

Montessori Day School

January Newsletter

Important Dates

January 3: Classes Resume

January 3rd: Parent Committee

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

January 9: Savers Fun Drive

- Drop off your thrift store donations at schoolboy the front bulletin board.
- Runs through Feb. 17

January 25th: Half Day

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

January 27th: Movie Under the Stars

- 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Admission is FREE and includes Popcorn & Hot Cocoa or Coffee
- Movie: Wall-E
- Bring a blanket to sit on/ bundle up with

February 7: Parent Committee

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

Upcoming Events

January 9: 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(700 bags) of donations. Anyone can donate so please share this event with friends, families and co-workers! If you have an hour or so on Feb. 23rd @10am and could help load of the truck it would be greatly appreciated check [HERE](#) for more info.

January 27: Movie Under The Stars

Bring out your coziest blankets and join us for a showing of Wall-E in an outdoor movie night here on our campus lawn. Admission is FREE and will include popcorn and hot cocoa or coffee. If you'd like to help with this community event look [HERE](#) for more info on volunteering or donating.

Announcements

Emails: It has come to the school's attention, that not everyone is getting Director Pat's emails & the newsletter. If you need to be added to the distribution list please add your email [HERE](#).

Gaga Ball Court: Gaga Ball fever has hit our campus! This variation on dodge ball kicks it up a notch by being played inside a walled octagonal pit. Using funds raised from the Bazaar our Parent Committee is building a permanent Gaga Ball Pit here on Campus! If you'd like to help with this community project check [HERE](#) for more info on volunteering!

Extracurricular: Clubs and sports are starting up again! Watch for the email with program sign ups! Clubs will run for the next 12 weeks and cost \$100 per student.

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.

Extracurricular Activities

Craft Club

We are beginning with yarn crafts, and hope to provide the campus with a "Yarn Bomb" art installation! Students help guide the curriculum and there will be a focus on reducing and reusing & recycling items from past projects.

- 3rd - 8th grade: Thursdays @3:30 - 4:30 in the art room.

Gardening Club

Students will learn how to care for edible plants, xeric/wild plants, and florals in both outdoor and greenhouse settings. There will be an emphasis on sustainability, creating healthy soil, water efficiency, native plant selection that support local wildlife

- Day & time TBD

Debate Club

Each week we'll cover a new topic from both sides, then form teams to battle it out!

Debate is great for developing critical reasoning skills, gaining new perspectives and improving public speaking.

- 6th - 8th grade: Monday @ 3:30-4:30

Chess Club: Come learn the basics or improve your skills, we like to have fun, learn and play lots of chess! Chess increases higher level thinking skills, advanced math & reading skills and builds self-confidence.

*Limited space

- 3rd - 8th grade: Tuesday @ 3:30-4:30

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.

- 6th - 8th grade: Thursday @ 3:30-4:30

Sports

Twinkle Toes 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

Soccer Shots: is an engaging children's soccer program for preschool - 3rd grade. Weekly 30 minutes sessions include basic soccer skills as well as character building lessons, coordination, balance and agility development.

- Ages 3-8: Wednesday @ at 9am - 18 sessions, No class 3/15/23

- Cost is \$270 for 18 sessions

sign up Soccershots.com/Phoenix

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.



Winter Program

Oh what fun we had that night! Our students had so much fun performing for such a great audience! Congratulations to all the students on a delightful performance and thank you to everyone who came out to support the artistic talents of so many students! From songs, to plays, to sing-a-longs, this night had it all! We can't wait to see what they'll show off next year!



Junior Elementary rocking it out to rock around the Christmas tree!



MDS Directors - Past & Present
Current Director Pat Freeman, School Founder Peg Huffman, Former Music Director Maurita Bennet & current Music Director Mr. Murphy



Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit staying late to prepare the new software launch on Christmas Day, in Middle School's 2023 version of the Christmas Carol.



Director Pat, Ms. Pedraza and Ms. Hannah at dress rehearsal and getting very excited for the program!

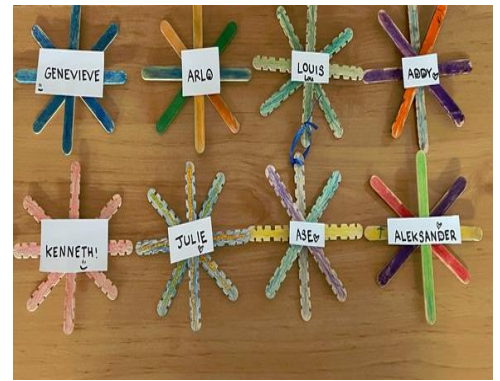
Winter Bazaar

What amazing artists we have at MDS! Fantastic job to all the young artists who made crafts for the Bazaar! And a big THANK YOU to all those who donated to the Parent Committee Sale. Classrooms each raised funds individually as well as the Parent Committee which raised \$600 to be used towards a FREE community Movie night, Gaga Ball court and our spring carnival!

Extended Care Happenings

MDS would like to officially welcome & introduce Ms. Tori, who started in October. Ms. Tori is mostly working with primary and extended care though is always happy to help wherever she is needed. We are so very proud to call her a member of the MDS staff!

Hi Parents! I am Ms. Tori, I'm excited to announce December has been filled with crafts and late night brainstorm sessions to help everyone's creativity shine brightly and grow brighter. From popsicle stick snowflakes, drawing contests, stocking stuffers, and pop-up holiday cards I can proudly say it's just the beginning! I look forward to the many more pictures and projects in 2023! Warm greetings to those reading and Happy New Years parents!



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** [HERE](#)
Thursday, Feb. 23rd @ 10am
 - Load donations onto truck
 - If under 150 bags of donations, the school will need to transport ourselves – anyone have a trailer?
- **Movie Under the Stars** [HERE](#)
Friday, January. 27th @ 5pm
 - Set up/Tear down
 - Servers – popcorn, coffee, cocoa
 - Tech person – just in case
- **Interest Lists** [HERE](#)
 - **Build a Gaga ball Court**
 - **Greenhouse fix up**

Thank You!

- Aida and Ann Hendricks for planning and running craft activities for our aftercare kiddos!
- Christy Kupper for donating, setting up and running the Bazaar and creating Friday Folder Flyers, you rock!
- Ana Lobert for giving our front bulletin board a makeover and all your help with the Bazaar!
- The Baldwin Family, Sarah Bracy, Judy Bryan, Rebecca Netztsosie, Laura Cacaes for all your help with setting up and running the Winter Bazaar, it wouldn't have been the same without you!
- All our families who donated puzzles, games, books and baked goods, for helping so many have a winter break full of fun and tasty treats!

HAPPY
New Year