

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

Newsletter 10/1/18
Volume 1, Issue 8

304 Rover Blvd
White Rock, NM
87547



PONDEROSA NEWS

We will be having another Parent Education Night on Tuesday, October 2, at 5:30. Our very own Montessori expert, Mr. Mosier, will be presenting about Language and Math in the Montessori classroom. Sign-up sheets will be in each classroom. You won't want to miss it. Child care will be provided.

Career in the Community is a day when the children are encouraged to dress up in an outfit that represents a community worker (nurse, baker, police officer, postman, fireman etc.). Please no Halloween outfits that do not fit the theme. The classes will have a parade in the church parking lot next door at 11:00. Immediately following will be a family potluck. A sign-up sheet will be in each classroom.

The elementary students will instead be celebrating History Day. Each child will be giving a presentation beginning at 10:30. All families are invited to attend and stay for the potluck.

The teachers welcome all parents to be a guest speaker in your child's classroom this month to talk about your career choice. See your child's teacher to schedule a date and time.

The elementary class will be preparing activities for this year's Fall Carnival. All of the classes will be participating in the activities the morning of October 26. Children may come to school in their Halloween costumes on that day. Extended care elementary students are welcome to join us. Please email the school if your child will be attending Ponderosa on October 25-26.

If you pay tuition via direct deposit or transfer please make the office aware of the payment. We have been receiving deposits/transfers without the name of the child so we don't know who to credit the payment to.

Welcome to Emilia Matteson who has recently been hired to be our part-time floater.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 2
Parent Ed Night
5:30
- ◆ October 8
Columbus Day
School Closed
- ◆ October 16
Fire Prevention
Presentation
- ◆ October 18
EC: Career Day,
Elem: History Day
- ◆ October 25
Class Fall
Carnival

Montessori Tip for Parents

Part 2: Concentration

Last month we recognized that to develop one's ability to concentrate was essential to all else.

Attention is not something abstract, but something that has to be developed. In the case of the small child, we find that no child can concentrate on one object for a long time, unless the object spontaneously attracts the child's attention.

Montessori made it her goal to study and observe what objects attracted

children's attention so strongly that they became fixed upon them and thereby, developed their skill of concentration. They can then transfer this new power to other subjects as their interests were piqued. This enabled greater self control in children than adults ever thought possible.

Concentration can also take on the quality of being aware of one's surroundings and sensorial information, while simultaneously giving focused attention to one thing. This is called "mindfulness".



Lucas practicing one to one correspondence math skills.

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Aspen News

For the month of October, we will continue to learn about the colors. Since this is a fall month, we will focus on colors like yellow, orange, brown, and red.

Practical life will include working with dressing frames to develop the skill of buttoning/unbuttoning, zipping, and using velcro. Some of our little ones have an idea how to do it but we will give emphasis. We have a new sensorial

table that will be filled with items like leaves, pompoms and plastic apples to use for dry pouring, scooping and spooning activities.

All things fall will be the focus for language and development. The children will be learning new words such as pumpkin, pinecones, leaf, red, cornstalk, yellow, brown, tree etc. The items will be placed in the treasure basket for sensory exploration.

Piñon News

Last month we painted Red Cardinals, glued shapes together to make a bird, glued feathers on a Macaw and painted a Barn Owl with a small brush.

October's theme is "Careers in the Community". Parents are invited to be a part of our theme by signing up to be a guest speaker. See Tammy or Alicia to schedule a time. Since the age of our children have a short attention span the

maximum time to tell the kiddos about your job will be 10 minutes. Some previous guests have been scientists, a chef, a massage therapist and a bus driver.

During circle time we are enjoying learning songs and the first letter that our names begin with.

Welcome to Vera Bloom and Ayla Blackhart who have joined our class.

Juniper News

Our outdoor work area is exciting with skills taught for clamping, drilling, hammering, sanding, clipping, and sawing. We also have a chance to observe and draw what we see. We have been digging in preparation for planting fall bulbs. Practicing patience is manifest in waiting in line, waiting a turn at the snack table, a chance to do egg work and waiting for parents to return.

We have worked on the process to prepare for further food work. Nut work, egg work including pouring, spooning, eye droppers, stirring and cleaning up. We know how to wash dishes too.

We are practicing the days of the week, counting by 10's and counting down from 5. Ask your child to sing the muffins in the bakery shop.

Ponderosa News

October brings us to our first (of only two) homework of the year-history day. The purpose of this event is to provide the students with an opportunity to present in front of an audience and learn something about a historical figure at the same time. The presentation can take whatever form the student is comfortable with from a written speech to an interview with prepared answers. Costuming for this should be a period costume which reflects the person being portrayed although the degree of

costuming can go from nothing to elaborate. Talk to me if you have any questions. This happens on October 18th so it is already only a few weeks away. Presentations will occur at 10:30 with a pot luck following the presentation.

The following Thursday, October 25th, we will be hosting a Halloween party for the younger students in the morning and then having our own party in the afternoon. If you would like to provide treats please let me know.