



ALPINE MONTESSORI

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled”
— Plutarch

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please refer to this box every month for important dates to note on your calendar.

9/4 - Inservice, school closed

9/7 - Labor Day, school closed

Notes From 908

We would like to start off the year by welcoming our returning families and several new faces as well. We cannot express how much we have missed our “school family” and being with the students these first few days of school has been an amazing reunion! This new school year at Alpine Montessori is taking shape as the most unique in all our thirty-one years of experience in educating the children of the Big Bend, but we are finding that the will and wonder to learn is of course still there, perhaps stronger than ever! A big, heartfelt thank-you to all of the parents who have been attentive and conscientious during these unprecedented times.



All three classrooms are off to a marvelous start, the students are obviously delighted to see one another, but are willing to conform to the different regulations we have in place for their safety. Ms. Betsy observed that what we are seeing is what Maria Montessori called “cultural adaptability.” The children have quickly accepted the culture of the classroom with all of its changes, and



are moving within these boundaries as a natural unit. In these times especially, it is wonderful to be reminded that some things are steady and universal, and the students are already very much engaged in their environments.



The Primary Side

Ms. Irene reports that things are going really well in the new outdoor Primary classroom. The children are adjusting to their new day and seem to be thriving! So far, the teachers have been focusing on helping the students acclimate to new routines and rules, including social distancing and hand washing standards. This all ties in nicely with what we call “grace and courtesy” in Montessori circles, as well as lessons in “Practical Life”. With the peacefulness that comes with the outdoors, the teachers are now hoping to incorporate the outside classroom every year!

Lower Elementary Lines



Ms. Joyce has a vibrant classroom of young minds this year, and they all seem to be enjoying their work and the new outdoor environment! Lower elementary is a pivotal time of discovery and new found responsibility; most students relish this expansion into abstraction and fluency. It’s one of the most rewarding transitions to witness, and we look forward to a fun and vibrant first semester with this charming class!



We would also like to welcome Rachel Valenzuela to the school as our new teacher’s assistant. Ms. Rachel will be assisting Ms. Joyce most days but will also serve as assistant substitute/floater as needed. An Alpine native and AHS graduate, Rachel has attended college at San Angelo State University. Her ready smile and steady patience makes her great with the students and we are happy to have her!

Alpine Montessori admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-school-administered programs.

From the Upper El



Ms. Amy shared a nice moment during the first week of school. “The children have the option to work on math puzzles from the University of Cambridge. They were individually trying to solve them when I told some that they had the correct answer, AND their answer was different than the others I had seen. They became interested in how this could be - with great enthusiasm and curiosity, they explored the collective answers until they all found the common element and the ultimate answer to the problem. Collaboration and

creativity gave them a view of math as a tool for discovery, taking it out of the realm of rote memorization and paper/pencil work.” At an age where socialization and collaboration are second nature to the students, we see yet again that a Montessori approach educates “the whole child.” The upper elementary group in particular are impressing us with their willingness to be conscientious about their spacing and safety. Their maturity and efficiency are noteworthy! Though are all looking forward to cooler temperatures, this class has figured out how to

chase the shade and remain focussed on their daily lessons. Well done, Upper El!

“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.”



—Maria Montessori,
Education and Peace



We welcome input from our families! If you have something that you would like to see covered in our newsletter, or if you have something that you would like to contribute, please email us at admin@alpinemontessori.org. Articles, ideas for articles, events to put on our “dates to remember” calendar, and more are welcomed!

We get by with a **LOT** of help from our friends. We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions to our school.

WE THANK YOU!

Gilbert Valenzuela, for clearing away old dead telephone lines at the school!

Frank and Jessica Bassham, for providing new shade cloths for all the outdoor classrooms, and for donating cleaning supplies!

Ivan Santos Nuñez, for repairing the rope swings on the playground, clearing away building debris, trimming trees, and tidying up the entire outdoor campus.

Kevin Urbanczyk, Hunter Edwards, Jim Thompson, and Dave Larson, for felling the old tree in the front yard and clearing away the trimmings.

Erin and Jeff Williams, for painting chairs for the Primary class, and for donating many gifts from the Amazon wishlist, as well as sanitization supplies!

Martha Latta, for donating fabric face masks to the school!

Jenny Moore and Larry Bamburg, for donating a fabulous tool cabinet to the upper elementary as well as much needed wasp traps!

Dave Larson and Heather Rickleff, for installing new a new rain gutter on the Primary back porch, and for donating wonderful books and beautiful aloe plants to the Lower Elementary!

Katie Price Fowlkes, for donating sanitization supplies to the school!

Ann L. Price, for donating a new outdoor rug from our Amazon Wish List!

John Ray, for fixing the swing set!

The Ray Family, for painting the new Primary back porch!

Katie Nixon, for sending the staff lunch!

Tim Wilde, for incredible technical help over and beyond what we could have hoped for!

Benjamin Garcia, for helping us assess our wifi needs!

Megan Wilde and Avram Dumitrescu, for the delicious muffins!

Liz Sibley, for donating egg timers and for her continued support of AMS!



Special Thanks to...

Keith Nixon, Galaxy Projects, and Armando Gutierrez Construction, for donating time and materials to our campus-wide Operation Shade campaign! They did a timely and fantastic job making sure we could feasibly offer our classes outdoors. Find them on the web at

www.galaxyprojects.net and Armando Gutierrez Construction on Facebook!