



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

4/11

Parent/Teacher conferences begin in Primary class

4/11 - 4/14

Iowa Test of Basic Skills - Elementary and AP

4/15

School closed

4/18

Parent/Teacher conferences begin in Elementary class

Summer enrollment begins

4/23

Parent Workday!

4/29

Summer enrollment forms due

## Notes from 908

We are so happy to see buds on the trees and a little green grass coming up on the playground again. It's a refreshing time around the school as the children lean in to the work that will see them to the end of this academic year. Kindergarten students are familiarizing themselves with the elementary class in anticipation of their upcoming graduation from the primary class. Sixth graders likewise will begin to observe the adolescent program beginning this month.

It's no April fool's joke, we really are lifting the mask mandate for most of the classrooms beginning this month. The Elementary and Adolescent students, as well as their teachers, may opt out of indoor mask wearing beginning April 1st. The primary students will continue to wear masks for now while in the indoor classroom, but with the expansion of our outdoor classroom they have plenty of opportunities for a "mask break". The board of directors re-evaluates the school's masking policy every month. We will be sure to let everyone know of any changes as they arise. Thank you to everyone for helping us get through these challenging years as we do our best to keep everyone safe at the school.

Elementary and Adolescent students will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills this month. This standardized test is one traditionally given at Alpine Montessori every year and at private schools across the country.

Please look for sign-up sheets for all classes to appear in the office soon to schedule your parent/teacher conference. If you would like to schedule an observation of your child's classroom, please see Amelie or Nan Hatty in the office. We will also have applications for summer enrollment out on 4/18.

The school will be closed Friday, April 15th. And finally, mark your calendars for a parent workday to take place on Saturday's April 23rd!



## From the Elementary

The elementary students were invited to the Alpine Public Library in March for a presentation by children's librarian Mary Beth Garrett on 3-D printing and learning Tinkercad. The library has a brand new 75" interactive board that makes learning Tinkercad a very "hands-on" experience. Many thanks to Ms. Mary Beth for hosting us!

It's nice to be able to revive field trips for the classrooms after two years of "outside only" excursions. We are always looking for new adventures for the students, including guest speakers and demonstrations. If you have an idea for an educational field trip or classroom presentation, please let us know! We are open to your suggestions and relish in the opportunity to share your insight with the students.



The Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be administered the week of April 11th. This standardized test is given to all students from first grade through 8th grade at the Montessori school. More information about this test will go out soon so please look for an email as well as an info sheet in your family box. We strive to ensure that testing week allows for minimum stress in our students. Daily testing rarely goes over two hours and the rest of the day is open for games and crafts. The students tend to enjoy testing week very much! You will be apprised of your child's test scores at your parent/teacher conference.

## The Primary Side

Everyone is really enjoying our new and improved outdoor classroom. Once we reopened the school in August of 2020, we had concerns about how we could accommodate outdoor lessons during the monsoons and in the colder months. We tried heating the back porch but the harsh elements prevailed. Our shade sails certainly helped but we really needed something that would better protect our school materials and make it easier to apply heat when necessary. Thanks to the hard work of board member Bret Scott, we were able to expand our outdoor space, thus the classroom, and we now have a wonderful three-season porch for the primary and after-school care. We hope to paint the walls inside and out at our next parent workday (Saturday, April 23rd!) which will go a long way in protecting the structure and brightening the space within. We welcome your ideas on how to further beautify and enhance the functionality of our outdoor space!





## Parent Workday SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd!

Please plan to join us for a parent workday on Saturday, April 23rd. We will open the school at 9AM and get to work fixing playground equipment and painting the primary outdoor classroom. Parent workdays are a great way to contribute to your child's school while meeting and sharing time with other Montessori families. If enough people pitch in we can finish our projects by 1PM. We will provide a list of tasks and supplies that may be needed. The school will provide any supplies necessary but if you happen to have leftovers of something on the list we will gratefully accept the donation! As they say "many hands make light work", so we hope to have a large gathering of volunteers. Children are always welcome but we ask that they play outside and not in the classrooms.

To help us prepare, please look for a sign-up sheet in the office if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

## Around the AP

The seventh grade history curriculum in our state's public school system focuses on Texas, so we've incorporated a little Texas history in the curriculum of our adolescent program by virtue of an exciting field trip to central and south Texas. The students trekked east in March to visit several interesting landmarks, many unique to our state. Their first stop was in Johnson City to visit the Sauer-Beckmann living history farm for an up-close look at homesteading in central Texas at the beginning of the 20th century. Later that evening, they caught a bat flight at the Congress Ave. bridge in Austin. The students also took in a tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, the Austin Botanical Gardens, the state Capitol, and viewed a short film at the Bob Bullock IMAX theatre. Once in San Antonio, they skipped perhaps the most iconic (and most crowded) feature in Texas history, the Alamo, but they did enjoy a tour of the Culinary Institute of America and dinner at the institute's restaurant, Savor. They ended the trip with a stop at Natural Bridge Caverns to take advantage of a very cool ropes course before leaving home for Alpine. Some of these things won't be covered in a traditional 7th grade Texas History textbook, but the students were exposed to a wonderful glimpse of government, industry, and heritage of their home state.

The last cycle of the year, Interdependence, will begin Monday, April 4th. Please watch for more information to go out regarding the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to be given the week of April 11th.



# 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.

**Amber and Justin Smith**, *for bringing donuts to the staff!*

**Rachel Sibley**, *for hosting the Adolescent Program in Austin for two nights during their Texas History tour!*

**Jessica Schaumann**, *for donating a playhouse to the school grounds!*

**Mark Saka**, *for the very interesting lecture to the adolescent students about the Alamo and common myths associated with its story!*

**Kevin Urbanczyk**, *for giving the adolescent program a tour of "Texas as Art" at the Museum of the Big Bend!*

**Jenny Moore and Larry Bamburg**, *for arranging a tour of the Culinary Institute of America during the AP's Texas History tour!*

**TLC Plumbing**, *for their continued financial support of the school!*

**Drs. Katie and John Ray**, *for their contribution of health classes to the adolescent students!*



A primary student developed and presented a very informative lesson to the adolescent class!

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