

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

October 2020

304 Rover Blvd
White Rock, NM
87547



PONDEROSA NEWS

Happy Fall!

Parent Teacher conferences are winding down this week. We appreciate the time you take to help us learn how your child's teacher can best meet the needs and attain individual goals for all of the children in their class.

Mr. Mosier will be hosting a presentation about how language and math is taught the Montessori way. This will take place at 5:30 via ZOOM on October 6. The link will be sent out to all families.

Ponderosa will be closed for Columbus Day, Monday, October 12.

October is Career in the Community month. We normally invite parents and community members to the school to talk about their career. The elementary children do an oral history presentation. Sadly, this year we will not have a parade or family potluck following the events. Our new normal does not allow

for large gatherings.

Your child's lead teacher or tutor, if your child is the hybrid class, have been assigned a school email. You are encouraged to email them as needed.

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As the weather cools down, kids are most comfortable when dressed in layers. Remember to label all jackets and personal belongings.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 10/1 Picture Day
- ◆ 10/2 Parent Teacher Conferences
- ◆ 10/6 Parent Night
- ◆ 10/12 Columbus Day No School
- ◆ 10/15 Career in the Community
- ◆ 10/22 History Day Elementary

Montessori Tip for Parents

Sensitive Periods Part 1

Maria Montessori believed that children pass through phases in which at certain stages throughout their development they have a predisposition or sensitivity to learning a specific skill. These stages are called 'sensitive periods. During these periods the child shows pleasure in performing these actions.

There are eleven sensitive periods that occur from birth through age six. While each continues throughout life, the approximate ages for each stage is specific.

1. Order (ages 2-4) This period is characterized by a desire for

consistency and repetition. (How many times can a child watch Frozen?) The environment must be carefully organized.

2. Movement (ages birth-1) Random movements become coordinated and controlled: grasping, touching, turning, balance, crawling, walking.

3. Small Objects (ages 1-4) Children experience a fixation on small objects and tiny details

4. Grace and Courtesy (ages 2-6) Imitation of polite and considerate behavior.

5. Refinement of the Senses (ages 2-6) A fascination with sensorial experiences (taste, sound, touch, etc.) results in children making increased sensorial discrimination.

Aspen News-Infant Class



Gianna working hard to learn how to write her letters.

Order is one the needs of life which when satisfied, produces real happiness.

-Maria Montessori

It is a real joy to observe how the children have learned to follow the class routine. Seeing them washing their hands, cleaning up, trying to dress themselves, and respond to new requests and instructions is absolutely awesome.

This month our children will be learning the 'sense of order". We will show them how to use the materials available on our shelves properly and emphasize the importance of taking good of learning

materials and putting them back to the right place. Language development will consist of fall objects and pictures added to the treasure basket for exploration and identification at circle time. Matching activities will include fall objects and pictures. Pumpkin washing/scrubbing will soon be a favorite activity.

Artwork includes: painting pumpkins, fall trees, cheerio corn on the cob, and apple dot painting.

Piñon News-Transition Class

September went by quickly. The children enjoyed the black/white projects we worked on and learned about of the black/white animals. We will continue with our Montessori works, in practical life by learning how to carry a chair, push a chair in at the table, put on a jacket and take off and put on shoes.

In language we will continue the letter sounds, sand letters, and older children

will begin name writing.

Sensorial activities will consist of working with the red rods, the pink tower, primary colors, and the geometric cabinet. Comparisons between big/small and long/short will be new activities.

Children will participate in number matching, counting songs, number rods, sand letters and the spindle box for math.

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

We are excited to see the changes happening in our world. Our tree leaves are changing, colors on the playground and some are starting to fall. We will be watching for the sand hill cranes as we learn about birds, talk of migration, and what the animals are doing to prepare for winter. We will discuss different homes and habitats. We will also be planting some bulbs and talk about what trees and plants are doing in their dormant stages. The class will focus on

our own community and what people do to serve us. It will be an exciting time to share with the children what you do at work and how you contribute to the community at work and when you are out enjoying our incredible neighborhood. Did you read that Los Alamos ranks as the #1 healthiest community in the US News & World Report? Let your children know what you love about living here and we'll discuss it at circle time. We will expand our cooking skills by making personal

Ponderosa News-Elementary

Hybrid Class

On the whole, things have been going pretty well in our class. Most of the kids are getting their work done while at school and are used to what their teachers expect from them. I have observed that some of the children really do not like having classes online and especially don't like 'independent work time" which can feel like extra homework. All in all, I can see that children are learning.

Elementary Class

The history day presentations will be pushed back to 10/22. A note about what that event entails will go out shortly, as will a link to a Google sheets document for signing up for Zoom parent/teacher conferences.