



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### MAY 3-

*Fall enrollment forms go out*

### MAY 17-

*Open enrollment begins*

### MAY 18-

*Upper el graduation and lower el transition ceremony, 10:30 AM*

### MAY 19-

*Kindergarten graduation ceremony, 11 AM*

### MAY 20-

*Last day of school,*



## Notes From 908

With all of it's ups and downs, this has actually been a great year, full of pleasant surprises, triumphs both large and small, and the every day occurrence of watching the children rise to the challenge of schooling in a pandemic. And making a nice job of it too! From all of us at the school, a big thank you to our families for your commitment to smoothing the way to a more normal school year than we

ever could have hoped for. We appreciate all that you do! Very soon, we will be celebrating graduating kindergarteners and third year students transitioning to upper elementary, as well as our large group of sixth grade students! Each of these groups is finishing their own three year learning cycle. Maria Montessori observed that the child's development follows a path of successive stages, or "planes of development," each with it's own particular needs and dispositions- cognitive, social, physical, moral, and emotional. We love celebrating this achievement of culmination for the children with a small ceremony.

These days are favorites among the staff because they are always sweet and meaningful, a right of passage

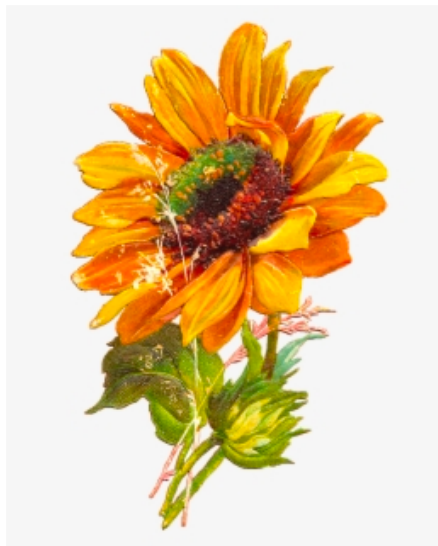
that deserves acknowledgement! This will take place during the last week of school on May 18 and 19th. Parents with graduating or transitioning children will receive an invitation to attend as the date approaches. The last day of school will be Thursday, May 20th, with an early dismissal at noon. Parents of Primary (age 3-6) students are asked to please send a towel, sunhat, and swimsuit with your child that day for a splashy day of fun in the sprinklers for Splash Day! Please make sure that towels are clearly labeled, as well as any sunscreen sent to school. Elementary students will have a fun day of crafting and games.

It's also time for fall re-enrollment! If your child will be changing programs, you will need to fill out the corresponding form, and we will make sure that you receive the right one. Alpine Montessori's summer program will begin Tuesday June 1st, and will run through July 2nd.



# The Primary Side

Children in the primary classroom have been having a lovely time in their spacious outdoor classroom with the exceptionally mild days we have been having. Lessons lately have included South America, language in general, nouns and verbs in particular! In practical life, always a favorite among the children, the return of classroom “jobs” has been very exciting! When students have a stake in the keeping of their own space, it tends to build confidence and responsibility, so we are pleased to offer them this involvement! Also breaking news, the fox hole and the slide on the playground are now open! The little steps toward normalcy are incredibly exciting as we are able to relax some our restrictions in regard to the pandemic. Good things ahead!



# Lower Elementary Lines

All of the children at the school had a wonderful outing on Earth Day visiting Kokernot park and picking up trash, and it warms the heart to see that our young understand the wisdom of stewardship and can carry this with them from now on! Studies in the lower el lately have included early humans and creation stories, fundamental human needs, animal classification, and metamorphosis, to name a few! Work on the play with Ms. Rachel is progressing too! More information on this in the weeks to come! The children will celebrate the last day of school with a game-filled trip to Kokernot Park, so students will need to wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water bottle. Thanks!



*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!

*Jeff and Erin Williams, for their wonderful talk on Africa!*

*The Melgaard family, for donating a new broom to the lower elementary, and a new Pythagorus Board for the upper elementary!*

*All of the families who donated delicious snacks during testing week!*

*Patrick Bost, for donating writing utensils to the school, all used during testing week!*

*Hope Cowan, for giving a wonderful harp demonstration and presentation to the student body, and Mary Elizabeth Thompson for introducing her to us!*

*Steve Rickleff, for gifting the staff with delicious donuts!*

*Amy Ellis, for procuring a grant for the school through AEP!*

# From the Upper El

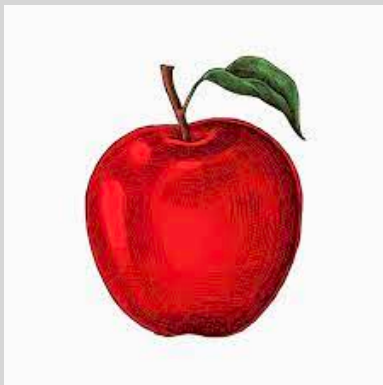


In addition to their fun outing to Kokernot Park for Earth Day, the upper el has been a busy bunch lately in the garden, all eyes on the growing plants so lovingly tended! Although the itch for the long summer break has definitely arrived, the children have been learning about light, sound, understanding the spectrograph, and the 50 States of the US. Sixth graders are also working on their final project for the year, research work and a presentation of their own choosing as they wrap up their three year cycle in the upper



elementary. We have a large group of sixth graders this year who are so much fun! We will honor their accomplishment in completing sixth grade with a small ceremony on May 18th at 10:30AM, and parents of these students are invited to attend. Invitations soon to come, so save the date! Upper el students will also be walking to Kokernot Park to celebrate the last day of school, so please make sure your child wears appropriate shoes and has a water bottle, as always. Thanks!

## Let's talk about...



We want to thank our lead teachers for all they have done during this furiously busy and fast-flying year! Joyce stepped in to teach lower elementary when we needed her most, and she threw her generous heart and spirit into the job. Amy worked with her group this year without an assistant, and the kids have had a great year filled with wonderment and laughter. Irene moved her entire operation out of doors and still managed to put a beautiful primary Montessori classroom at the children's

fingertips every day despite the restrictions in place. This year could easily have been filled with anxiety for the students, but because of the efforts of our dedicated staff, they have been at ease in their school environment, and we are so proud of that! Please keep an eye on this space in future newsletters where we will highlight a staff member each month. We want you to know our teachers because we think you'll admire them as much as we do!