

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

January/February 2020

304 Rover Blvd
White Rock, NM
87547



PONDEROSA NEWS

Happy New Year!

There are several events occurring over the next few months. Mark your calendars to remember those that apply to you.

The new year starts off with the early childhood dad's night on the 16th. The children in Karen's class have the opportunity to be the teacher and teach their dad how to use the Montessori materials in the class. Dads will also observe their child's progress.

Elementary parents will experience the same opportunity on February 5th. Then it's mom's turn the night of February 6th. See upcoming events for the times.

Each class will have a Valentine Party on Thursday, February 13. Your child's teacher will provide more information as the date approaches.

In house summer and fall enrollment will begin on February 24. Current families will have first priority to enroll for either or both programs. Enrollment

will open up to the public on March 9. Last year the summer elementary camp filled up immediately. You won't want to procrastinate registering early. The enrollment form and \$100 registration/supply fee will be required to officially enroll.

Our annual elementary science fair will be held February 24th. The elementary students display their scientific method project and orally describe it to the younger children and elementary parents.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program that mails out children a free book each month from birth up until 5 years old. These are high-quality books that are chosen by experts in the education and writing field and are based on the child's age. If you are interested in signing up for this free program complete the attached form and it mail it to the address provided.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 1-3 Winter Vacation
- ◆ January 16 Early Childhood Dad's Night 6:30
- ◆ January 20 MLK Jr. Day No School
- ◆ February 5 Elementary Parent Night 5:30
- ◆ February 6 Early Childhood Mom's Night 6:30
- ◆ February 13 Valentine Parties
- ◆ February 17 Presidents Day No School
- ◆ February 24 Summer/Fall Enrollment begins
- ◆ February 24 Elem. Science Fair

Montessori Tip for Parents

The Role of the Teacher

The role of a Montessori teacher is that of an observer whose ultimate goal is to intervene less and less as the child develops. The teacher's first objective is to prepare and organize the learning environment to meet the needs and interests of the children as well as to promote independence. Through careful observation and planning, teachers remain constantly alert to the direction each child is heading and actively works to help them succeed.

Children at all levels are actively engaged by the teacher in the learning

process which builds critical thinking skills. The lessons are brief and precise, meant to intrigue the minds of children and encourage further practice or self-directed study. Teachers present clear, interesting and relevant lessons, model desirable behavior and evaluate each child's individual progress. They respect and protect their students' independence and are supportive and encourage without the use of rewards or punishments.

"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say: The children are now working as if I did not exist."

Maria Montessori



Ryker is working hard on number work.

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Maria Montessori

Aspen News-Infant Class

Things to be covered will include clothes and winter animals. Children will be learning winter animals (their names and diet) as well as clothes like coat, mittens and others through the use of picture cards and books.

Practical life/self help skills will include transferring liquids and solids in and out from different containers through the use of a baster, eyedropper, and tongs. Children will

have an opportunity to dress themselves up when they brace for the cold outside during outdoor play and will be making hot chocolate (warm only) under strict supervision as an added activity.

The goal for sensorial is for the toddlers to learn the difference between hot and cold.

Art activities will focus on winter.

Piñon News-Transition Class

We're happy to start off the new year with new students (Adley and Sara) and new pets. Our new pets are some fish and parakeet. We have a lovely new aquarium with 5 goldfish. One large goldfish came with the tank. We get to watch 4 colorful baby fish grow. We are in the process of trying to name the bird. It's a fun and foreign process at this age. We talked about pets they have at home and their names. We'd

love for you to send in pictures of your pets so we can create a bulletin board of them.

Pictures can serve to stimulate recall and conversation. In order to encourage children to share their home life or family events, please also send in some of these pictures too.

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

During January and February we will be learning more about Australia through maps, landmarks, the great barrier reef, the outback, and the mammals that differ so greatly from what we have in North America: kangaroos, koalas, platypus, and sheep. We will have some wool and alpaca fibers to card and discuss how those fibers are made into yarn. We will try out some knitting, crocheting, and weaving. We want the children to see the process of how those

fibers make clothing that helps us stay warm in the winter. Animals are an important part of our world and this will explain ways in which they help mankind.

We will be using a hands on approach as we learn to make bread.

We will take time away from Australia for a day to celebrate Chinese New Year (which starts January 25) with a dragon parade the 29th of January.

Ponderosa News-Elementary

This weekend, four of our students (Elias, Nikilo, Kaitlyn and Karly) will star in a production of The Never Ending Story at the Los Alamos Little Theatre. Shows are at 7:30 Friday and Saturday, for the next three weekends and 2:00 on Sunday for the next two. There is a poster by the sign-in sheet. For everyone, the chance to show showmanship will be on February 24th, when we have our science fair. This is a homework project and can be as simple

or complex as it needs to depending on the capabilities of the students. Mr. Mosier will be providing information with requirements and guidelines in a few weeks. Our first Friday trip to the library will be this Friday. We will follow up with the third Harry Potter movie so the kids should come dressed in their house colors. Friday, January 24th is the day before Chinese New Year. We will be making our annual trip to China Moon that day. Please send \$7 with your child to defray the cost.