



ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/4

Classroom observations begin

10/11

School closed

10/18

Parent/Teacher Conferences begin, Montessori Services order due

10/19

School Portraits

10/29

Halloween parties

Notes from 908

We are officially now in full swing of the fall semester at Alpine Montessori and we're so pleased to see how well everyone has adjusted to the classrooms and new friends. We are witnessing students in every class achieve academic and developmental milestones, sometimes with trepidation but more often than not, with shades glee.

We always say it's a good thing that October is a long month because there is so much going on at the school. Classroom observations begin Monday, October 4th. If you are interested in seeing how your child's class works, please consider signing up for a time slot. You will find the sign-up sheets in the office next to the sign-in rosters. Classroom observations serve to enrich parent/teacher conferences, which begin on Monday, October 18th. Sign-up sheets for these can be found on the clipboards underneath the observation sign-up.

We will soon distribute For Small Hands catalogs for our annual group order. We love this charming collection of wonderful books, child sized home and garden tools, beautiful toys and instruments, and so much more, all inspired by Montessori principles. Many of our families have been delighted with the holiday shopping opportunities found in these well-curated pages. Our school benefits from your orders, too, as we accrue credit for every penny spent to be used to purchase Montessori materials for the classroom. Orders must be received no later than October 18th so that we may qualify for free shipping!

Caneel Cardwell of CTC Photography will again take our school portraits this year, slated for Tuesday, October 19th. Look for an order form in your family box coming soon!

Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate this childhood favorite holiday on Friday, October 29th. Please read more about this in your child's classroom column in the following pages. Happy fall, y'all!



From the Elementary



If September was a feet-wetting event for some of the newer elementary students, October can be considered full immersion. Now is a time where we begin to see normalization in the classroom dynamic. When the children arrive they know what to do and how to seek help when they encounter the inevitable road block. A wonderful beginning to their day is the favorite morning tea time! Ms Amy and Ms Elena welcome herbal, non-caffeinated tea donations anytime. Honey is a treat, too!

Observations and parent/teacher conferences will be held this month. If you choose to observe the classroom, please check in at the office first and review the Guidelines for Observation, then someone in the office will escort you to the classroom. Observing your child's classroom in action is illuminating and rewarding!

The students will celebrate Halloween with a party on Friday, October 29th. They voted to wear costumes and developed criteria for what is acceptable in the classroom! They will also be working on an ofrenda during the week in recognition of Dia de los Muertos, with a group discussion on November 2nd. Look for an email from the teachers with more information on how your child can contribute to the ofrenda!

The Primary Side

Lots fewer tears these days in the primary classroom, if any at all. We're so happy for our youngest students as they learn to navigate a once unfamiliar environment in their own individual way. Parents can help foster this fledgling independence by allowing your child to perform challenging tasks with patience and encouragement. For some children, just walking up to school without being carried can be a challenge at first, but before long they own that walk and the school that they enter. The same holds true for carrying their backpack, hanging it up on their hook, changing their shoes... all can be performed solo by a child at this age. We don't look for perfection, but it is certainly an endearing moment when a child figures it out and takes pride in their effort!

We welcome all parents to sign up for a classroom observation on the sign-up sheet in the office. Observations give you a glimpse into the daily proceedings in the classroom. Parent/teacher conferences will begin later in the month. Please plan to arrive in time to read our updated Guidelines for Observation before entering the class.

The students will have a Halloween party on Friday, October 29th. In lieu of costumes, which can be bulky and distracting, we invite the children to make it a Wacky Hair Day. Color it, braid it, tie it up all over... the choice is theirs to make! Hats work, too, but they will keep them in their cubby during work time.

Lastly, please remember to update your child's extra clothes at the school to reflect our changing seasons. Thanks for all you do!



WE 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.



Amanda Chisholm and Jim Thompson, Elliot's parents!... for providing lunch for the elementary class!

Beverly Escuder, for her gifted instruction in music for the elementary and adolescent program!

Jenny Moore and Larry Bamburg, Willa's parents!... for providing lunch for the elementary class!

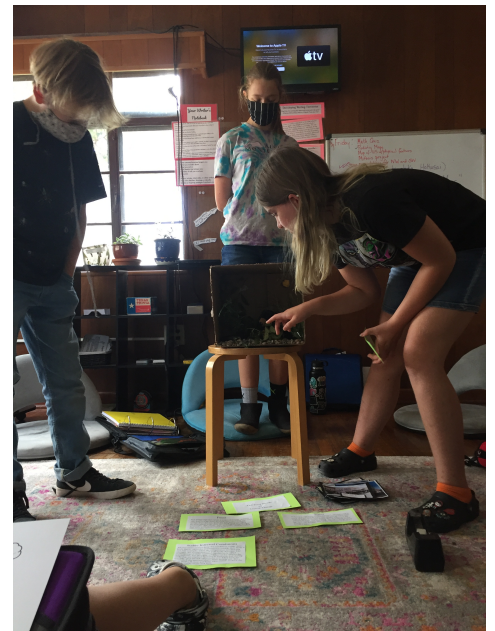
Prof. Marjie Scott, for guiding the upper elementary and adolescent students in theatre arts!

Around the AP

Montessori Secondary programs, what we refer to as the Adolescent Program or AP, incorporates rigorous academic studies with purposeful work, and strives to prepare our youth to become contributing adult citizens who are self-confident and possess skills needed to thrive in society. The developmental stage of adolescence is quite unique. This is a period of tremendous physical and neurological growth for the child. They are experiencing heightened self-awareness and self-criticism, mercurial emotions, and egocentrism. This leads to an increased desire for autonomy and can also fuel peer pressure. But not to worry! Our program aims to guide our students through these sensitive social and cognitive periods by nurturing creativity and courage. Ms Joyce has years of experience teaching 7th through 12th grades and is specifically trained in the Montessori AP curriculum, one developed to safeguard the well-being of our youth while preparing them for adulthood. The Montessori education for these students focuses on helping them live full, vital lives.

The math and language lessons in this class can be daunting at first as the children leave behind the materials of the upper elementary and learn to explore numbers and themes in the abstract. It could be said, however, that the materials are still there, but they have changed... they have become the tools of woodworking, the compass in orienteering, the Friday lunch budget, the blocks in robotics, the science behind a pinhole camera, the chemistry of processing the film.

We are so proud of this program and we look forward to watching it grow, along with the children within!



Did you know...



Picture Day!
Tuesday, October 19th...
Order forms to go out soon!

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. Start your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com and choose Alpine Montessori as your favorite charity! The donation will be made at no extra cost to you. While AMS supports shopping locally whenever possible, this contribution from Amazon is a welcome gift!



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