

## Montessori Day School

# February Newsletter

### Important Dates

#### **February 7: Parent Committee**

- In Ms. Montes' room
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm

#### **February 8: Half Day**

- All Grades dismissed at 11:30
- Extended care available

#### **February 20: No School**

- School Closed
- No Extended Care

#### **February 22: LAST DAY of Savers Drive**

- Drop off your thrift store donations at schoolboy the front bulletin board.

#### **February 23 & 24 Early Release For Parent Teacher Conferences**

- All Grades dismissed at 11:30
- Extended Care available

#### **March 7: Parent Committee**

- In Ms. Montes' room
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm

### Upcoming Events

#### **Feb. 22: Savers Fun Drive – LAST DAY**

Help us reach our **Goal of 700** donated bags of gently used items. Working with Savers Thrift Stores, our school will be paid for every pound of goods donated! For more info & for a [FLYER](#) to share with family & friends!

[Volunteer Opportunity!](#) We will need people to help load the truck on Thursday the 23. From 8:15 until 9:30. Let us know if you can help!

#### **March 10: 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Glow Dance**

Find your most outrageous Neon or White dress code appropriate attire to light up this glow party!

[Volunteer Opportunity!](#) To make this dance possible we need 10 chaperones.

#### **March 31: Evening at Great Skate**

Join us for an evening of skating fun from 4:00pm – 7:00pm.

### Announcements

**Re-enrollment:** It is that time of year again to re-enroll your student for the next school year. We will hold our annual Open House on Friday, February 3rd, from 4 - 7 p.m. At that time we open our enrollment to the general public and fill whatever open spaces we will have for the next school year. If you know that you will not be returning next year, please let us know. A supply fee is due with the application, as follows: 1st - 8th grade, \$200.00 per student, Kindergarten, \$100.00 per student.

[Charter Enrollment: 1st - 8th](#) and [Private Enrollment: Primary & Kinder](#)

**T-shirts:** School spirit shirts, designed by one of our SEII students, Violet O'Brien, are on sale as a school fundraiser! T-shirts can be ordered up until February 8th and they will be delivered by February 17th. Students will be able to wear the spirit shirts every Friday and for field trips! The first classroom to get 100% participation will be awarded a special fun day for the whole class. Order yours [HERE](#)

# Beyond Academics

Montessori said the children's play is their work. In that same spirit, we believe that children learn through doing, through experimenting, through making choices and by making mistakes. In this way they gain mastery of their physical bodies, their emotions, and their minds. At MDS we strive to go beyond reading, writing and math through physical education, music & arts as well as character building.

## Art Happenings

In Art we are working on our drawing skills. Looking for basic shapes and sketching. We have practiced fish, birds and self-portraits! Junior Elementary classes have started their puppets! The puppet project will use multiple crafting techniques, paper-mache, sewing, painting and construction as they design & build their own puppets.

### **Art class supply needs**

- Felt in various colors
  - Sized at least 12in x 10in
- A wooden shelf for paper storage
  - If there is a family who likes woodworking projects, our art teacher is in need of a shelf for paper storage. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Theresa at [Theresazuluaga@msn.com](mailto:Theresazuluaga@msn.com)

## Extracurricular Activities

### **Monday**

- Dance
  - Primary/ Kinder 2:30-3:15
  - Elementary 3:15 – 4:00
- Debate
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 4: 30

### **Tuesday**

- Chess
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 4:30

### **Thursday**

- Dungeons & Dragons
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 4:30

\*Please be here 5 minutes prior to the end of your child's activity for pick up.

## What's Kicking in PE?

Cue the fanfare and John Williams music, the Olympics are coming to MDS. Welcome one and all to the First MDS Olympiad. The students will represent nations from all over the world and compete in events from running to scoot-cart racing and everything in-between. Watch in the morning for the Olympic torch bearer to be opening your car doors and greeting each Olympian.

## Peg's Corner

Check here each month to learn about Montessori Day School's rich history shared by school founder Peg Huffman.

Montessori Day School started as a private school in 1981, in a converted residence on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Its mission was to create – not a boutique Montessori school but an excellent Montessori option for working parents. One of its first students, 2-yr-old Stefi, had Cystic Fibrosis. We were together in life until she celebrated her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. The carob tree we planted at her memorial service on campus (our "Stefi Tree"; she loved carob, could not digest chocolate) is thriving south of the GaGa Ball Court.





## It's Gaga Go time!

Thanks to our awesome family volunteers who shared their Saturday morning our school has brand new Gaga ball court! Our court can accommodate 10 players at time. Students are working together and learning the value of teamwork and sportsmanship.

**What is Gaga Ball?** Gaga Ball is a variation of a well-loved classic, Dodge ball! Originating in Israel in the 1970's, it is now played around the world! Players start in a "pit", hitting and rolling the ball with their hand to eliminate other players. Players can re-enter the game by catching a ball from the sidelines. Gaga is a fast-moving and high-energy game that keeps children of all ages active and engaged.



### THANK YOU!

**Family Volunteers; , Kelli, Marc & Jackson Sanzenbacher, Anne, Will, Arya, Eli, Benji and Finn Hendricks, Michele & Readan Jewell, Emmalee Altig, Luke Lobert join our PE & Music Teacher Mr. Murphy on a Saturday morning to build this awesome addition to our campus!**



**Middle School getting their Gaga on!**

### Movie Under the Stars

Our First Movie Night was a huge success! So many families came out and cozied up with warm blankets in our gym to enjoy popcorn, hot chocolate and Wall-E! A big thank you to our Parent Committee Event Chair Anne Hendricks who shared her idea for a family movie night and helped organize volunteers to make it happen! This free event was made possible from volunteers like you!

# How Can I Get Involved?

## Opportunities

Volunteers needed! From weekly to once a year, there are many opportunities to get involved in your child's education. Look [HERE](#) for more details.

- **[Savers Fun Drive](#)**  
**Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10am**
  - Load donations onto truck
- **[Glow Dance](#)** **March 10 5:30 – 8:00pm**
  - Chaperones
  - Food Helper
- **[Interest Lists](#)**
  - Greenhouse Fix up
  - Teacher Appreciation Week
- **Event Photographer**
  - Are you someone who is great at capturing the moment? The Parent Committee needs someone who can snap a few fun photos during events
  - If you have photos or other submissions you'd like to share with our community via the newsletter please email Ana Lobert at [alobert88@gmail.com](mailto:alobert88@gmail.com)

## Thank You!

- Anne Hendricks & Mr. Murphy for organizing and leading the awesome Gaga Ball project!
- The amazing student & family volunteers for breaking out the shovels & power tools to build the Gaga ball pit!
- Christy Kupper, Ana Lobert & Mr. Murphy for manning the refreshment table during movie night! As well as the many students and families who came up and offered to help!
- Jamie Neilon and all the families who helped set up and stayed after to help clean up after Movie Night.
- All the students and families who have taken time to go through their closets to find items they no longer need. Your donations for our Savers FUNDdrive helps MDS raise funds, as well as promotes reusing items rather than buying new, one of the best ways to help our environment!

## Tax Credit Info

We are please to offer an opportunity for you to donate up to \$400 towards programs your children love such as Art, French, Science exploration and Exploring Who I Am.

This is made possible by the Arizona Extracurricular Activities Tax Credit Law[(A.R.S) 43-1089]. Any Arizona taxpayer can donate and have the money credited towards their payment of AZ state taxes. This means it will go towards any amount owed OR will be added to any refund received.

All the money will go to benefit your children directly rather than into the general tax fund where other decide how to spend it. Simply fill out the [DONATION FORM](#), attach your check and drop off in the office!