

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

September 2020

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PONDEROSA NEWS

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The year 2020 will certainly be one for the history books. Teachers, parents and children are all learning to adapt to a whole new way of conducting school. Despite the many challenges Ponderosa is happy to provide the community with a safe place where children can continue to learn and have social interactions with their peers.

The remodel in the elementary building is moving along with a goal of completion at the end of the calendar year.

Due to COVID 19 all larger gatherings such as our annual fall family potluck will be canceled due to the Governor's executive orders and the remodel.

September 15, at 5:30 Mr. Mosier will be conducting a Parent Night about the Montessori method/practical life/sensorial via ZOOM. If you are interested in attending, email or call the office, and a link will be emailed to

you.

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences are the week of September 28-October 2. Your child's teacher will contact you to set up an appointment.

If your child has been enrolled for over 9 months of school please remember to turn in an updated copy of all consent forms.

When your child receives updated immunizations be sure to turn in a copy to the school.

The office has temporarily moved to the church, in the elementary class, until the remodel is completed.

The tentative date for individual pictures is September 22.

School is closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/7 Labor Day School Closed
- ◆ 9/15 Parent Night
- ◆ 9/22 Tentative Picture Day
- ◆ 9/28-10/2 Parent Teacher Conferences

Montessori Tip for Parents

Development of the Montessori Method

Maria Montessori is the founder of the Montessori method. She was an Italian physician, educator, and innovator.

Maria's early medical practice focused on psychiatry. She later developed an interest in education and began immersing herself in educational theory. Her studies led her to observe, and call into question, the current methods of teaching children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The opportunity to co-direct a new training institute for special education

teachers became available to Maria. She applied her scientific knowledge for observation and experimentation to learn which methods of teaching worked best. Many children made unexpected gains and her methods became very successful. Her methods were applied to children in a regular class setting and again proved to be successful and effective. Maria designed learning materials and a class environment that fostered a child's natural desire to learn and provided freedom for them to choose their own materials.

"Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child open up himself to life."

-Maria Montessori



A child in Mrs. Karen's class making words with the silent a sound.

"Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child open up himself to life."

-Maria Montessori

Aspen News-Infant Class

I would like to welcome you to another year here at Ponderosa. We are all excited to work and spend another great year with your wonderful children.

This month, we will be reinforcing our everyday routines such as putting on/taking off shoes after an outdoor activity, washing hands, sitting/listening and participating at circle time putting back the materials used to their proper place and cleaning up. Developing and

practicing these skills is important to their development and independence. For language, development, pictures and objects are available on the shelves for children to name and match. The treasure basket will be filled with items to explore with their senses and learn to identify their name and uses. There will be fruits and vegetables in season for children to touch, smell and taste. Math/Sensorial will include shapes, and cylinder puzzles.

Piñon News-Transition Class

The beginning of the school year has gone well, and our classroom is functioning in a great way. We have been working on learning beginning letter sounds with a song, and will soon begin using counting songs. The children are enjoying singing. This month we're going to work on black/white activities using monochrome cards for matching. Practical life will consist of taking care of the environment, learning how to use

a work mat, manners, going potty, washing hands, and using our walking legs. Each individual child is at a different state when it comes to math and language, and I will be working with them at the stage in which they are in. Our family wall is looking beautiful. Thank you for sending pictures. Please remember that we do not wear shoes in the classroom. If you have not already inside shoes or slippers with a hard bottom please remember to send

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

We are off to a great start this year. I have been assessing what your child knows so that I can tailor the lessons I offer to each one. It is exciting to see where their interests lie, how long their attention span is, and what their temperament is.

They have learned how to properly wash their hands and when it's necessary to wash them again. We have learned about continents and parts of a fish. We have begun using our math

materials, sandpaper letters, sensorial work and learned some new songs. Ask about the muffins in the bakery shop, open them shut them and here we are together.

This month, we will continue with the continents and discuss what a lake and island are. We will study insects, trees and leaves. Children will work on a simple food project of cutting potatoes and making baked fries. I would like to have a picture of your family to put in their portfolio.

Ponderosa News-Elementary

HYBRID CLASS

We survived the first few weeks! Outside of a few hiccups, everything is going relatively smoothly. The older kids have been good about learning how to get their needs met on time and completing their online work, though sometimes they wait to tell me there is a problem until it's too late and the meeting is over. That has improved with time.

ELEMENTARY CLASS

It has been an unusual year and fast paced start to the year. The kids are getting use to new routines and are being introduced to a lot of new material. Our younger group is focusing on reading, writing, and arithmetic along with zoology. The older group is working on their grade-appropriate standards but also getting a good dose of grammar, zoology and history.