



ALPINE MONTESSORI

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

Notes from 908

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/2 Alpine Christmas Stroll

12/14 "Festival of Lights" holiday program, 6PM @ Granada Theatre

12/22 Parties in all classes, early release @ noon

12/23 - 1/5 School closed

1/8 Staff workday, no school for students

1/9 Spring semester begins

1/12 and 1/15 School closed for Austin Montessori observations (professional development)



We want to thank you all for attending our Thanksgiving potluck luncheon, bringing such beautiful things to eat, and sharing your families with us. It was a gorgeous day and a wonderful way to kick off



the break! We hope you are all feeling refreshed as the holiday season gathers momentum and we finish out 2023 with a bang! As you know, our mercurial West Texas weather sometimes requires us to make adjustments to plans. In general, we do our best to follow AISD's schedule for school closures, late starts, and early releases, and this goes for inclement weather adjustments too. You can be certain that if AISD makes a call to close, so will AMS! We try to alert local radio stations, post on social media, and

message through our Remind system to get the word out (if you aren't signed up, be sure to do so!) We have at times released early when ice and snow arrives during the school day. Ultimately, please follow your instincts. If you are uneasy with the situation and would prefer to stay home, just give us a call and let us know your child(ren) will not be coming in. Thank you!

Students of all ages have been enjoying music instruction every Tuesday afternoon with new teacher Beth Kerzee. Beth joined us with a wealth of experience leading music programs in the US and beyond, and we are so happy to have her sparkling spirit in our midst! You will be able to hear your child perform both at the Historic Alpine Christmas Stroll on December 2nd, and at our "Festival of Lights" holiday program on December 14th! Read more about these festive

events in the following pages. There will be parties in each classroom on December 22. In keeping with tradition at Alpine Montessori, children are invited to wear their pajamas to school and enjoy a pancake meal mid-morning! If you would like to contribute supplies for the party please reach out to your child's teacher. From all of us at Alpine Montessori, happy holidays!

The Primary Side

As Ms. Cassie shared with you in recent days, the primary class has adopted a new schedule in the classroom since we resumed school after Thanksgiving. Normalization is a word you may have heard us use before, which refers to a smoother state in the classroom where routines are understood and established and the children tend to reach focus readily. As we are almost to the midway point in the year, the teachers in the primary felt it was time to streamline the mornings into a longer work period. So far, it's going really well! Amongst the subjects being covered lately are golden beads, the moveable alphabet, and human anatomy.

The children are of course getting really excited about the holidays and the teachers are gearing up for fun holiday crafts and our traditional end-of-semester pancakes and pajamas party! All students are encouraged to wear their favorite jammies to school on the last day before the break; we will be flipping pancakes mid-morning! There will be no lunch that day, and we will release at noon after the party. We think it's pretty easy to feel the spirit of the season with the very young students here at Alpine Montessori, and we love them dearly!



From the Elementary

Our elementary students are definitely in the holiday spirit as we edge closer to the winter break. There are plans for a “Secret Santa” gift exchanges in upper and lower el, more information from the teachers on that soon! We will be having our traditional pancakes and pajamas party mid-morning on the 22nd, so no lunch will be necessary that day. If you would like to help out with the parties, please reach out to your child’s teacher. Despite the distraction of pending festivities, they’ve been a busy bunch academically! Some areas of study lately in lower el have been holidays around the world research, the five senses, the timeline of life, and the clock of eras. In upper el, we had a fascinating



“bank” experiment designed and executed spontaneously by the children, which yielded all manner of interesting offshoots having to do with economics, fair trade, the fundamental needs of humans, entrepreneurship...the list went on and on! They have also been working on maps of indigenous tribal lands, the “detective adjective game,” and animal cells. Time flies when you’re learning a lot!



*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!

Benjamin Garcia, for lending the school lots of tables and chairs for our Thanksgiving potluck luncheon!

The Sibley family, for lending tables and tablecloths for our Thanksgiving potluck luncheon!

The Rumbelow, Weber, Carey, Dove, and Santos Families, for helping us move tables and chairs to and from the Granada before and after our Thanksgiving potluck luncheon!

Bill Anderson, for helping to move serving tables to and from the school for the Thanksgiving feast, with a smile!

Liz Sibley, for donating plant covers to the school!

All of our families, who brought gorgeous food to share for our Thanksgiving feast!

Montessori at home

As any parent knows, the steady march of time within a family environment is both relentless and filled with surreal wonderment. How can we harness the opportunities for growth that are built in to each day? One of the wonderful things about the Montessori method is its approach to “whole child” education. There is a focus to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of children to prepare them for a lifetime of engagement. Take heart! There are many ways to give children the tools they need!

- One great tenet of Montessori basics is “A place for everything and everything in its place.” By creating order in your home environment, you are removing obstacles between your child and his focus. Giving over designated space at home to a particular activity is a great way to show your child that his interests matter and you are encouraging him to explore deeper! (Some examples here might be a table especially for legos, a space dedicated to making art, a basket of fibers for crochet, or a shelf containing basic woodworking tools or circuit making supplies.)
- Always emphasize life skills with children! They are changing and growing every day and crave independence. Even young children are capable of pitching in around the house. Though they may grumble at first, they will appreciate the sense of accomplishment, and that feeling will yield a better attitude as time goes on, we promise!
- Teach concentration when you can. In a world where we are inundated at every turn by distractions and overstimulation, it takes dedication to make sure that your child has the quiet moments to simply inhabit and explore her senses and environment. If you’ve ever seen a very young child completely absorbed in playing with something as simple as a leaf or a slowly dripping faucet, you know that their concentration can be very deep. These moments are gold, and are a sign of things to come! Concentration holds its own rewards.
- Focus on inner motivation. One doesn’t have to look far in our society to see rewards being given for achievement and success. In Montessori, we believe that achievements contain their own rewards and have a snowball effect!



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