



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

(Refer to this box every month for important dates to note on your calendar.)

**8/31**

Maria Montessori's 152nd birthday!

**9/5**

Labor Day, school closed

## Notes from 908

Welcome back to another outstanding year at Alpine Montessori! We are so happy that you all are here to help us celebrate record enrollment in our 33rd year of educating children in Big Bend. We spent the week before the first day of school doing some much-needed updates around campus and we want to thank the many volunteers who stopped by and rolled up their sleeves to help. We never want to complain about the rain but all the dampness created a few challenges along the way, but nothing our crew couldn't handle. We're so happy to have the outdoor classroom in the primary up and running this year so we can utilize it rain or shine.

Please help us welcome our new guide Cassie Hogan to the primary classroom! Cassie is a recent Sul Ross graduate who is very excited to dive into the Montessori curriculum in her new profession. She and Ms. Rachel are both working toward Montessori certification through North American Montessori Center, a program that has educated many of our teachers in our long history. Ms. Addie, who has been living and breathing Montessori since her formative years in the elementary class, is also back to help with lessons and care. It's a great crew and we are grateful to have them.

Ms. Betsy has moved over to the elementary class this year to help out Ms. Amy and Ms. Elena with this booming class. So many bright minds under one roof, teachers and students alike, our cup runneth over! The students will get to enjoy more field trips this year with many of our traditional hosts welcoming us back now that Covid restrictions have largely been lifted. With such a big group, we will definitely need some help with transport, so please let us know if you can help drive the children on field trips.

We have a holiday coming up on Monday, September 5th, when the school will be closed. Our Google calendar is updated frequently on the school website if you need to look ahead at future holiday weekends and school closures, and we'll also try to get them in the newsletter each month. We're looking forward to a great year!



## From the Elementary

Wow, what a big class we have in the elementary this year! So big, in fact, that we pulled Ms. Betsy and her wealth of Montessori knowledge and experience from the primary into the elementary to lend a hand. Ms. Amy and Ms. Elena welcome her with open arms! Ms. Betsy has over 40 years experience in both primary and elementary Montessori classrooms. In fact, she helped start a school in Charleston, NC in 1989, which continues to be a successful, and now public, Montessori School. As Ms. Elena finalizes her certification studies this year in both lower and upper elementary, she is so happy to have the guidance of her co-teachers during this critical practicum phase of her own Montessori education.



New faces and old friends participated in the traditional first great lesson given on the first day at Montessori schools all over the world. In the first two Great Lessons the students examine the universe, the earth, and the timeline of life. Consequent lessons focus on the coming of humans, communication and writing, and finally the introduction of numbers. The teachers do terrific work with this, drawing lots of enthusiasm from the children as they tap into a natural wonder that leads to big questions. Even veteran upper elementary students continue to access discovery in the Great Lessons. It's an exciting way to start the year!

## The Primary Side



Many of you will notice some big changes in the primary class this year. Yes, the room looks a little different and the outdoor classroom is much improved, but we also have a new crew at the helm working with the children. Please help us welcome our staff to the primary class! Ms. Rachel and Ms. Cassie are excited to apply their Montessori studies in a hands-on environment that they have lovingly prepared to best provide lessons in this child-centered community. Ms. Addie brings years of experience and a beautifully gentle disposition to her work, one in which the children are naturally drawn. It's truly a lovely classroom.

The recent rains have been a boon to the mosquito population all over town and our campus is no exception. We are treating certain areas after hours with child and pet safe spray, but if your child is particularly bothered by mosquitoes then we suggest sending them with bug spray (labeled) for the teachers to apply. Otherwise, we certainly aren't complaining about the rain!

# Around the AP



The adolescent program has gotten off to an amazing start with five 7th graders and five returning 8th graders! They have a great year planned so far, with lots of field trips near and far along with a challenging academic load. Ms. Joyce knows this curriculum well. She has not only completed her certification studies in Montessori adolescent education from the acclaimed Houston Montessori Center, she also spent many years teaching at all three campuses in Alpine public schools, being awarded Teacher of the Year in 2013. We're grateful to have successfully lured her back to her roots in 2017, for she developed our very first elementary program at Alpine Montessori in 1993.

The students spend the first two weeks of school getting to know one another, learning how to work as a team, and figuring out how to navigate all the expectations that come with being in middle school. Included in their core studies is weekly music instruction, after-school theatre, woodworking on Fridays, and robotics club. They will also visit Nature's Classroom Institute in October and travel to France in November. We are keeping them very busy with our enriching program!

## *We thank you!*

We get by with a LOT of help from our friends. Many thanks go to the folks who contributed time, energy, and/or funds to the school last month!

**Liz Sibley**, *for helping SO MUCH during inservice week, donating time, labor, fresh ideas and funds to get us up and running in time for the new school year!*

**Ivan Santos Nunez**, *for winterizing the outside spigots and designing and installing a much-needed rain gutter for the outdoor classroom!*

**Erin Williams**, *for lending a hand during inservice week by recovering our tattered tables!*

**Stephanie Pattison**, *for showing up during inservice week saying "put me to work!" (We did!)*

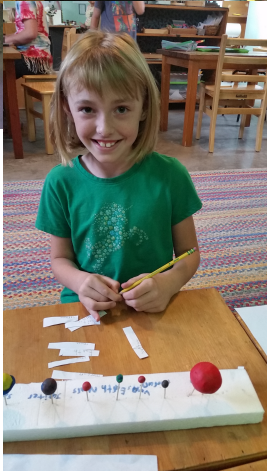
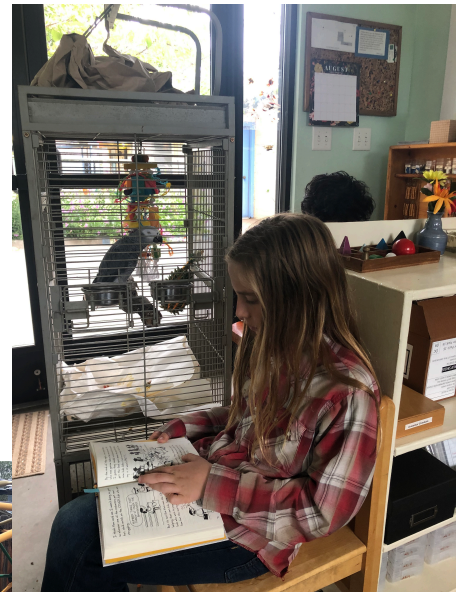
**Heather Rickleff**, *for picking up a paintbrush and helping to beautify the outdoor classroom... two days in a row!*

**Jessica Schauman**, *for the lovely donation of pillows for the peace corner in the primary!*

**Keri Blackman**, *for donating lots of mat board to our maker's space!*

**AISD**, *for inviting us to pick through the high school for useful items before they demolished the building!*

Please remember to turn off your vehicle when parked at the school. Idling cars pose hazards to our small pedestrians and the environment!



*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.*