

ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8-12

Spring Break, school closed

Looking ahead...

April 2

School closed

April 5-9

Primary PT Conferences

April 12-16

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), elementary only

April 19-23

Elementary PT Conferences



Notes From 908

After some crazy West Texas winter weather, it feels really good to be back in a groove at school, the interruption already a distant memory as the classrooms fill with the happy hum of renewed activity.

Historically speaking, February and March are short months, as far as class days are concerned.

In fact, we are in school less days in March than any other month save December! This means that the students are focused on making the most of available work time as we begin the steady march towards the end of the school year. We can never stress enough that parents can help their children immeasurably by incorporating lessons in math, language, and science into their daily lives. As we all know,

little ones love to show off what they know to the ones who mean the most to them (you!). Perhaps this built-in instinct works by design to cement new concepts. This could look like making change at the grocery store, regularly telling time on an analog clock, or measuring rice for the evening meal. Maria Montessori held strongly to the belief that children achieve concentration and stillness through meaningful work. Sometimes, slowing down enough to let a child help isn't easy, but you won't regret giving this gift of love, and it will give back over a lifetime for your child!



The Primary Side

It's always good to see such smiles in the Primary as we have of late, as friends reunite after an absence. We can see that the children are glad to be back in the way they



present themselves at circle time, eyes eager and attention all on the teachers! We missed them too! Lessons of late have included Black History Month, and the stories of Harriet Tubman and Ruby Bridges, among others. The children have also been working on their puzzle maps of North America. This involves



a step by step process where the child traces the continent and each country therein to present a concrete idea of how these countries all fit together. The use of the shapes to trace each country is designed to aid in the development of the child's dexterity with a pencil, and is also a precursor to handwriting practice. Simultaneously, the students receive lessons on each culture encapsulated within, filled with images of clothing, traditional housing, currency, and food from all over the world. An appreciation for cultural diversity runs strong throughout traditional Montessori curriculum, and the little ones absorb this beautifully at their tender age. Next up, Africa!

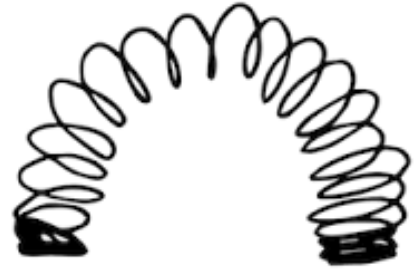


Lower Elementary Lines

Now that February has released its chilly grip, March can bluster in, hopefully with much warmer spring-like temperatures! The lower el had a great Valentine's day celebration before our cold weather snap. The special snacks were especially sumptuous, and we thank our generous parents for that added sweetness to the day!

The class has covered a lot of ground lately, despite the recent interruption! The children shared in some thoughtful discussions and lessons during Black History Month, as well as their core lessons every day. Students have also been working on their Asia country reports. This is a process that lays the groundwork for the kind of research that happens in upper elementary, and kindles a love for self dependence in "finding out" that characterizes so much of Montessori education. Students then get the practice of presenting their work to the class, which they always seem to enjoy.

In upcoming events, Ms. Rachel has plans to organize a play in the classroom some time after Spring Break! Good things coming down the road!



*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!

Heather Rickleff, for repainting the pink tower!

The Melgaard, Williams, Bamburg, and Scott families for donating special snacks for the Valentine's Day parties!

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

Maria Montessori said of adolescence, *“The chief symptom of adolescence is a state of expectation, a tendency towards creative work, and a need for the strengthening of self-confidence. Suddenly, the child becomes very sensitive to the rudeness and humiliations which he had previously suffered from patient indifference.”* Here at the school, we find that as these social young minds network their way into adolescence, they are quite happy to have a classroom that is completely theirs, a vantage point where questions can be asked and the world expands around them from a safe place. Subjects of study lately have included graphing, Benford’s Law of numerical distribution, electricity, magnets, and the power grid! Sixth graders have also been studying the endocrine and urinary systems. A study of volume has also paired nicely with 3D drawing lessons.

Hang on to your hats everybody, it’s March!

