



White Mountain Montessori Schools

Building a Brighter Future

Happy New Year to YOU!

The celebration of the new year is one of the oldest holidays. Many believe it was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago it marked the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. How did New Years Day move from the summer to the winter? A good question, especially since the spring is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. Today New years Day is January 1st.

The month of January was named for their god, Janus, who is pictured with two heads. One looks forward, the other back, symbolizing a break between the old and new. The Greeks paraded a baby in a basket to represent the spirit of fertility. Christians adopted this symbol as the birth of the baby Jesus and continued what started as a pagan ritual. Today our New Year's symbols are a newborn baby starting the next year and an old man winding up the last year.

Not all countries celebrate New Year at the same time, nor in the same way. This is because people in different parts of the

world use different calendars. Long ago, people divided time into days, months, and years. Some calendars are based on the movement of the moon, others are based on the position of the sun, while others are based on both the sun and the moon. All over the world, there are special beliefs about New Year.

The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. It is a holy time when people reflect on the things done wrong in the past, with a promise to do better in the future. Religious services are held in synagogues, and an instrument called a Shofar, which is made from a ram's horn is played. Children are given new clothes, and New Year loaves are baked and fruit is eaten to remind people of harvest time.

The Chinese New Year is celebrated some time between January 17 and February 19, at the time of the new moon, and it is called Yuan Tan. It is celebrated by Chinese people all over the world, and street parades are an exciting part of their New Year. At the Festival of Lanterns thousands of lanterns are used to light the way for the New Year. The Chinese people believe that there are

evil spirits around at New Year, so they let off firecrackers to frighten the spirits away. Sometimes they seal their windows and doors with paper to keep the evil spirits out.

The traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. Making a resolution to change some part of one's life also dates back to the early Babylonians. Today most people promise to lose weight or quit smoking.

Our ancestors thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends.

New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. Some put coins in black-eyed peas and the person who gets the coin in their meal will be prosperous in the coming year.

www.whitemountainmontessori.org

Check out our new website! IT IS AWESOME!!

Mike Mahoney volunteered many hours to create the site. He is amazingly talented! You'll find everything from school calendars to photo galleries. Thank you, Mike!!!

SNOW DAYS!!

We follow the Blue Ridge snow delay-cancel schedule. Simply call 368-6328 and listen to the recording. The only exception to this rule is if the teachers feel the afternoon schedule needs to change. If so, they will call each parent with any midday changes.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHES!!

We encourage all students to exercise outside whenever possible, so please send your children in cold weather appropriate clothing. Snow pants, boots, jackets, hats and gloves are appreciated.



Teachers & Staff

3-6 Teachers

Jan Krening
Joey Valichnac
Kelly Sullivan
Nicole Buckles

6-9 Teacher

Adam Nolan

Music

Eithne Stover

Art

Victoria Hanyzewski

After Care

Beth Alwin

Secretary

Sandy Kurth

2008-2009 School Board

Chairperson

Gary Hanyzewski

Vice Chairperson

Susan Vest

Treasurer

Bryan Anderson

Secretary

Anna Atencio

Directors

Beth Alwin

John Bratsch

Jessica Covey

Jan Krening

Adam Nolan

Eithne Stover

Joey Valichnac

School-Board Liasons

Susan Vest

John Bratsch

Over \$1,000 Contributed to Heifer International



WMMS Bake Sale Supports Heifer

Heifer International is the philanthropic choice of the 6-9 class at WMMS. Heifer International was

founded on a simple belief: ending hunger begins with giving people the means to feed themselves. Today, 9.2 million families in more than 125 countries move toward self-reliance through the gifts of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. Recipient families "pass on the gift" by sharing one or more of their animals' offspring with other struggling families. Each recipient becomes a donor. This process enhances self-esteem, ensures program continuity, builds solidarity and multiplies the benefits of the original gift for generations to come. The WMMS students decided to purchase 1 goat, 2 sheep, 1 pig, 5 flocks of chicks, 5 honeybee hives, and 3 tree seedlings.



Keala Tempts Mr. Mahoney with a Cinnamon Roll (Oh my Gosh, who wouldn't buy something from this face!)

6-9 Classroom Report by Mr. Nolan

Much of the last month was dedicated to special projects including country research, poster preparation, Asian culture sharing, and play rehearsals.

We had a community cooking day with the students the day before Thanksgiving for a friendship stew. Everyone loved it and the students shared what they were thankful for in a holiday meal of vegetable soup and cornbread.

Our ski trip dates have been confirmed at Sunrise. We will

also need to arrive at the mountain by 8:20 am this year to beat the arrival of larger school groups that are arriving at 9:00. The ski dates are:

Jan. 14th and 28th

Feb. 11th and 25th

March 11th and March 18th

We have also added Odyssey of the Mind to our specialist programs. Sarah Davies and Amy Hanridge

both volunteer once a week to teach the kids about cooperation, creative brainstorming, problem solving, and teamwork. The students participate in these activities on Tuesday afternoons from 2-3pm. The culminating project is a friendly Odyssey of the Mind competition in Flagstaff on Sat. March 7th among other school groups in Northern AZ.

PE with the Kinders continues to be a favorite for the class.

"Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand- and melting like a snowflake..."

- Marie Beyon Ray

Asia Night Caps Off Fall Semester

Super cali fragil istic expi ali docious!

WHOA! If I tried to sing, do a play and talk about Asia, it would sound like that! The 6-9 class studies of Asia culminated in a fantastic year-end performance! Do you know all the countries of Asia!?? Your elementary student does!

[Afghanistan](#)
[Armenia](#)
[Azerbaijan](#)
[Bahrain](#)
[Bangladesh](#)
[Bhutan](#)
[Brunei](#)

[Burma \(Myanmar\)](#)
[Cambodia](#)
[China](#)
[Georgia](#)
[Hong Kong](#)
[India](#)
[Indonesia](#)

[Iran](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Israel](#)
[Japan](#)
[Jordan](#)
[Kazakhstan](#)
[Korea, North](#)
[Korea, South](#)
[Kuwait](#)
[Kyrgyzstan](#)
[Laos](#)
[Lebanon](#)
[Malaysia](#)
[Maldives](#)
[Mongolia](#)
[Myanmar](#)
[Nepal](#)

[Oman](#)
[Pakistan](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Qatar](#)
[Russia](#)
[Saudi Arabia](#)
[Singapore](#)
[Sri Lanka](#)
[Syria](#)
[Taiwan](#)
[Tajikistan](#)
[Thailand](#)
[Turkey](#)
[Turkmenistan](#)
[United Arab Emirates](#)
[Uzbekistan](#)
[Vietnam](#)



The countries of Asia. Beth & Eithne recognized



Rhyming to Read

The role of rhyme in reading is more significant than you might think. Nursery rhymes strengthen listening skills and support

an awareness of patterns. The ability to hear and create the pattern of a rhyme helps children understand that words have patterns and that language has a rhythm.

Knowing how to rhyme will help your child read word "families" such as *let*, *met*, *pet*, *wet*, and *get*. Notice that rhyming words have same sound endings but

different beginning sounds. Some words don't look the same: *ache*, *cake*, *steak* but they rhyme. To teach your child how to rhyme, play a game.

Body Name Game

Begin by **modeling** how to rhyme. Point to parts of your body, say a rhyming word and your child should say the body part. This puts rhyming into her ears with a visual cue (pointing). If you point to your nose and say *rose*, she will automatically say *nose*.

1. Tell your child, "We are going to play a rhyming game. Rhyming words have the same sound endings. I'm going to point to something on my body, and say a word. You're going to say the body part that rhymes. Okay?"
2. Give her two examples: "I'm pointing to my leg, and I say *beg*. You

say *leg*. I'm pointing to my nose. I say *rose*, and you say *nose*."

3. When your child is able to do this, turn it around. Point to your knee and your child will say a rhyming word such as *bee* or *me*!

When your child rhymes body parts, play this game:

Say, "I'm going to say a word and you'll tell me as many rhyming words as you can. I say *bee*." Your child then says words such as "*he, she, we three, free, or agree*."

Choose one-syllable words that are easy to rhyme with such as *had, rat, man, fall, ten, red, big, fill, hop, dog, bug* and *sun*. All of these have multiple words that rhyme.

3-6 Class Report

by Jan, Kelly, Joey & Nicole

The Thanksgiving feast was very successful. The students made their own placemats and turkey place holders. The students all contributed to the "Thankful Tree" by adding what they were thankful for. Some even said they were thankful for their brothers and sisters! The Kinders continue to develop math skills with reinforcement of addition, subtraction, multiplication

and number order. They have been learning more about the United States, petroglyphs and the United States map. Reading, writing and spelling work emphasizes long vowels, word families and spelling tests. Art Masterpiece has been helping the students learn about different artists and their techniques. The Winter Celebration went beyond expectations. The students performed beau-

tifully and looked beautiful in their festive clothes, as well. We encourage the children to enjoy time outside everyday, so please send them to school in weather appropriate clothing.



Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something

White Mountain Montessori School requires parents to volunteer twelve hours per child per school year. Parents who do not fill volunteer requirements will be required to pay a \$200 volunteer fee at the end of the year. We understand that for many of you it is difficult to find extra time, but your help is very important to our school. Every parent is unique and can offer the children of our school a new way to grow and learn. What better way to become part of your child's education, get to know his peers and show him you care.

No amount of your time is too little. Just one half hour here and there can really mean a lot. Just one full day is over half of your volunteer hours for the entire year. There are many different ways in which you can volunteer, please ask a teacher or school administrator for details.

If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart.

~Arabian Proverb

Who You Gonna Call?

Gary Hanyzewski, President
White Mountain Montessori Schools
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Lakeside, AZ 85929
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E-mail: gary@hanyzewski.com

Board Meeting Bytes

- ✍ Teacher Reports - Updates
- ✍ Financial Status Report
- ✍ Annual Golf Tournament - Committee Formation
- ✍ Update on Elementary Teacher candidates
- ✍ Discussion on Director position
- ✍ School Expansion
- ✍ Charter School Committee Report

Thank you to Mark Engle for chairing the 2009 WMMS Golf Tournament Committee. We need volunteers!

Managing Growth

White Mountain Montessori Schools, a 501c3 non-profit corporation, was started in a living room in 1997 when six parents decided they wanted to offer Montessori style education in the White Mountains.

WMMS was created to provide both creative and stimulating intellectual, artistic, and developmental experiences for children aged 3 to 9 years old. The schools strive to cultivate each child's natural desire to learn and to foster his/her natural curiosity and love of knowledge.

In the past ten years, WMMS has grown to nearly 50 students, six employees, an active board of directors and many volunteers. Last year, a parent group funded the purchase of the school building on 421 Woodland Road to ensure the longevity of the school and location. Our goal is to continue providing excellent Montessori-style education to students of the White Mountains.

Do you have ideas on how WMMS should grow? Do you like the idea of a charter school? Do you wish WMMS had upper elementary? Are you afraid more growth, means less attention?

Please drop into a board meeting, and let us know your feeling about the future of WMMS. Or, grab a Board Member and give us your feedback.

We're on the Web!

www.whitemountainmontessori.org



Get your 100% Tax Deduction and help our school!

Give now for the 2009 tax year.

Arizona has established the Education Tax Credit program. This program allows all Arizona taxpayer's the option to reallocate a portion of their state tax liability from the state's general fund to a private and/or public school of their choice. Participating in the program does not increase the taxes owed in any way, it simply allows the taxpayer the opportunity to direct the taxes that they would already otherwise pay in the form of a dollar for dollar tax credit.

Tuition Support Organizations (TSOs) were created to facilitate the collection, management and disbursement of the tax credit money.

White Mountain Montessori Schools is associated with the Pinetop Tuition Support Organization. The Pinetop Tuition Support Organization is a non profit 501 (c) (3) TSO. Pinetop Tuition Support Organization provides tuition scholarships to qualifying students at the White Mountain Montessori Schools.

Joint Arizona tax filers may contribute up to \$1,000.00 and single Arizona tax filers may contribute up to \$500.00. Any amount is appreciated. Thank you for your contribution.

What do I have to do to qualify for this credit?

To qualify for this credit, you must make cash contributions to

a tuition organization that provides scholarships or grants to qualified schools.

What is the maximum dollar amount of the credit?

The credit is equal to the amount contributed. However, for single taxpayers or heads of household, the credit cannot exceed \$500. For married taxpayers that file a joint return, the credit cannot exceed \$1,000. If married

taxpayers file separate returns, each spouse may claim only 1/2 of the credit that would have been allowed on the joint return.

What is a school tuition organization?

A school tuition organization is one that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, allocates at least 90 percent of its annual revenue to scholarships or grants, and makes its scholarships/grants available to students of more than one qualified school.

What is a qualified school?

A qualified school is a non-governmental primary or secondary school located in Arizona.

Are there situations where a contribution to a school tuition organization, as defined in statute, would not qualify for the tax credit?

The law lists only one situation that does not qualify for the tax credit. The credit will not be allowed if the taxpayer designates a donation to the school tuition organization for the direct benefit of a dependent of the taxpayer.

How can I help White Mountain Montessori Schools?

Send your tax deductible donation to The PTSD-Pinetop Tuition Support Organization-at PO Box 1598, Pinetop, Arizona 85935 prior to December 31, 2008. You can find more information at our website

