



ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

Notes From 908

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/2 FOOD DRIVE ENDS

12/3 SCHOLASTIC ORDERS DUE

12/18 PAJAMA PARTY; EARLY RELEASE @ NOON

12/21-1/4 WINTER BREAK, SCHOOL CLOSED

1/5 CLASSES RESUME

1/18 MLK JR. DAY, SCHOOL CLOSED



We hope that you were all able to enjoy your Thanksgiving break safely and happily. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to our food drive this year! In times such as these, we know that it is often difficult to manage the demands of those closest to us, let alone our neighbors in need. It is heart warming to see our little community pull together in this symbolic way.

The children will be invited to join their classmates in a pajama party on December 18th! This is a fun tradition at AMS, where the students enjoy a morning of games and crafts, culminating with a mid-morning breakfast treat provided by the staff. Of course, we will be spending time on the playground that day, so please make sure that your child has outside shoes and a warm coat. The school will close at noon on the 18th for the holiday break, resuming classes on Tuesday, January 5. From all of us here at Alpine Montessori, we wish you the warmest of holiday seasons!



Since there will not be another newsletter until February, we will take this opportunity to inform you of some upcoming school closure dates in January. Aside from our return to school on January 5th, please note that we will be closed January 18th in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The Primary Side

Ms. Irene tells us that the primary children have really been enjoying activities in practical life lately. These are hands on works that give children real life experience in tasks that they normally see adults performing. Maria Montessori taught us that developing children should have a chance to experience these activities using tools that are suited to their size, and that rather than “pretend” to sweep, rake, or scrub a table, they should actually do this meaningful work, and get the rewarding sense of accomplishment that comes with that. They also gain fine motor skills and coordination, and perhaps even the satisfaction of a job well done! Practical Life is a key component of a Montessori classroom, and this year, being outdoors offers lots of nice opportunities for the students to contribute to the care of their space.

The class will be having a book exchange before we disband for the winter break! Please have your child bring a book to give at the class party no later than Friday, December 18th. This book can be lightly used or purchased, spending no more than \$5. Families have the option of seeking out a fun



inexpensive book in the Scholastic catalogs that went home in the children’s backpacks yesterday. Gift books should be wrapped but not addressed with a name. Thank you!

Primary students enjoyed a fine pot of “Stone Soup” to celebrate Thanksgiving, so we thank you all for providing the necessary ingredients, including love!

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.

Lower Elementary Lines

The lower elementary class has been busy lately with lessons on the early humans and what their lives were like, and moving from there to different cultures of the world. They have also recently visited a subject held dear by many children, dinosaurs! The students have been completing reports on a prehistoric life form of their choice. Children also learned about the pilgrims coming to America, and enjoyed a wonderful pot of “Stone Soup” to commemorate the traditions of Thanksgiving. On the day we release



for the winter break, the students will be exchanging books with their classmates! These books may be lightly used or new, spending no more than \$5. Please have your child bring his/her wrapped book to school no later than Friday December 18th, adding their name but not addressing the book to anyone in particular, as the books will be given out randomly. If you need some ideas for fun books, we recommend Scholastic! Thank you!

*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!

Kyle and Faith Melgaard, for installing the new heater in the primary outdoor classroom!

Liz Sibley, for giving a guided tour of Alpine’s alley murals, and refreshments to the lower elementary class!

All the families who donated items to our food drive!

Chris Weber, for donating an abundance of paper clips to the school!

All the families who donated ingredients for “Stone Soup!”

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!

From the Upper El

“Stone Soup” day in the upper el was festive, fun, and tasty! Thank you parents so much for supplying all of the good things that went into the pot! At this time of the year, students are naturally excited for the upcoming break, but subjects of study lately have included decimals, the Electoral College, human body systems, and punctuation. The children have also been discussing plans for a peace corner in their outdoor classroom. The peace corner in a Montessori classroom is a place where children can go to calm themselves, or resolve a problem with their peers during the day. The upper el student is independent, with a questioning mind and a strong sense of justice, so conflicts inevitably arise! We love that our students already have the tools to resolve problems in a peaceful way, and look forward to seeing what they come up with!

Coming up soon, the students will be drawing names for the annual “Secret Santa” ornament exchange! Ornaments may be purchased (spending no more than \$5 please), or made at home! Some of our favorite ornaments in years past have been beautifully crafted at home, so we encourage the students to make their own if possible! Please send wrapped ornaments to school with your child no later than Friday, December 18th, with the name of the person who will receive it, but not your child’s name (some students prefer to remain anonymous). Thank you so much, and have a wonderful holiday!

