

Ponderosa Montessori School Newsletter

November 2020

304 Rover Blvd
White Rock, NM
87547



PONDEROSA NEWS

Daylight savings begins Sunday, November 1. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

Our photographer will be at the White Rock Presbyterian Church next door for re-takes on Tuesday, November 3, beginning at 9:00 am. Please let your child's teacher or the office know if your child needs to have a picture taken.

Ponderosa will be closed November 11, in observance of Veterans Day. If you or a member of your family has served in the military a big THANK YOU for your service to our country!

Each class will have their own Thanksgiving celebration by making a special treat to eat.

Now that the weather has gotten colder be sure your child has clothing to be outside even in snowy weather (snow pants, mittens, hat, winter boots) Children will go outside even it's cold.

We use the Child Care Weather Chart to determine when it's too cold or hot to be outdoors. Please see the attached chart.

5.2 School Cancellation - Snow Delays
Ponderosa Montessori School follows the cancellation or delay decisions made by the Los Alamos Public Schools (505-663-2223 LAPS Info-Line). Ponderosa will open 30 minutes before the LAPS designated opening time (e.g., if LAPS opens at 10:20 am, Ponderosa school will open at 9:50 am). Ponderosa will close 30 minutes after the LAPS designated closing time (e.g., if LAPS closes at 2:00 pm, Ponderosa school will close at 2:30 pm). If the LAPS is not in session, then Ponderosa will follow the Los Alamos National Laboratory (505-667-6622 LANL Info-Line)

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 11/1 Daylight Savings
- ◆ 11/3 Picture Re-takes
- ◆ 11/11 Veterans Day School Closed
- ◆ 11/19 Class Thanksgiving Celebration
- ◆ 11/26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday School Closed

Montessori Tip for Parents

Sensitive Periods Part 2

Maria Montessori believed that children pass through phases in which at certain stages throughout their development they have a predisposition or sensitivity to learning a specific skill. These stages are called 'sensitive periods. During these periods the child shows pleasure in performing these actions.

There are eleven sensitive periods that occur from birth through age six. See remaining five listed below.

Writing-Children become fascinated with sensorial letters and numerals. They attempt to reproduce these with

paper and pencil.

Reading-Spontaneous interest in sounds of each letter and in the formation of words. (ages 3-5)

Expressive Language- Use of words to communicate. A progression from babbling to words to phrases to sentences with a progression in vocabulary. (ages birth to 6)

Spatial Relationships- Forming impressions about relationships in space. Child is able to find the way around the neighborhood, and increasingly able to work complex puzzles. (ages 4-6)

Music-Spontaneous interest in the development of pitch, rhythm and melody.

Aspen News-Infant Class



Toddlers learn to work independently from one another.

This November, we will focus on colors, animals and decorations that we see around the Thanksgiving season celebration.

For math and sensorial, items like wooden tower and the LEGO blocks will be added for nesting and stacking as well as new puzzles for color and size discrimination. To explore red, brown and orange colors, children will be asked to pick up and gather leaves during outdoor play, and the leaves will

be an added item to the sensory table along with pinecones, apples, and oranges. Matching picture cards along with a nice selection of books to read at circle time will be provided for language development.

Practical life activities will include dry and liquid pouring, scrubbing and washing toys, fruits and vegetables. We will be encouraging children to always use eating utensils at mealtime, and drinking from an open cup for those who

Piñon News-Transition Class

Our first snow was exciting to see. The children loved playing in it.

The kids learned to cut apples with an apple slicer and enjoyed having their apple as a snack

October brings fall leaf and pumpkin projects. We'll continue with Montessori works. Dressing frames to help learn how to button, snap and zip, will be part of practical life. Language will continue with letter sounds, sand

letters, and letter tracing. In math the class will work with number rods, sand letters, spindle box, number matching and counting songs. The New Mexico map and flag will be introduced for geography.

Thank you for joining me for parent/teacher conferences. I enjoyed meeting with all of you. If you need to reach me, my telephone number is 505-660-3467.

*Order is one the
needs of life
which when
satisfied,
produces real
happiness.*

-Maria Montessori

Juniper News- Early Childhood Class

This month we will be finding ways to show gratitude for those who serve us, like you parents. Giving thanks is a lesson in grace and courtesy. With this time of isolation and social distancing what better way to brighten your day and those around you with a little appreciation. We will make pumpkin muffins to share with those we appreciate. We are expanding our geography study to North America,

United States, New Mexico, and White Rock. We will also cover surrounding areas for those who live elsewhere. It would be helpful to have your address for our "Where in the World" project. Respond to the email with your address, a letter will delivered for your child in the mail. Respond to the email with your address, a letter will be delivered for your child in the mail. Reptiles will be our focus for zoology, particularly those in New Mexico.

Ponderosa News-Elementary

Hybrid Class

Hybrid started, whoohoo! So far it seems the kids prefer hybrid by a lot. For the most part, they no longer have to go to meetings and the packets that they have to work on are much more straightforward than what we were dealing with before. Outside of a few mix-ups with which days kids come and snow-days throwing a wrench in the mix, everything has been going quite smoothly.

Elementary Class

History Day was a blast. Thanks to all of the parents who worked so hard to help their children prepare. Presenting in public is the number one fear of adults in America. I am so proud of all of them for being willing to try.