

# Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

December 2019

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## PONDEROSA NEWS

Welcome to the holiday season. Every class enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal shared with classmates and staff. The best part of the meal is that the children ate what their class prepared as a group and enjoyed one another's company.

The next special event will be the class holiday party on December 19th. Typically the children prepare snacks the day of the party as a cooking activity. Your child's teacher will provide you with more information as the date draws closer.

The school will be closed from December 23-January 3. Classes resume on January 6. Public schools are closed January 6. If your child attends LAPS and will be attending Ponderosa on January 6, please contact the office to confirm attendance.

The days continue to get colder as winter approaches. The question arises regarding how cold is too cold for the children to be outside. We follow the

national "Child Care Weather Watch" chart/guidelines to determine when it's safe for the children to be outside. You can find the chart at [www.c-uphd.org](http://www.c-uphd.org). Your child should be prepared to be outside even in cold weather. You are encouraged to send labeled snow pants, boots, hats and mittens to keep your child dry and warm during cold snowy days.

Ponderosa follows the LANL schedule regarding snow closures and delays. If the lab is on a two hour delay the school opens at 9:30 am. Should the lab schedule an early release day we will stay open 30 minutes after employees are dismissed for the day. If LANL is closed we close.

All of us at Ponderosa wish you joy and peace throughout the holidays.

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Class Holiday Party
- ◆ December 23-January 3 Winter Break

### Montessori Tip for Parents

Academics

Academics in a Montessori school consist of Math, the arts, sciences, geography, history and language. Formal scientific language of zoology, botany, anthropology, geography and geology is learned via timelines, pictures, charts, and visual aids.

Montessori education recognizes that each child learns differently and at their own pace. Your child's education plan is matched to her unique developmental level, learning style, and interests. She will receive an individualized instruction and will

progress through the curriculum at her own pace.

Learning in a Montessori environment is multi-sensory and hands-on. Children learn by doing and are free to move about. The organization and structure of a Montessori classroom help develop organizational and time management that leads to Independence.

*"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."*

*Maria Montessori*



Toddlers listening and observing how to follow a multi-step practical life lesson.

*"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."*

*Maria Montessori*

### Aspen News-Infant Class

It's finally December and all of the joys of this month are in the air. From Christmas to the New Year to an infinite amount of gladness, resting and relaxing with family and friends.

For language development, the treasure basket will be filled with holiday items to explore. There will be new picture cards for children to match, and books to read especially at circle time. Our sensory table will be filled with green

and red materials that reflect the holiday season for children to work and play with.

Children will continue working on the following for practical life: pouring/scooping/transferring of solids and liquids; opening, closing and matching various container lids and drinking in an open glass. We will be cutting fruits like banana, strawberry and alike using a plastic knife as an added activity.

### Piñon News-Transition Class

Making apple pies was wonderful fun. The children eagerly measured, mixed, cut and rolled. We are quite confident in our culinary skills. This was a perfect opportunity to make sure our class kitchen contained the essentials for cooking projects.

We've talked regularly about the meaning of thankfulness, families, friends and food in particular.

With the feasts of Thanksgiving in November and the arrival of snow, we talked about harvesting, where food comes from and the resting plants.

A new project in the classroom this month is the elements. On the shelf is a tray with a container each of earth, air, "fire", and water. Seeing a container that looks empty but is actually full, of air, is an interesting concept to watch the children grasp.

### Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

Snow, snow, snow! We will be making snowmen, cutting snowflakes, and focusing on all kinds of winter things. Pumpkin bread will continue and we may take time to construct a cookie train. Several of our children have a love of trains so that should be lots of fun. We hope you have noticed the confidence of the children in their baking skills. It means a lot to them as you allow them to serve your family by helping in the kitchen. They are great at

washing dishes. We will study local mammals especially those which migrate and hibernate: Bats, coyotes, rabbits, elk, deer, bears, and others. We will try our hand at creating a few gifts and practice wrapping presents. The children love the joy of giving something they have created. Our geography will continue as we broaden our scope and around the US. We will plot where the children were born and if need more practice variety, we may ask where parents were born.

### Ponderosa News-Elementary

December will be a quick month for us- only three weeks between our breaks this year. Our only special events during that time are the first Friday library run on the 6th-which is also St. Nicholas Day so some shoes might be filled during the day- and our class Christmas party on the 19th. If you would like to provide treats for the party, let me know. We will have Christmas-themed games and probably watch a classic Christmas show.

We have finished the second Harry Potter book and will probably screen the movie sometime during the first week of the month. Our science fair has been pushed back to February this year but if you want to get started over the Christmas break feel free to do so.