



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## Notes from 908

### DATES TO REMEMBER

10/4 Student noon release/staff professional development PM

10/9 Indigenous Person’s day, school closed

10/10 Classroom observations begin

10/20 For Small Hands orders due

10/27 Halloween parties in all classrooms



Although the cooler temperatures of Autumn have been slow in their arrival this year, the renewal of energy that comes with autumn seems to arrive just in the nick of time! We see it in the children both in their outdoor play and movement that is so indispensable, and in their steady cementing of classroom routines. You may hear the teachers refer to the word “normalization.” This is a term that Maria Montessori used to describe a classroom where the students are independently focused and are following the rules of their environment by choice. The process takes place slowly sometimes, and we have seen that every year is different! Even if the



student body is the same as the year before, the children are ever-evolving and growing in search of themselves. We as guides use a gentle hand in getting there, but when normalization is achieved, it’s a truly marvelous sight to see! If your child’s classroom is a bit of a mystery to you at this point, don’t worry! Fall observations are beginning this month, you will soon hear from your teachers to select a time to visit the classroom. Observations serve to enrich your parent-teacher conference so that any questions that may surface as you see the class in action will be fresh in your mind. Conference scheduling will also be happening soon!

A gentle reminder about late arrivals: Please keep in mind that late arrivals are not only disruptive to the class, but greatly undermine your child’s

confidence upon entering the school space. When we teach children within a community of their own age group, we are harnessing a deeply rooted human need for community. They really do function as a group, and entering late is a tough transition for a child. We thank you for being punctual, and your child will someday too!

Also of note this month, we will be placing our Montessori Services group order! “For Small Hands” catalogs can be found in your family boxes. It’s pages are filled with Montessori inspired items to delight and educate children, from books to child-sized cooking utensils and games. Each dollar spent earns points that the school can use towards materials for the classrooms! Please have your orders submitted to the office no later than October 20th, so we can place our group order in time to receive free shipping. When the order arrives, we will of course be careful to keep any secrets safe from curious little eyes! Thank you!

## The Primary Side



When children feel safe and nurtured in their environment and are given the freedom to make educated choices, the results can be amazing! Kindergarteners have received lessons lately in the sandpaper letters, journaling, and the teen board, while the younger students have been working with the blue board and the geometric solids. The class is already a happy hum of activity, and of course, anticipation for October and Halloween is already in the air! There will be a party in the classroom



on Friday October 27th. Since costumes can be bulky and distracting, we invite your child to participate in an Alpine Montessori tradition, Wacky Hair Day! Spikes, gel, braids, dye, hats...get wacky! If your child would rather forego wacky hair, that is of course fine too. Room parent volunteers will be hearing from the teachers soon with party plans, but please reach out to the office if you would like to provide a special snack for the class on party day. We thank you!

From everyone here at the school, happy fall!

## From the Elementary

The students in the elementary are off to a strong start this year, with some big exciting subjects already being covered. Ms. Evie delighted us all with her wonderful presentation of the First Great Lesson. All five great lessons are meant to paint a broad picture of the universe and our place in it before moving to more specific study. The First Great Lesson deals with the coming of the universe and the earth, and includes demonstrations to illustrate how the continents and oceans first came into being. It's dramatic and exciting! Inspiring a love of learning is something we strive for in our work with the children. There really is no quantifying the benefits of a lifetime lived in respectful concert with the natural world around us and all the people we share it with.

Some areas of study in lower el include the solar system, animal classification, and listening and speaking skills. If you're the parent of a lower elementary child, you have probably noticed the frequent occurrence of unexpected questions about absolutely everything! Communication is key! In upper el the children have been studying spelling and vocabulary, native peoples of Texas, and ancient civilizations, as well as their core subjects.

We will have Halloween parties in the elementary class on Friday October 27th, but in lieu of Halloween costumes we invite students to participate in Wacky Hair Day. The name says it all, so braids, spikes, gel, dye, or a funny hat are all possibilities! If you are a room parent volunteer or would like to provide a special snack for the class party, please reach out to the office or your child's teacher. Thanks!





## *Montessori at home*

Montessori materials in the classroom range from everyday household items to scientifically designed learning tools that inspire children to make sense of the world around them. But this approach is certainly not limited to the school space! There are many ways parents can give their children rich learning experiences every day at home! By simply inviting your child into the practicalities of everyday living, you are giving him a hands-on lesson that he deeply craves in his development. Taking the time to teach your child the proper way to fold towels, wash dishes, or prepare food is an investment that will keep giving for a lifetime of self-reliance. What a wonderful gift to bestow on a cherished young person!

*"To stimulate life, leaving it free, however, to unfold itself - that is the first duty of the educator."*

*Maria Montessori*



*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!*

**Heather Rickleff**, for donating building blocks to after-school care!

**Mary Powers and Amber Smith**, for treating the staff to donuts, yum!

**All of our friends near and far**, for providing sought-after items from the teacher wishlist!

**Erin and Jeff Williams**, for working each week with the elementary students to develop the garden space!

**The Alpine Montessori Board of Directors**, for always providing swift and steadfast guidance toward a bright future for the school!

*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.*