

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

Newsletter 9/6/18
Volume 1, Issue 7

304 Rover Blvd
White Rock, NM
87547



PONDEROSA NEWS

Welcome to another school year!!!

Classes are in full swing and kids are enjoying making new friends and exploring the prepared environment.

Mr. Mosier will be conducting a Parent Education Night on September 11, from 5:30-6:30 pm to educate parents about the philosophy of Montessori specifically in the areas of practical life and sensorial. Make plans now to attend.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled the week of September 17. Teachers of larger classes will need to extend the dates in order to have enough time to meet with every family. We are excited to implement Developmental Portfolio's to track the developmental milestones and progress of your child. Teachers will be sharing more information with you about the process. Sign- up sheets will be in classrooms soon.

This year individual pictures and class/family pictures will be on two

different days. See upcoming events for dates. So many parents wanted family pictures last year that we had to add an additional day to accommodate the need.

Most of our classes are full this year. Thanks to you for getting the word out and referring friends, family and co-works to Ponderosa.

If your child has received immunizations in the past year please provide us with an updated copy. Your doctor's office can fax the record to us at 672-9218.

We are continuing to collect "Box Tops for Education" this year. Please turn in all box tops that you have collected this month.

The staff completed a training entitled *Positive Discipline* during staff training a few weeks ago. A resource for parents was provided. Attached is a booklet entitled *Positive Discipline: A Guide for Parents* for you to enjoy.

Contents

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

Upcoming Events

- ◆ September 3 Labor Day No School
- ◆ September 11 Parent Ed Night 5:30
- ◆ September 20 Individual Picture Day
- ◆ September 27 Family & Class Pictures
- ◆ September 11-21 Parent Teacher Conferences

Montessori Tip for Parents

This fall the Montessori focus will be about concentration. There is much to say about this topic and what is discussed will be directed towards Maria Montessori's study on the subject.

Success in school and life depends on developing the skill of concentration. In the Montessori educational approach, the development of concentration is already front and center in every aspect. Maria Montessori recognized that to develop one's ability to concentrate was essential to all else and, therefore, she began her work with this end in mind.

"The first essential for the child's development is concentration. It lays the whole basis for his character and social behavior. He must find out how to concentrate, and for this he needs things to concentrate upon. This shows the importance of his surrounding for no one acting on the outside can cause him to concentrate. Only he can organize his psychic life. None of us can do it for him. Indeed, it is just here that the importance of our schools really lies. They are places in which the child can find the kind of work that permits him to do this."
(The Absorbent Mind, 1967)

Class News



A toddler enjoying a good book in the quiet area.

*"The first essential for the child's development is concentration. It lays the basis for his character and social behavior.
Maria Montessori*

Aspen News

Welcome to the new school year. We are looking forward to an exciting fall with new faces and opportunities to learn.

This month we'll be exploring colors. The objective is for children to identify and name colors. Activities will include songs, books, and videos about color. Children will have a variety of tools and materials to sort and match colors. Our classroom will display the beautiful art

Piñon News

The school year is off to a great start! The class is learning about birds. We will identify birds found in the Los Alamos and White Rock area (House Finch, Canyon Towhee, Woodhouse Scrub Jay and doves) as well as some common birds such as chickens, ducks, owls and eagles. Children can explore stuffed birds that make their particular sound when squeezed. Parts of birds will be included in our study.

Juniper News

Our first couple of weeks have been filled with learning respect for ourselves others, and the environment. We can introduce ourselves and learned how to shake hands. Practicing living skills will help us to be helpful at home. We have identified living and nonliving things and have been exploring their senses for length, breadth, depth and weight. We are enjoying the sounds of bells and their pure tones. Exploring the globe and identifying where we are in the

Ponderosa News

The night sky is spectacular these days, with four planets (Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars) going west to south) easily visible to the naked eye in the evening. On September 18th, I will offer the children and opportunity to overnight in the classroom with a chance to look through a telescope once the night is dark enough. We will start with supper after 5:30 and probably throw a movie into the mix. Breakfast will be provided the next morning. Children should bring toiletries.

children explore with colors.

Sensorial activities include fresh fruits and vegetables for children to touch, smell, taste and name. (Thanks to Ms. Christine for bringing in the produce for our class). Sensory bins will be available to explore distinct textures and see and feel the differences.

Practical life skills will be integrated on a daily basis as well as reading to the children and circle time.

This year we are making a "family tree". Please help us by bringing a family photo that we can include on the tree. It is a comfort to each child to see pictures of their family.

world is giving us a sense of who and where we are.

It's amazing the response of the children to the prepared environment. They are happy working and learning.

Children will need a sleeping bag and clothes for the next day. Miss Sharon and Mr. Moiser will be spending the night but any other parent is welcome to join us.

We will also be going to Bandelier National Monument on Monday, September 24 via the Atomic City Transit. Children will need hiking shoes and a backpack with food, water, and rain gear.