

Welcome 2024!

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! As we begin our new year, I encourage everyone to stay warm. Please bring warm jackets, gloves, boots, and if possible a snow suit to keep your children warm. This month we had our History day in the elementary and the children did a great job representing someone from our history. The Juniper Classroom will have Mom's Parent Night on February 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm and Dad's Parent Night on February 29, 2024 at 5:30 pm. We look forward to you coming and spending time with your child in their classroom. We would like to Welcome Cristina Rubio back to Ponderosa. She is a teacher with Ms. Marissa in the Juniper classroom. Let's also Welcome, Natalie Fabiani, who will be working with Ms. Alex in the Pinon classroom. Welcome to Ayla Gustafson, she is a Floater Assistant and After School Assistant. Thank you all for being such great parents. Stay warm this winter.



Happy New Year from the Aspen Classroom

The children will be continuing into the book which they have been working with in December.



The children have really enjoyed scanning through the book identifying objects and pointing out the pictures as I name them. We also purchased big books last month that we used during circle time for story telling and the children are loving it. As we are still in the winter months, we will still be using the treasure basket filled with mittens, hats, scarves, gloves, and other items that keep them warm for sensory exploration and language development. We have changed them all to items that reflects on Valentines Day Holiday next month. We will have Weekly Arts and Crafts activities centered around the Valentines Day theme on display in the classroom and available for parents to see . Please check it out . We will also be working with lacing activity to strengthen fine motor skills and help with practical life skills. - Ms. Emi

Happy New Year from the Pinon Classroom

Dear parents, Happy New Year! As we have now settled back into our routines, we're excited for a love-filled February ahead. Stay tuned for details about our upcoming Valentine's party! Last month, we focused on reviewing letter sounds and counting up to ten with counters. We also empowered the children by encouraging them to do simple tasks independently, like putting on/taking off their shoes and jackets. Many are making great strides in the potty training process as well! This month, we'll continue to build on our foundation by practicing letter sounds and number counting, progressing to combining sounds and refining number recognition. I'm incredibly proud of our little ones' achievements this year, and it's an honor to be part of their learning journey. ~Miss Alex



Happy New Year from the Juniper Classroom

For the month of February, the Juniper class will work on the language boxes and focus on mathematical shapes using the binomial and trinomial cubes. We will be incorporating a Practical Life skill where students will make a snack and serve their friends celery with Sunflower butter. We will have a Valentines theme within our class work and our crafts. The children will be exchanging Valentines on February 14th. On February 8th we will be having Mom's Night at 5:30 pm. On February 29th we will be having Dad's Night at 5:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing you all. Ms. Cristina and Ms. Marissa

Happy New Year from the Ponderosa Classroom

We have quite a bit going on in February - fortunately, we have an extra day this year. First up, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year on the 9th so no need to send a lunch that day as the kids will be cooking a feast of their own choosing. The 14th is Valentine's Day. Send Valentine's for each of the classmates and feel free to tell me if you want to send along a snack. With our new addition, the class now is comprised of Curtis, Gideon, Izzy, Jericho, Theo, Owen, Rowan, and Sebastian. Mr. M will be out of town diving in the Caribbean from the 16th through the 23rd (the 19th is a holiday

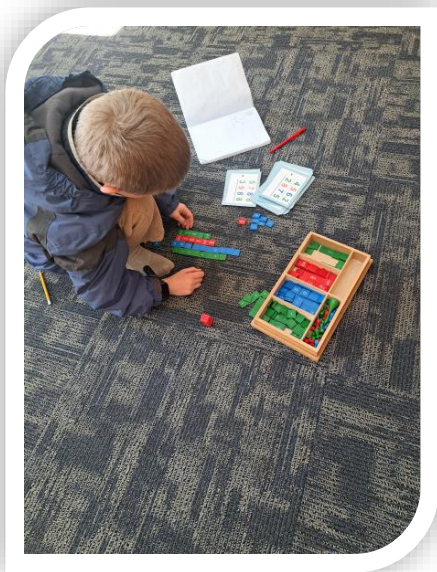


so just five missed days). Because of that, the science fair will be moved from the 21st to the 28th. Parents of our new students should talk to me about what the science fair entails. Mr. M's birthday falls on a weekend this year so we will celebrate early by making personal pizzas on February 29th since that is already a special day. - Mr. Mosier

The Montessori Corner

“A man does not just happen; he does not just grow like a flower. — Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures We live in a society of 'adults' who increasingly think that if they want something then they should be given it, and "right now!" If they don't get what they feel they're entitled to, they lash out. They don't seem to realize that we must work for the things we want. Reality doesn't just hand us goodies whenever we have a craving. But how do we learn this life lesson as human beings: how do emotional, impatient boys and girls become thoughtful, patient young men and women? One way, in Montessori education, is by having in our classrooms only one of each material/activity so children learn that sometimes we must wait. If a girl is using an activity, say an enticing globe or a screwdriver set, but a boy screams, "I want it!", his want might be acknowledged by an empathetic teacher but it is NOT given into. No matter how upset the child gets, he still cannot use the material until the other child is finished. This is a foundational limit in Montessori classrooms. “The material is a help because we only have one set of material in a class and so if one child is using a piece that another child wants, he must wait until the first child has finished with it and put it back in its place. There is a rule that the children do not give the apparatus to each other, but always put it back in its place when they have finished with it. So they have an exercise of patience and respect for others. All these little things help bring sympathy and understanding. They gradually bring a real harmony, which could not be given artificially.” -Maria Montessori, London 1946 Again, the results of all this: -

Children who come to have patience. -Children who come to respect one another. -Children who are *not* entitled. Montessori once said, "A man does not just happen; he does not just grow like a flower." And the same is true of a society. If we look around us and see troubled adults, we will be well served to go back to our roots, in childhood, and see if we missed any lessons that might have helped us in becoming more emotionally stable adults.



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