

Montessori Day School

December Newsletter

Important Dates

December 5: Field Trip: Odysea Aquarium

- Grades: K – 6th
- We will be using school buses from Madison School District

December 6: Parent Committee

- In Ms. Montes' room next to the main office
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm

December 7: Half Day

- School dismisses at 11:30
- Extended Care available

December 9: Field Trip: Western Spirit Museum :

- Grades 3rd – 6th
- We will be using school buses from Madison School District

December 16: Winter Bazaar & Program

- Located in the Gym
- Bazaar is open from 5:00pm – 6:00pm
- Program is 6:30pm – 7:30pm

December 19 - 30: Winter Break

- No School
- Extended care available 12/19 – 12/22

Upcoming Events

Dec. 16: Winter Program & Bazaar

Join us for an evening of songs and shopping at our annual Winter Program & Bazaar! Students have been working hard and are very excited to perform a wide variety of songs! Our Bazaar has a great selection for some holiday shopping from student-made crafts, school merchandise and various hobby crafts donated by families. This year we will also be having a bake/unbaked sale, and rummage sale of puzzles, books & board games. Look [HERE](#) for more info on volunteering & donating.

January 16: Savers Fun Drive

At MDS we place high value on protecting the resources of our planet. Help us practice reducing and reusing by donating gently used items. Working together with Savers Thrift Stores, our school will be paid for every pound of goods donated! Our goal is 10,000 pounds of donations and anyone can donate so please share this event with friends, families and co-workers!

Announcements

School Shirt Design Contest: This contest is open to all MDS students. Our school needs a new spirit shirt and we want you to design it! The winning design will be announced December 7th and be available for order. The student with the winning design will receive their spirit shirt for free!

- Designs must be on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of white paper and can be drawn or printed.
- Designs must include the name of our school; Montessori Day School Mountainside.
- Entries can be submitted to your teacher and must be received by December 2nd.

Community Donation Drive: Congratulations to SE1 having the highest donations, you've earned yourself a pizza party! Thank you to everyone for all your support CASS – Central Arizona Shelter Services, and helping people get back on their feet!

State Letter Grades: All district and charter schools receive a letter grade from the state testing from the previous year. We are very proud to announce that we have retained our **A** rating!

Montessori is an individually paced style of education. We aim to challenge students while developing a sense of self. Students will work through the curriculum at their own pace, accelerating during some tasks or taking additional time with others.

Teachers are monitoring students for individual growth with academics, self-confidence, intrinsic motivation and global citizenship.

Primary & Kinder Happenings

Ms. Romana & Ms. Tomasa: In November we have been learning about North America and will begin to learn about specific states in the United States of America. While we learned about Thanksgiving we practiced our fine motor skills to create our “I am Grateful Turkeys”. Our morning snack feast was a triumph and many new foods were tried by all! Next month we will be learning about different holidays around the world in preparation for our Winter Program and work on lots of art projects for the Winter Bazaar. We hope to see you there!

Ms. Amanda & Ms. Vicky:

November went by so quickly! Our new Art classes with Ms. Theresa and Ms. Michelle allowed us to explore primary colors and what happens when we mix those colors together. In Geography, Ms. Vicky supported students as they completed pushpin continents and labeled the oceans to create their own world map. In Reading, students are exploring beginning sounds, word families, and sight words which support beginning reading skills. In Math, we continue to strengthen our calendar skills with songs and counting and recognizing words for the weather. Students also continued to strengthen their writing skills as they completed journal writing about friendships and being thankful for family. Our Friendsgiving Brunch was wonderful and we enjoyed sharing this special time together. We look forward to the holiday season and all the memories we will continue to make in Kindergarten.

Friendsgiving!



Classroom Requests

- **Ms. Romana**
- **Ms. Amanda**
 - Boxes of tissues x 5
 - White Printer Paper x 2



Junior Elementary Happenings

Ms. Turner: November was fun! We had a Thanksgiving breakfast feast and learned about Thanksgiving. We did science experiments and learned about the scientific method. Students learned about the solar system and some students did animal research or researched on important people in history. Our class has been learning about parts of speech, metaphors, and writing essays. The 3rd years and some of the younger students even typed their essays! Our class has also enjoyed using the Amira reading program on the computers. This month we got to enjoy a performance about King Tut from our 3rd years! In math, students have been busy learning about multiplication and division, repeated addition, computation, fractions, and word problems!



These three were so excited to show us the completed pin map of South America!

Senior Elementary Happenings

Ms. Pedraza & Ms. Hannah: I am very happy to welcome Ms. Hannah to the SE-I team! Ms. Hannah joined our senior elementary team at the end of October. She jumped right in by decorating the classroom for Fall. She loves to garden and her next project is to start a Gardening Club for the students. More news about that as it develops. This month the students have been busy doing their Heritage Project where they have traced their family tree. We appreciate the support of our parents to make this happen!

Ms. Lovato: In remembrance and celebration of Heritage month the students wrote essays about famous Native Americans and Battles. We also had a Thanksgiving Feast! The students also participated in a group novel read which they all presented on and seemed to enjoy. We also started up a tradition I began last year of having 'Culture Morning Thursdays'. This gives students a chance to share things about their culture and language with the class. In November we learned Korean, Russian, Spanish and French.

Ms. Lovato's class at Better Piggies Rescue!



Classroom Requests

- **Ms. Montes**
Amazon Wishlist
 - Post-It Tabs – 1 inch
 - White copy paper, Color paper
 - Tissues
 - Cardstock paper
 - Bookmarks for the students
 - Bertiveny Teacher Stamps
- **Ms. Samia**
- **Ms. Turner**
 - Books!
 - Noise canceling headphones
 - Weighted stuffed animals or shoulder wraps

Middle School Happenings

Middle School Website Here

Over the week of Thanksgiving, Middle School students participated in a big project. They were tasked with creating their own board games. Their games have many interesting themes such as: pirates, nuclear fallout and food! Students also participated in a Spelling Bee. They were quizzed on words they have been studying over the past two quarters. We had 3 winners! In 1st place: Dylan Grave. In 2nd place: Morgan Crowe and in 3rd place: Aldon Williams! Congrats to them all!

This month in **Black History** we will be studying the Civil War and Black Americans contributions to the war. We will discuss how Black Americans served in the different branches of the military as well as how many helped free captured Union soldiers. We will wrap up the quarter with a discussion about the importance of Juneteenth.

This month, the Middle School **Street Law** class will be studying the Criminal Justice Process, from investigation and arrest, to charging and other pretrial procedures. We'll focus on identifying the rights of the accused under the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, and how these rights are protected in real life. Next month, in anticipation of our end-of-year mock trial, we will learn about the trial itself, and how it is conducted to ensure that justice is served, for both the accused and the general public.

Art Happenings

We have been learning about color theory by painting the color wheel. Students learned that mixing a primary & secondary color they create a tertiary color, and by adding whites they can find lovely tints like lavender & aqua. In December our art room will turn into an elves workshop, crafting various fun holiday projects!

Junior elementary is beginning to gather supplies for January to be used in a large project. This project will use multiple crafting techniques, paper-mache, sewing, painting and construction as they design & build their own puppets. This much loved project could benefit from a few parent volunteers willing to pre-cut materials at home and drop off for class. If you are interested in helping our art class please contact Ms. Theresa at Theresazuluaga@msn.com

Classroom Requests

- **Ms. Theresa (Art)**
 - Toilet paper tubes
 - Tennis balls, 1 per student
 - Felt in various colors – 5 yards needed
 - o Pre-cut from craft store is too small
 - Volunteer to pre-cut tennis balls for puppet neck
 - Volunteer to pre-cut felt for puppets
 - 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

From the Music Loft

This month we listened to Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. We heard how different instruments like the strings, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, or timpani represent the different characters in the story. We also listened to "Mr. Bach Comes To Call", a fictional audio drama that teaches the life and music of J.S. Bach. We are just starting to listen to an English dramatization of Mozart's "Magic Flute" and discuss the elements of Opera.

We also have been working hard on final preparations for our winter program we are very excited to put it on for you Friday, December 16th at 6:30pm. We ask that the students arrive by 6pm for the concert. We hope to see you there!

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities allow students to explore interests, learn the value of teamwork, and teach essential life skills. On or off campus, we hope all of our students have the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity they love! Check out what we have available here at MDS and stop by the front office for more info.

School Clubs

Debate Club

Our debates have focused more on up and coming controversies this month. Our most heated debates have been on if A.I. created images should be considered art and if people should be able to choose the gender of their child.

- Cost per semester is \$100.
- 6th – 8th grade: Monday @ 3:30-4:30
- Currently full

Chess Club: We are having fun about the pieces and how they move. Some of us learned about ending strategy for checkmate with limited pieces while avoiding a stalemate.

- Cost per semester is \$100
- 3rd – 8th grade: Tuesday @ 3:30-4:30
- Currently full

Dungeons & Dragons Club

Join us to battle monsters, collect treasure and work as a team in a cooperative game based on imagination, teamwork & storytelling. D&D helps develop teamwork, problem solving as well as reading and math.

- Cost per semester is \$100.
- 6th – 8th grade: Thursday @ 3:30-4:30
- Currently full

Have an idea for a club or activity that students or families may enjoy? Let's make it happen! Email us at Mtsparents@mdpsc.org!



Sports

Soccer Shots: is showing to be a very popular program with our students, come check it out! Soccershots.com/Phoenix

We've had a few inquiries about school sports at our monthly Parent Action Committee meetings. A big thank you to those who shared their feedback! We are asking families to complete a short survey [HERE](#) to determine what interest there is for various sports and building a school team.

Dance

Children will learn the basics of dance, movement and music in a refreshing and creative way. They will be introduced to a variety of dance styles including; ballet, hip-hop, musical theater and more! Enroll [HERE](#)

- Primary & Kinder: Monday @ 2:30 -3:15
- Elementary: Monday @ 3:15 -4:00



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.

- **Classroom Help**
Updates throughout the year
 - Look [HERE](#) classroom sign ups
- **Winter Bazaar [HERE](#)**
Dec. 16 @ 5pm-6pm
 - Set up & Tear down
 - Run a table
 - Donate books, games & puzzles at the front office, to be sold for under \$5 for school fundraiser.
 - Donate for our Bake sale

Thank You to Rebecca Kendall, one of our SE1 parents, for sharing this poem with our newsletter, what wonderful advice!

Truth is a great way to be thankful; It reveals how you feel about certain things.

Helping out and using your manners is a great way to repay someone.

Allies are created when people use this virtue more commonly.

Nice things come your way when you practice this.

Kindness and food is exchanged on a holiday made from this.

Flaring rivalries start when people do the opposite of this.

Under it all, everyone practices this every day.

Liking something, then sharing your joy with the world is exactly this.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile: Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know Amazon will donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to our school, just by linking your account to our name? It's that easy!

1. Open the mobile app in settings (☰).
2. Select Gifting & Charity then Amazon Smile
3. Search our school name: Montessori Day Public Schools Chartered

Your Parent Committee

Parent Administration Committee: Veronica Rice
Parent Event Committee: Anne Hendricks

Join us at our school's monthly Parent Committee, held the first Tuesday of each month. This is where parents and teachers brainstorm and organize our community events and programs as well as an open forum. Is there something you'd like to see at your child's school, come check out a meeting and share your ideas! If you'd like to add anything specific to the agenda, email Mtsparents@mdpsc.org. Hope to see or hear from you! Click [HERE](#) to see what was discussed at the last meeting.