testing (grades 3-6), April 18-20 Stanford 10 Testing (grade 2)—

Music !

Has Mozart been mentioned at your house?

If so, it may be related to your child's daily 'music appreciation' time in the classroom. Each week, in every classroom, a composition by a classical composer is introduced, along with a daily script that provides a bit more information each day and directs the students to listen to various characteristics of the composer's music. For example, is it strongly rhythmic, with much use of percussion? Is the melody played by the violins, the reeds or the brass?

Teachers say the students love the program and the music. In some classes, teachers



report that students applaud when the music ends, and/or request to have it played while they're working; and have begun to discuss with each other which composer's music is being played, when various selections are played during work time.

We plan to continue with the program and further exposure to more music in the coming year, as well as the remainder of this year. We'll also begin posting the composer and composition of the week in the *News* section of the school's new website.

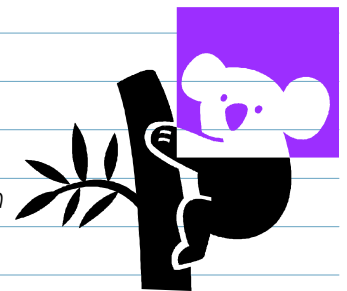
Enjoy!

Primary 1 Class News

Hello everyone!!

We have been discussing "The land down under", also known as Australia. It is called the land down under because it lies below the equator. The children have really enjoyed learning about all the marsupials that come from Australia. Marsupials are female animals that have a pouch. The children have learned that some people have been misinformed about one particular marsupial, the Koala. Koalas are mammals and they are marsupials but they are not bears. So next time someone says the word Koala bear everyone can inform them they

are not a bear but a marsupial. We have also been discussing how Australia is an island, and the group of islands surrounding Australia is called Oceania. Some of the sea life that surround Australia includes the blue ringed octopus, the red lion fish, the grey reef shark, and the sea wasp. The children would be able to tell you that these animals live in the ocean near Queensland in Australia. We also wanted to mention that we did receive our Gorillas from



PI Class News Cont'd.

the World Wildlife Fund. The children took a vote on what to name them; our girls name is Bell and the boys name is Beck. Again thank you so much for all the

donations! The children really enjoyed taking part in helping our world!

Peace and Love,
Ms. Natalie and Ms. Mai

PII Class News

We are starting to study North America. The children are so excited to share where they have been. We are discussing the globe and how it is colder in the north and south poles. This then leads us into the conversation about how the northern areas of North America are colder. With Spring approaching, we will be studying the flower and it's parts. The gardens around school are really blooming so it ties into our studies nicely. We have been busy preparing for our

Spring Program on April 8th, so we hope you all can join us to celebrate the Spring Season. Our class will be doing various performances and all students who want to participate are included. See you there!



Ms. Ann & Ms. Sunny

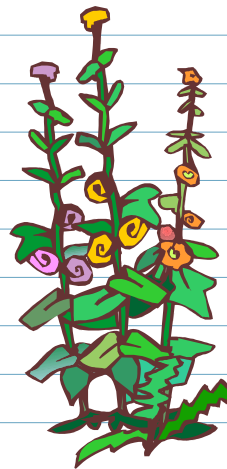
K-1 Class News

The School Year continues along –and the students are blossoming as are the spring flowers. The growing fluency in reading is especially exciting! Make sure to appreciate and acknowledge your own child's growth.

K-1 classroom specifics:
--March has been a celebration of Spring through deepening our understanding of the Earth's rotation, it's hemispheres and zones and the manner in which the seasons fall upon the various continents throughout the world. A presentation on South Africa last month, and studying Australia this month, have helped to reinforce that understanding. We

are also celebrating Spring with butterfly and flower art and poems and kite-flying! Feel free to allow your child to bring in a kite to share.

--April will continue to be a month of new explorations and celebrations. On the 1st, April Fool's Day, we will all wear our pajamas to school. On April 8th, we will be performing a song and dance at the Annual MDS Spring Auction. Please make sure to buy your tickets to assure each member of the family has food to eat. We are creating some group projects for this auction and would like to give an extra special Thanks to Tama Crass for her help in making a K-1 quilt.



K-1 Class News Cont'd.

She has suggested that, in order to allow the students to bring home something special of their own, please send them to school with one blank t-shirt that they can decorate with their own hand prints.

—Also in April we will deepen our study of birds, and then move on to insects. The continent focus of the month will be Europe, so if any parents would like to make a cultural presentation from direct experience with one of the European countries, please know you are welcome to do so.

--At the end of April, we are planning

another field trip! This one will be to the Mesa Museum of Natural History, where they have special opportunity for experiential learning about dinosaurs. We will be leaving April 29th at 10:00 a.m. The \$4 cost will include a memory take home pack of polished rocks, materials for dinosaur rubbings, and a few extras.

As always, please reach out and communicate directly about joys and/or concerns. We value your communication.

With thanks, Ms. Jill and Ms. Thi

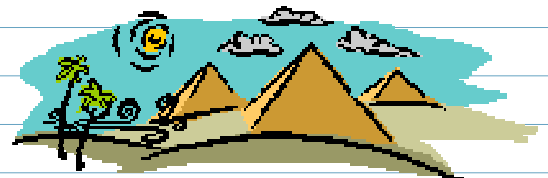
Junior Elementary Class News

In February we celebrated Black History Month. The students researched and presented projects about famous African Americans. We also worked on Monart art projects of polar animals. And we visited the Heart Museum and participated in Jump Rope for Heart.

In March we are discovering the history of Egypt. We found out that Egypt was instrumental in glass production. So now we are learning about the history and art of glass. We were excited to explore the art of Dale Chihuly, a famous contemporary

American glass artist who is our artist of the month. We have also made tissue paper stained glass art projects. Miss Nikki, senior elementary assistant, is going to show us about her stained glass art. Also this month, Ms. Isabella came in to show us about the water cycle.

Ms. Marcia, Ms. Dawn, Ms. Alyssa



Senior Elementary Class News

Wow, it's already March and soon to be April! The 2010-2011 school year is going by so fast. It has been a year full of fun learning experiences, including Montessori materials lessons, guest speakers, field trips and classroom projects.

Each student worked very hard in January

and February to create a Science Fair Project. The projects were presented to the class and available for the Open House visitors to explore. There were projects about electronics, animals, plants, electricity, rockets, hover boards and many more.

This past week Senior Elementary had

Senior Elementary Class News Cont'd.

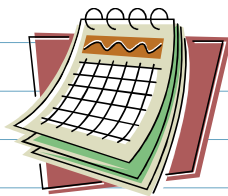
Arizona Game and Fish to come for a visit to share information about Arizona's animals. Included in this discussion were the topics of adaptation and survival skills that animals learn. Az G&F brought in a Great-horned owl, Desert tortoise, and a Gopher snake to share with us. It was a lot of fun. Our next events include: 2nd Annual Silent Auction, AIMS testing, a visit from a NASA educator, and a Camping Trip.

AIMS Testing is April 11-14 for all 3rd-6th grade students; we have been working hard to prepare for this. Thank you to Ms. Maryellen for helping us with our writing skills and Ms. Lisa for helping with reading.

A NASA educator will be coming to visit both elementary classes on Tues, April 26th. He will be showing us some exciting ways to learn about the states of matter, lunar phases and the solar system.

2nd Annual Silent Auction is Friday, April 8th ... please stop by the office to purchase tickets for a wonderful meal and lots of fun. Senior Elementary is being very adventurous this year! The students are working hard on a play for the performance and we are creating 2 small mosaic tables. We hope to see everyone there.

Senior Elementary is planning a Camping Trip for Friday May 6 - 8th at Christopher Creek. We will be planning another meeting soon to discuss the details of this event. We hope everyone in Sr. Elementary will be able to join us.
Ms. Janet



Montessori Day Schools

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Calendar

April 1 - Pajama Day!

April 8- Spring Program & Silent Auction 6:30 pm

April 22- No School- Spring Holiday-

No Extended Care

May 6- Family Appreciation Breakfast 7:30-9 am

May 26- Ice Cream Social 2 pm

May 27- Last Day of School- 1/2 Day-

No Extended Care

May 27-30- New Mexico Land Experience