



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

12/2

Food Drive ends

12/14

Holiday program, 6PM @ SRSU

12/17

Parties, all classes  
 Early release @ noon

12/20- 1/3 -

School closed

1/4/22

Spring semester begins

1/17

MLK holiday,  
 School closed

## Notes from 908

The trees on campus are definitely letting us know that winter is on the way. As you all know, Texas weather can be very, well, mercurial this time of year, so we'd like to remind everyone of our winter weather protocol in the event that the roads become hazardous. In general, we do our best to follow AISD's schedule of school closings, late starts, and early releases, and this goes for special schedules arranged around inclement weather, too. You can be certain that if AISD makes the call to close, so will AMS. We always alert the local radio stations, post on social media, and send out group texts through the Remind system when this occurs. (If you aren't signed up, be sure to do so!) We have at times released early when ice and snow arrives during the school day. In that case we make all the efforts above in addition to sending out emails and making phone calls. Ultimately, please follow your instincts whether we close or not...if you are uneasy with the situation and would prefer to stay home, just give us a call and let us know your child(ren) will not be coming in.

The elementary and adolescent programs are working on a holiday performance with the music and theatre instructors to be held Tuesday, December 14th. Primary students will join the older students in singing songs on stage. Please read more about the holiday program and cookie sign-up on p. 3.

We will have an early release at noon on Friday, December 17th. All classes will enjoy parties that day with snacks but there will be no lunch time. Please read about your child's class in the proceeding

pages. We return to school on Tuesday, January 4th. There will be no separate newsletter for January so please note that we will close for MLK Day on Monday, January 17th. Happy holidays!!



## From the Elementary

Our elementary students are definitely in the holiday spirit as we edge closer to the winter break. Many are busy creating one-of-a-kind Christmas cards to sell in the coming days outside of the classroom during drop-off/pick-up. The proceeds from this popular sale will go to the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend. Be sure to check out these unique creations when you see the display! The children are also excited about their “secret Santa” ornament exchange. At a recent class meeting, they decided to create or purchase an ornament for a fellow student whose name they had drawn. Please check with your child(ren) to find out more. Ms. Amy and Ms. Elena kindly ask that if your family is leaving early for the holiday to please let them know that your child will not be in attendance on the last day of school, as the exchange will occur during the class party.



Speaking of the class party, the elementary children will enjoy “Pancakes and Pajamas” on Friday, December 17th. We encourage everyone to don their coziest pajamas so we can relax and celebrate the end of a wonderful semester. Pancakes and sausage will be served mid-morning, but there will be no lunch period. The school will release students at noon for the break.

## The Primary Side



It will come as no surprise that the choice subject in the primary class’s writing exercises this month is all about Santa. Meanwhile, the teachers are gearing up for a fun month of holiday crafts and our traditional end-of-semester Pancakes and Pajamas party. All students are encouraged to wear their favorite jammies to school on the last day before the break; we’ll be flipping pancakes mid-morning! The children will also have a book gift exchange. Please send a gift-wrapped new or gently used children’s book to the school no later than Thursday, December 16th. The gift should indicate who it is from but the package should not be addressed, as the recipient will be randomly chosen on the morning of the party. We will release at noon on Friday, December 17th so there will

be no lunch time, but do please send a water bottle. We look forward to seeing the little ones again in January! Have a safe and happy break!

# Season's Greetings!



Please join us Tuesday, December 14th, for a special program to celebrate the holiday season. We are thrilled to bring back this lovely evening showcasing the musical and theatrical talents of the students at Alpine Montessori School! The program will begin at 6PM at Marshall Auditorium on the Sul Ross State University campus. Afterward, we will enjoy cookies and cider in the foyer. If you are able to bring a plate of your favorite holiday cookies or bars, please sign up in the office. We are looking forward to sharing this time with the families of AMS!

## Around the AP

The seventh graders embarked on a fun and educational adventure to Nature's Classroom Institute (NCI) in New Ulm, TX on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This is Alpine Montessori School's 3rd trip to NCI and even with the long miles on the road, we just love it. NCI gives our adolescent students a chance to interact with Montessori kids from other parts of Texas, an important connection given our remote region. Once there, they are immersed in outdoor science while also fulfilling basic Montessori principles like community service and practical life lessons. At press time, all reports from this trip were positive and enthusiastic! Parents can expect some tuckered children when they arrive home Friday, just in time to sleep it off over the weekend.



The class will be wrapping up their first semester cycles when we break for the holidays. In Montessori adolescent classrooms, this is a time for the children to go out into the world and experience real working experiences through internships carefully chosen and researched by the students. We are grateful for businesses and individuals in the community for agreeing to allow our students to shadow them during a typical work day. We are eager to hear about their experiences!

The classroom has been working with their music and theatre instructors on a terrific performance to take place Tuesday, December 14th at 6PM. They will also celebrate the season with a party (in PJs, of course) and book exchange on the last day of school. Ask your student for more details!



# 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.

**Allison and Mark Ofenstein**, for donating an air pump for our playground balls and hops!

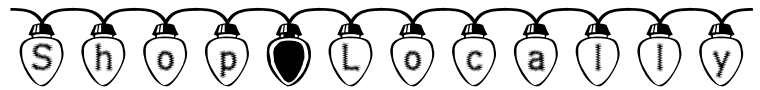
**Allyson Santucci**, for facilitating a meeting with our elementary staff on Montessori principles and helping to translate our communications between Spanish and English!

**Jenny Moore and Larry Bamburg**, for loaning their spacious van for transporting our adolescent students to Nature's Classroom Institute in New Ulm, TX!

**Michaeleen Doucleff and Altajane Sproull**, for providing lunch for the primary class in honor of Rosemary's birthday!

**Steve Rickleff**, for surprising the staff with a box of donuts!

**Hannah Siegel-Gardner**, for procuring a generous and greatly appreciated grant for the school!



Alpine Montessori supports and promotes shopping locally whenever possible. When we spend at home we help to keep our regional businesses thriving!

Some items in our rural area are hard to find. If you choose online shopping with Amazon, please consider using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Alpine Montessori as your favorite charity. AmazonSmile is a **program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.** The donation is made at no extra cost to you and despite the low percentage it really adds up!

*Alpine Montessori is a 501(c)(3) organization. Alpine Montessori admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at 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-administered programs.*