

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

March 2020

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PONDEROSA NEWS

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The recent elementary science fair provided the class with the opportunity to implement the Scientific Method and to develop public speaking skills as they presented their experiment to parents and younger children in the school. The topics of demonstrations ranged from snakes to black holes.

The carpet in the early childhood and infant classes were replaced over winter break. The Juniper class also had the older tiles removed and replaced with an updated durable flooring. It looks fantastic. If you haven't seen it stop by and take a look. Over spring break the old tiles in the infant and transition classes will be removed and replaced with the same flooring as in the early childhood classes.

Every year children from each class are ready to transition to the next classroom. Unless your child is turning one or two all other transitions will be made in August when the new fall

session begins on the 13th. No children will be transitioned out from the transition or early childhood class this summer.

Ponderosa will be closed the week of March 24th for spring break

Los Alamos Public Schools will be closed March 12-13 for Parent Teacher Conferences. If your child attends the elementary after school program please contact the office if he/she will be attending Ponderosa on either of both of those days.

To help us keep our kids safe please be sure to close the gates after you have walked through them at drop off and pick up times.

If anyone has a portable potty chair that you would like to donate Miss Ravi will gladly take it for her class.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Spring Break
March 23-27
No School

Montessori Tip for Parents

Freedom within limits

Freedom within limits is the notion of the child as an explorer who is capable of learning and doing for themselves. There are six types of freedom in the Montessori environment.

1. Freedom to move-Children are free to move around the room from one activity to the next. Children who move around the room are more likely to choose purposeful work when they have fulfilled their need for the activity.

2. Freedom of choice- Choice allows children to discover their needs, interests and abilities.

3. Freedom of time- This allows children to work with the same material

at their own pace.

4. Freedom to repeat- The three hour work cycle gives students the opportunity to work with materials and achieve success through practice.

5. Freedom to communicate- Children learn to discuss through practice, repetition, self-correct and problem solve.

6 Freedom to make mistakes-This allows a child to understand the outcome of an activity.

"Let us leave the life free to develop within limits of the good, and let us observe this inner life developing. This is the whole of our mission."

-Maria Montessori



Kids in the after school program had 'blast' making and launching rockets.

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-Maria Montessori

Aspen News-Infant Class

We're happy to tell you that we have a new child sized kitchen cabinet installed in the dramatic play area. It's loaded with fun interactive features that spark our children's curiosity and imagination. It has become the most frequently used pretend item in our class.

This month, a new friend will be joining our baby side, and other will be moving to the toddler side. This will give a

awesome opportunity for your toddlers to lead and show the different fun and exciting work in our class.

For language development we will focus on different household objects, kitchen tools and utensils. Picture cards and objects will be provided for them to match, name and learn their usage. Practical life will involve scooping beans or corn, transferring and pouring liquids.

Piñon News-Transition Class

The classroom is functioning very smooth. The children are being self directed and focused, with new lessons all the time.

We continue our Thursday group snack. For Valentine's Day we made white chocolate dipped strawberries.

Our parakeet has a name, Keety, sometimes called Sweetie Keety. We've

talked about how he uses his beak to crack the seeds. He only eats the inside as when we peel oranges and bananas. Our new carpet sweeper helps us clean the empty seeds from the carpet as we learn to care for our pet.

Last fall I said I was putting together a display representing the natural process of learning to write. Finally, it is finished and posted in the classroom above the lunch box shelf.

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

Welcome Spring! In March we will talk about the characteristics of and discover different kinds of insects, particularly butterflies and bees. Hopefully we will see some outside. We will look at the life cycles of the frog, the butterfly and a time line of a typical day for children.

Time and clocks will be topic of discussion. It can be a hard concept for children as you have discovered, 10

minutes seems like an hour to a child. We are learning about the census and have created some graphs of how many people live in their house. Boys and girls in each class are being counted. The value of money will be introduced and the value of coins in comparison to each other. You may want to give them opportunities to earn money by doing extra jobs at home. Then, let them learn about saving and spending.

Ponderosa News-Elementary

What an amazing science fair. I was very impressed with the quality of the projects. They also gave me plenty of scope for further discussions as they picked areas of exploration which fascinated their classmates. The even created a siphon fountain which they kept running for half an hour because they loved the soothing sound of running water. Thanks so much for all work you did with them to make this a success

Our next big project will be to start work on our school musical for May. We will be picking a play in the next week and casting before spring break. Please help your students with the lined, songs, and costume ideas. Our after-school and primary programs are so full that there will not be much scope to leave parts of the production as costumes and sets to the last minute.