



# ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

## Notes from 908

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**11/1 November food drive begins**

**11/5 Daylight savings ends, set clocks back one hour**

**11/17 Thanksgiving potluck luncheon, early release after lunch**

**11/20-24 School closed**

**11/27 Classes resume**



November is always an exciting time around the school as temperatures *at last* cool, bringing a renewal of energy. Eyes turn towards the festivity of the holiday season and the coziness of the winter months. Children young and old tend to feel the change in the air and the fun activities that seem to crop up in the community. Perhaps it's in the transitional seasons of spring and fall that we feel the need to connect with traditions, nature, and each other. Of course, every season should be one of gratitude, but from the staff of AMS, we want to express our thanks especially for our families and our students. Each child is a gift to be considered carefully, and we know that it all begins at home. We cherish each personality, every triumph, and even the challenges! In a troubled and confusing world, the children are a haven of what is true in us all, and we are forever indebted to what they teach us every day.

We are so excited to be gearing up for our annual Thanksgiving potluck luncheon, a favorite event here at AMS. On November 17th we invite all families to join us for a communal meal outdoors as we break bread together and celebrate what a sweet little community we have! Look for a sign-up sheet in the office soon to select items to share on the big day. For those whose time does not permit food prep, bringing paper products is also an option. Extended family are welcome too!

Each November the Montessori school sponsors a food drive to help supplement the shelves of the Food Pantry of Alpine. Please refer to the



following pages for more information on how you and your family can help feed our neighbors who may need some help with groceries. We wish you a lovely and peaceful Thanksgiving!

## The Primary Side



The Primary classroom is such a fun place to be! On any given day a stroll through the room might hold any number of sights to see, from focused individual work to a shared moment between close friends, from total engrossment in a sensory experience to a peaceful conflict resolution. The kindergarteners recently joined the elementary classes on a very exciting field trip to a pumpkin patch in Cayanosa, complete with a bus ride from our friends at Fort Davis ISD!



Ms. Cassie reports that the teachers have recently introduced classroom jobs to the students. This is a favorite practical life skill amongst the primary ages, and could include anything from sweeping, wiping down tables, mopping, or cleaning glass. While their efforts might not yield fruit at the outset, that's okay! It's all about the opportunity to try, and with practice the children gain mastery of essential skills as well as confidence, fine motor skills, and stewardship of their space. Isn't interconnectivity wonderful?



## From the Elementary



The elementary classroom has had much to celebrate lately, with the fantastical holiday of Halloween and all that it entails. Thank you to all of our families who made the parties fun and sumptuous with special things to eat! The class had a marvelous trip to Mondujano Brothers Farms in Coyanosa, where they enjoyed exploring the pumpkin patch and corn maze, a presentation on farming, and selecting a pumpkin to bring home. The children in upper and lower el have been completely entranced with their ongoing gardening project with the Williams family, so they were extra impressed to see farming on a larger scale! In lower el, Ms.

Eliza and Ms. Betsy report that the students have been working on their math and language skills, as well as parts of speech study and working with the grammar boxes. In upper el, the class has begun working with “The Timeline of Life,” a wonderful material which is a chart representing the biology on Earth, including pictures and information about microorganisms, plants, and animals. Ms. Evie has even added fun songs to pair with the timeline! Also on the worktables are book study projects, with an emphasis on character analysis. These are really fun to look at because they are made with a coat hanger and have dangling elements including text and drawings by the students. Moving between the disciplines of literature, visual art, and psychology is a great example of “whole child education.”



*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!*

**The Maxwell family**, for donating snack items to the upper elementary class!

**The Williams Family**, for their continued support of the gardening efforts of the elementary children!

**Denee Yuhas**, for creating an amazing jack-o-lantern display for the school, and donating fun party favors for the Halloween party!

**The Bustamante-Laue, Fuentes, Maxwell, Santos, Jones, Weber, and Carey families**, for donating special party foods for the Halloween parties in the classrooms! Yum!

**SulRoss basketball Coach EJ Smith and her players**, for visiting the school and reading to the children!

**Emily Gary**, for donating “The Timeline of Life” materials to the school!

**FDISD**, for providing the use of their bus and wonderful drivers Grayden Hicks and Shera Welsh!

## Montessori at home

While Montessori might sound like a lofty concept, it's actually all about cultivating the skills we humans need in our lives to thrive. In the school environment we endeavor to create a space with the right guidance and tools to accelerate learning opportunities, but the whole world is a child's oyster to find everything they need to keep growing! Ms. Evie jokingly describes parenting as "working yourself out of a job." But in truth, is that not the end goal? To release them into the world as prepared human beings? Here are a few ideas to give



your child the confidence and satisfaction that comes with a job well done! Toddlers love to help with folding laundry, and there is even an illustration of fractions involved in folding a washcloth first into halves, and then into quarters. Lower elementary children (who are quite opinionated as you no doubt have noticed) delight in being part of the decision-making process of planning meals, shopping for ingredients, and preparing food. It's a long process, and requires supervision, but involving your child in each step of this process (cleanup too!) teaches a myriad of essential lessons including personal responsibility, practical life skills, and even grace and courtesy. What better way to teach gratitude than experiencing firsthand the effort and planning that goes into these everyday acts of service we perform for our loved ones? Parenting books often urge parents to say less and let their children learn by doing. A tried and true Montessori adage "normalization through work" comes to mind! Upper elementary children most likely already have a fair amount of knowledge under their belts, but can still gain so much by doing. As personality clashes occur, which is a normal and

inevitable part of this stage of development, try giving your adolescent a job to complete as tempers cool, and time to reflect before returning to the discussion calmer. Parenting is the toughest and most important job of all! We literally shape the future of humankind as we guide our young towards taking ownership of their world. We think that's worth working for!

Alpine Montessori will host a month-long food drive beginning November 1st! Please bring non-perishable food items to the office and place them in the collection boxes.



We will deliver these to our local food pantry during the first week of December. In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, it is perhaps easy to forget that there are those amongst us who experience food insecurity. In the spirit of the season, what better way to give thanks for abundance than to consider our neighbors in the Big Bend region?

There is also a beautiful teaching moment for your child waiting to be unlocked! Children can benefit hugely from being involved in a shopping trip to select a few items to donate, especially at an age when their own sense of empathy towards others is awakening. We will take the upper el class along to deliver our donation when the time comes, and they always delight in the weighing process and seeing how it all works!



*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.*