



March Newsletter

Montessori Day Schools

Mountainside Campus

March 11, 2011

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 Grades 3-8) 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.

Calendar Notes for March

LOOKING BACK!

Thank you to all MDS students who became the “teachers” for our annual “Child As Teacher” night. Parents and teachers learn a lot from you!

LOOKING AHEAD!

March 14-18--- (Monday-Friday) **SPRING BREAK**—SCHOOL CLOSED—
---EXTENDED CARE for those students eligible---

ATTENTION PARENTS!



MDS Spring Fling/Talent Show

is coming soon!

On the evening of **May 6th**, we will have an **ice cream social** beginning at 5:30pm.

The **Talent Show** will begin at 6pm.

There will be a **silent auction**.

Each classroom will collect items to fill two theme baskets.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the office.

We are also looking for other items to add to our silent auction.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Ms. Keller.

We will need **volunteers** for this event.

You can find that sign-up sheet on the same bulletin board.

We hope to see you all there!!

Calling all parent volunteers!

Our next MDS Parent Committee meeting is **March 21st** (Monday) 6:00-7:00pm

Get involved in one of our Parent Committee “Support Teams”

-Garden Project: Katie @ kt61180@yahoo.com

-MDS Yearbook: Alina @ cabezas.alina@gmail.com

-Classroom parents: Michelle @ mkjustin@aol.com

-Spring Auction: Eileen @ emkinaz@hotmail.com

-Book Fair: Jennifer @ jdowning@mdpssc.org

-Curricular Enhancement @ carriewotr@hotmail.com

-Newsletter: Tammy @ rhodewheel@cox.net

WE NEED YOU!

Teacher Corner

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!



There will be a 5 week **art class** this Spring Semester
(for those students who missed Winter Semester)

April 7-May 5

\$50.00 *you can use your tax credit!*

Flyers will be available in the office soon

Student Corner

Students from JE III wrote letters to the president inviting him to their school

Why Presidents should visit your school...

Dear Mister President,

You would love it here at our school especially because there is no bullying and no name calling. We are so nice, we actually help each other. It would be such a pleasure to meet you personally. We are always happy here it is so fun. We also have great teachers and their lessons make us really smart. We all have lots of friends. I hope you visit us sometime.

Love,

Ayden H.

Why the president should visit your school...

Dear Mister President,

I wonder if you could visit our school and you can see all the works we have to do. You can see all the kids on the playground. You can even see the teachers. You can do one of the works SRA, Hotdots, math card and grammar. Poems, chains and culture. Learning is fun so I think you should come. Learn with us about North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and Antarctica --seven continents that is all there is. You can learn everything—article, adjective, noun, verb, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, interjection. Come on we can learn some more. Well anyways that's why I want you to come here.

Love,

Austin E



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Around the School...

Did you know you can participate in the

New Mexico Land Experience Project?

This project is supported by *The Foundation for Montessori Education*

Photos posted outside of School Office

Purpose: to create a remote natural facility which can be self-sufficient and offer a comprehensive nature experience. Lots of space and terrain for children and adults to explore.

1. Off the power grid
2. Surrounded by 1,100,000 acres of natural forest
3. Bordered by river, with irrigation canal
4. Abundance of native animals
5. Mountain climate 20-25 degrees cooler than Phoenix; 6,000' elevation
6. Remote – no TV or McDonalds; 23 miles NE of Silver City
7. Students & families involved in developing site
8. Structure built using native products
9. Community living in a giving community
10. Community cooking; garden/growing projects
11. Leave no trace – respect for environment
12. History: nearby native American & mining sites
13. Adventure!

This is designed to be a family experience, when possible, and to build community, along with promoting natural science experiences for the students.

Middle school trip scheduled for:

May 13, 14, 15, 16

MDS family camping trip scheduled for:

May 27, 28, 29 & 30

More info & the summer schedule coming soon!



Mountainside Campus
9215 North 14th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

March, 2011

Dear Prospective Donor,

On the evening of May 6, 2011, the parents and students of Montessori Day Public Schools-Mountainside Campus will host our second Silent Auction and Spring Fling Talent night. Our academic programs from Pre-K through 8th grade afford students a dynamic Montessori curriculum and after-school activities, including art, dance, music and sports, in a safe and nurturing environment.

All proceeds from the auction will directly benefit the students by providing necessary funds to further enhance school programs, improve building and campus maintenance, and continue to develop curriculum.

We are asking your support with a donation for our silent auction. Donations will be acknowledged in our printed program and our attendees and supporters will see your business as a generous supporter of our community.

The auction is our school's major fundraiser, and your donation will be a huge part of its success! Please consider donating goods or services to help us make this auction a sensational event.

Because of donations from generous individuals and/or businesses like yours, we can continue to provide the best possible education for our children.

Thank you for considering a donation to our school auction. If you have any questions or wish to speak to us directly, please feel free to contact us at (602) 943-9400.

We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

The Silent Auction Team
Montessori Day Public Schools Chartered-Mountainside Campus
Non-profit Tax ID #:

Silent Auction Donation Ideas

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Trips and Getaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of vacation home • Limousine service • Airline tickets • Hot air balloon ride • Airplane or helicopter ride <p>Sports and Sporting Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Game tickets • Rounds of golf or tennis • Pro instruction • Sports memorabilia • Equipment and/or clothing | <p>Gift Certificates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants • Books and CD's • Clothing and accessories • Beauty/nail salon • Car wash <p>Cultural Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert tickets • Theater tickets • Movie tickets • Personal museum tour | <p>Food and Drink:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottles of wine or spirits • Gourmet foods • Cooking lessons <p>Arts and Crafts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings • Ceramics • Fine jewelry • Quilts and hangings • Handmade clothing • Art classes | <p>Professional Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountant • Personal trainer • Photographer • Interior designer • Landscape designer • Computer consultant • Lawyer (simple will or other service) • Massage therapist • Florist |
|--|--|--|--|

PARENTS, PLEASE RATE US!

The Department of Education wants all parents with children in charter schools to rank their child's school. They are collecting data to look at funding (**very** important this year), compare charters with district schools, submit ratings to public and private agencies on the local and national level, etc.

The Department's numbering system is as follows, on a 10 point scale:

Excellent = 10, 9

Good = 8, 7, 6

Fair = 5, 4, 3

Poor = 2, 1

Are you satisfied with your child's educational experience?
Why or why not?

Do you feel that you have open communication with your teacher(s) and administrators?
Why or why not?

Do you have concerns regarding the MDS campus?

Do you have suggestions about how to improve the learning experience of our students?

Do you receive monthly MDS newsletters? Is the information helpful?
If so, why?

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Please, CIRCLE ONE NUMBER, PROVIDE COMMENTS AND
FEEDBACK & RETURN to the office.

Thank you from all of us at MDS!