

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

December 2020

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PONDEROSA NEWS

Contents

Ponderosa News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Montessori Tip for Parents	1
Aspen News	2
Piñon News	2
Juniper News	2
Ponderosa News	2

We are all faced with a holiday season that is quite different than we would have otherwise hoped for. If you choose to travel out of state, you need to follow the most current executive orders set forth by our Governor. Also, if your child is sick DO NOT bring her/him to school. Thus far, our staff and children have been safe from exposure to Covid 19. Please continue to do your part so we can remain open and keep everyone involved as healthy as possible.

Be reminded that all children need to arrive to school no later than 9:00 for their Covid check. Our staff need to be in class to maintain required ratio's. The only exception are doctor's appointments. If your child has a doctor's appointment, contact the office the day prior by email or phone to make arrangements.

Classes will have their own holiday party on Thursday, December 17.

Typically the teachers involve their children in making their own treats as part of a practical life lesson. See a description about practical life in the "tips for parents" section.

Our newly remodeled building is getting closer and closer to being move in ready. Our plan is to occupy the building after the new year. It's quite a transformation. There will be one main entrance and exit to and from the classrooms located outside of the office. A specified check-in and out area where all families will enter to sign their child in and out will be set up. These changes have been designed to provide a safer procedure for drop off and pick up times as well as a safer environment in general.

Happy holidays from our staff to your family!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 12/17 Class Holiday Party
- ◆ 12/21-1/4 Winter Break No School

Montessori for Parents

Teachers often use the term practical life, but what does that actually mean? Practical life activities are activities of everyday life and are involved in aspects of life. The child observes these activities in the environment and gains knowledge through the real experiences of how to accomplish life skills in a purposeful way. Practical life activities help give the child a sense of being and belonging, established through participation in daily life with adults. Generally, the activities of practical life revolve around four areas: caring for self, caring for the environment, grace and courtesy, and movement. There are many activities at home in which you

can include your child to help develop their practical life skills; water plants, dust tables, help with dinner, fold napkins, wash dishes, care for pets, clean up spills, dress and undress etc. Don't underestimate what your child can do independently.

Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence.

- Maria Montessori

Aspen News-Infant Class



An elementary boy working on addition using the short bead stair.

Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence.

-Maria Montessori

It's amazing how fast the month of November has passed and December is already here. Our children had so much fun learning about Thanksgiving, pumpkins, turkeys, and the like. Everyone has been working on their painting skills with the use of a brush, hands and fork to create art work. This month's theme is Christmas and families. For "family" please bring a recent photo of your family for our wall so the children can view it and use

cognitive skills to identify family members and develop vocabulary skills. Our children will have the opportunity to "celebrate the season" with the various activities set up. Our classroom will be decorated with art work created by them developing motor skills. Practical life skills such as using utensils at meal time, trying to dress themselves, and cleaning up spills will continue. Some of our children are mastering drinking from an open cup.

Piñon News-Transition Class

The children have grown up so much since August and are showing great growth. We are working on being able to sit and focus for longer periods of time during circle, work time, and putting coats and shoes on. In December, we will be making biscochitos, working on winter and holiday art projects, and continuing on in our Montessori lessons. In our practical life, some children have

learned to button and zip. The dressing frames will still be available so others can practice those skills. Language and numbers we will consist of sand tracing of letters and numbers. The children have been more engaged in the Montessori materials and ready to learn new lessons set up in the environment. My goal is to keep the children engaging and learning at their level at a greater capacity in the coming weeks and months.

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

What a joy it has been to hear what the children appreciate. Their faces light up and the things they notice has been sweet to witness. We hope you have noticed the confidence of the children in their baking skills. We will be making granola this month. We will study mammals, especially those in our area and continue to talk about migration and hibernation: bats, coyote, rabbits, elk, deer, bears and others. Our

geography will continue as we talk about White Rock, Los Alamos, Santa Fe and New Mexico. We'll try our hand at creating a few gifts and practice wrapping presents. The children love the joy of giving something they have created.

Ponderosa News-Elementary

Hybrid Class

The end is in sight for this semester and outside of dreaded return to full-time remote learning everything has been going well. LAPS instituted more standardization about when meetings and breaks happen which has made the scheduling within our class much easier. This month Thomas Mosier is going to be working with our class so he can take over for me next semester

when I have to go back to college.

Elementary Class

Look for an email about the science fair next semester before the end of the year. The Christmas break is a great time to work on a project. We will be working on how to do and present a project this month.