



# 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 153rd birthday!

**9/4**

Labor Day, school closed

**9/12**

School portrait day

**9/29**

Early release @ noon

## Notes from 908

It is truly a wonderful thing to hear the classrooms abuzz with the happy activity of children! Welcome to another year at Alpine Montessori, our thirty-fourth year serving children of the Big Bend! We are so happy to have classes commencing at last, after all the preparation and changes over the summer. As many of you know, there was lots of shuffling and re-situating of the classrooms in recent weeks, and we thank all

of our friends and parents who helped with the big moving day in August. The spaces are functioning beautifully and the students seem very happy to be together in them, as they rekindle old friendships and nurture new ones. The start of a new school



year is an exciting time, not without its challenges we know, but as Ms. Evie said recently "When things are hard, that means somebody's growing." We always take a gentle approach to what Maria Montessori called "normalization," which describes a state in the classroom where the students know their routines, and have reached an easy flow into concentration and contentment. For the first week of school, most of their time was spent practicing those routines and building trust with their teachers. This week, lots of enticing works showed up on the shelves and suddenly they're off on their journey of learning!

A few important dates approaching are Labor Day on Monday, September 4th (school will be closed), and school portrait day! Caneel Cardwell will be returning this year to take the children's pictures, and she always does a marvelous job. Order forms for school portraits will be showing up in the family boxes soon!



## From the Elementary



The children have made a strong start in the elementary this year. As in Primary, much of the first week was spent establishing classroom routines and getting acquainted. One of the beauties to appreciate about this older age group is their sense of justice and interest in finding their voice. As educators, it is our great privilege to help them in these endeavors! Maria Montessori said “The adult works to improve his environment while the child works to improve himself.” Meaning, simply, that as the guide prepares an environment curated to encourage curiosity and growth, the children are

existing in a state of sensitivity where learning comes naturally and contains its own rewards.

We have a wonderful team of teachers to guide the students this year. Many of you have already met Ms. Eliza in her capacity as executive director, but she is also teaching our group of lower elementary students this year. Eliza comes to us with 16 years of teaching experience in both public and Montessori classrooms. Guiding the upper elementary during August is Evie Dorsey. We delight at the opportunity to have Evie in a mentorship capacity throughout the school, but she has graciously taken on the guidance of the upper el until their new teacher arrives early this month. More to come on Ms. Krista when she arrives! Our beloved Ms. Betsy will be returning this year to assist Eliza in the classroom. Her worth is without bounds which is evidenced every day in the childrens’ response to her gentle spirit and knack for inspiring wonder.

This week Ms. Eliza and Ms. Evie welcomed their students with the refreshers they all need to hit their academic strides as we lay the foundations of a new year. If you ever need to reach a teacher, we all have school email addresses that contain our names, for example [eliza@alpinemontessori.org](mailto:eliza@alpinemontessori.org). You are also always welcome to direct any questions to the office at [admin@alpinemontessori.org](mailto:admin@alpinemontessori.org).





## The Primary Side

Is there anything cuter than three, four, and five year olds working with child-sized materials made for them? We don't think there is! Each day with this age group brings a host of delightful interactions and entertainments for the teachers and staff. We relish the honesty and freedom that seem to inform their every thought and action! The classroom culture in the primary has it's own particular kind of strength, and it's wonderful to see the group act as a whole and leadership opportunities arise. Children truly can teach each other a lot! When we harness this natural need for socialization, a building block of human development is laid successfully.



We are proud to announce that Ms. Cassie recently completed her Montessori training for ages 3-6 and is now a fully certified Primary Montessori teacher! The team in the primary just keeps getting better! We congratulate Cassie on her achievement and look forward to seeing her spread her wings in the classroom with her new toolkit!

We have two new after-school guides to introduce! Mollie Durkin is our new lead and she is joined by Shelbie Tobola to provide enrichment in the pm for our extended day students. If you see these new faces after school, stop to say hello! They are completely charming and we are delighted to welcome them!



Please make sure your child has inside shoes to keep at school and use in the classroom. Thanks!

# *We thank you!*

We get by with a LOT of help from our friends. Many thanks go to the folks who contributed time,

**All of our friends and families** who helped with our big classroom move on August 9th!

**Hunter Edwards**, for fixing the light switches in the primary bathrooms!

**Liz Sibley**, for sending lots of help our way during inservice week!

**Nancy Davila**, for all of her tireless work during inservice week!

**Mercedes Lujan**, for being the best handyman and jack-of-all-trades in the world during inservice week!

**Frank and Jessica Bassham**, for all of their countless jobs well done and small kindnesses to the staff during inservice week!

**Jessica Shauman**, for her technical assistance with the school website!

**Jacob Barton**, for helping the school assess and improve our safety practices, and for lots of help during inservice week!

**All of our many friends** who donated items from the teachers' wish lists to the school!



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