



White Mountain Montessori Schools

Learning for a Lifetime

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Fall 2009

Fall Festival Parade—Fun for All!



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Winter Break
Dec 21—Jan 1
School resumes on
Jan 4th

Learning for a Lifetime 

Volunteer Hours

How are you doing fulfilling those volunteer hours? Here are some ways people have donated time:

- Helping on the playground, during lunch-time and in the classroom.
- Cutting out projects at home for lessons presented by the teachers.
- Painting and repairing our playground equipment.
- Building maintenance.
- School newsletter.
- WMMS website.
- Making a much-needed dump run or cleaning out a storage area.
- Assisting on field trips.
- Assisting during fundraisers: The Music Festival, Book Fair, counting Eddie's receipts.
- Weekly laundry.

Need more ideas? How about a class presentation, cooking group or cultural project? All your talents are greatly appreciated!

The PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) is going strong!

The PTO has created a strong mission statement to support classroom and school needs, organize parent volunteers for events, and plan and implement fundraising events.

Tarri Randall is the president of the group and is seeking a co-chair for the afternoon meetings. Dianna Mahoney and Janelle Bratsch are vice-chairs. Miss Nicole is secretary. Sarah Nolan is the treasurer.

The PTO has assembled a grant-writing committee and welcomes input there.

The PTO was also responsible for the WMMS participation in the Fall Festival Parade for Pinetop-Lakeside and is very grateful to Miss Beth Alwin and Victoria Hanyzewski for pulling it all together. Not to mention the recent PTO Rummage Sale that brought in lots of money primarily due to the hard work of Miss Beth

They are discussing a variety of smaller fund-raisers. Get involved with your PTO today!

3-6 Class Notes

In September, the 3-6 class was joined by the elementary class for a presentation on Pennies for Peace. The children watched a video telling the story behind Greg Mortenson's efforts to build schools and educate children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

After the viewing, heroes were discussed. The children understood Greg to be a hero and were then told that they are heroes, too, as they contribute to the Pennies for Peace jar in the foyer.

The idea was planted that for each penny contributed, a pencil could be purchased for children whose lives are so very different from ours on the mountain. The stories about how the children are donating are very heart-warming. Francie and Maddie earned a dollar to put in the jar (be sure to ask Steve and Sarah Nolan how). Francie gave a lesson to the 3-6 class, using groups of ten pencils to skip count to 100. She explained how the dollar could buy 100 pencils.

If you would like more information about Pennies for Peace, read Three Cups of Tea, buy Greg Mortenson and visit his website.

3-6 Goings On

- Field trip to Big Springs huge success. Largest parent turnout for this trip!!!
- Oct. Fire safety month, also will introduce lesson on 911 and stranger danger
- Eddie Towe presented earth core samples to 3-6 class Oct. 23rd
- Language—Kinders are being introduced to letters N, O, P, Q, & R. They are continuing to work on correct letter formation and sounds. Preschoolers have also been working on letter sounds and recognition, learning their name etc.
- Poetry Journal—Kinders are reading a poem, discussing and, illustrating
- Creative Writing--Kinders write in their journal every Thursday with Miss Joey
- Readers have been given to all students. Once one is mastered another is given.
- Science--solar system has been introduced. Kinders watched short eyewitness news video on planets. Started Planet book, contains facts on each planet. About 2 week lesson to complete. Also talked about stars and constellations. Solar system also introduced to pre-schoolers, just at a less difficult level. Introduction to surface tension of water, the prism and Sir Isaac Newton.
- Math Miss Jan has been working with number cards and bank materials with the Kinders. 4 digit numbers presented and use of units, ten bars hundred squares and thousand cubes to build numbers and understand place values. New math work presenting addition introduced. Addition balance beam. Two student working on 1st grade worksheets.
- Art-- Miss Kelly had children paint a picture of earth as seen from outer space. Miss Nicole is working with children on fall art.



It's Elementary!

- The students are enjoying our continent study of Europe. These past several weeks we have been focused on European geography, the Middle Ages, the feudal system, and castle life. They have also been interested in studying myths and legends and have created their own writing samples explaining natural events.
- The community service class has been focused on helping support the Love Kitchen through baking fresh banana bread for community cooking and collecting wish list items for their facility. In the next few weeks students in small groups will be visiting the facility for a personal tour and an opportunity to help out. Sarah Davies has been the main organizer for this class and a big help with Odyssey of the Mind as well on Monday after school.
- Spanish class has been going smooth. The students have been introduced to the history of the Spanish language, with a major tie in to Spanish exploration and expansion. Also, within the classroom we have labeled specific items to help introduce and refer to in order to build overall vocabulary and implementation in the everyday routine.
- Swimming has been a big hit with the class for P.E. The students are receiving ½ hour lessons (advanced group with John Bratsch) and “free swim” after. Students did great hiking to Mtn. Meadow through Big Springs as well (thank you to Beth for helping chaperone).
- Book Projects went smooth over the past week. Many students chose to present as an “early bird” which helped ease the load on Thursday. The 1st graders did especially well and were able to present comfortably in front of the group.
- We have an upcoming field trip to both the Love Kitchen (in small groups) and to Willis Farm in Snowflake. We'll enjoy the corn maze, trebuchet (fancy French catapult).
- Europe Night has been scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10th at 6:30pm. We'll also be doing an encore presentation at Solterra on Dec. 15th at 1:30PM.

Pinetop Tuition Support Organization



Arizona still has the Education Tax Credit! Arizona taxpayers have the option to allocate a portion of your taxes to a tuition support organization which uses the money to provide scholarships to private schools. WMMS is associated with The Pinetop Tuition Support Organization (PTSO). Any AZ taxpayer can contribute up to \$1,000 for joint tax filers and \$500 for individual filers. **Contributions must be received before December 31, 2009.** On your 2009 taxes, you are then eligible to take a dollar-for-dollar reduction of taxes owed, or get a dollar-for-dollar refund if you do not owe taxes. You do not have to contribute the maximum, any amount helps. Now, more than ever, we need your help. Please spread the word. Brochures are available at the school. If you have any questions, or if you would like to be involved with

PTSO, please contact either Anna Atencio (242-8864) or Gary Hanyzewski (205-7711).



Music Program with Miss Eithne Stover

Musical training can improve your mind, according to several studies presented in Chicago at Neuroscience 2009, the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. The studies found that serious musicians are better than other people at perceiving, interpreting and remembering sounds. Musicians not only respond faster and more accurately to auditory stimuli; they are able to stay focused longer. Another study presented at Neuroscience 2009 suggests that musical training could help children who are struggling with language. Many children with dyslexia and other language problems do poorly on tests. Musical training could offer a way to improve their performance, the study states.

Similarly, Dr Mark Jude Tramo, a professor of neurology at Harvard and director of the National Institute for Music and Brain Science says "a musician who exercises certain parts of the brain is going to be able to do better on any task that involves auditory concentration." Tramo tells us that Aristotle wanted music to be a part of the Greek educational system because he believed it improved the mind. Now brain scientists have biological evidence that he was on to something.

So how have our Montessori students been developing their musical brains this Fall? The elementary class has been working hard on learning music notation, the skills necessary to be able to read music. This skill has been reinforced by many hands on opportunities to experiment with rhythm and pitch in the classroom. Recently we have been concentrating our efforts on preparing for our Europe Night presentation. We don't want to give away any secrets just yet, but be prepared for a fun evening!

Music education in the preschool and Kindergarten years is all about developing the body as one's first musical instrument. These children have been moving to the beat and discovering and experimenting with ways to organize that beat internally. They also have been finding, in some cases, and continuing to develop in others, their singing voices. Last month these children got to handle and explore a real violin in the classroom. They enjoyed listening to the sounds that can be produced by this beautiful instrument and loved moving their body to the beautiful violin part in Dvorak's Humoresque. Soon our attention will turn to preparing for our Winter Celebration program.

Both classrooms are preparing to sing and sign a beautiful song at the Christmas Tree Lighting this December at Woodland Lake Park. Mark your calendars for Saturday December 5th for singing, hot chocolate, cookies and festive holiday cheer.

WHITE MOUNTAIN MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

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We're on the Web!
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Dates to Remember

PTO Movie Night
The Polar Express
Thurs, Dec 4, 5:30PM

Europe Night
presented by the
Elementary Class
Thurs, Dec 10, 6:30PM

3rd Annual
Heifer Bake Sale
Yummmmm!
Wed, Dec 16

Winter Celebration
A Musical Delight—
Don't Miss It!

Welcome to our new Board Members and Officers



Please feel free to speak to any of us or put suggestions in the box in the foyer!