

The Montessori Elementary School Parent Newsletter



Principal's News

February/March 2009
Volume 4, Issue 3

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The Montessori
Elementary School
3831 Midway Place NE
Albuquerque, NM
87109

Phone:
(505) 796-0149

Fax:
(505) 796-0147

We're on the
Web!
TMESNM.com

Our annual open house, *Meet TMES* was a success! More than 500 people visited our campus, with many proclaiming that we are unlike any other school in town. As a public charter school in our fourth year, I am extremely proud of the tremendous growth and accomplishments we've made in such a short time. We've succeed in making a first-rate school that has families from throughout Albuquerque clamoring to become a member of our community.

Our continued success depends on you. I write to you today, to ask for your continued support in providing our students with a world class educational experience. Fundraising is a vital component of our school's success. As a public charter school we rely on fundraising to provide "extras" that other public schools often go without.

TMES is not sheltered from the hard economy right now. Budget cuts are expected for the 09-10 school year which makes it even that much more important that we allocate our budgets carefully and supplement with fundraising as much as possible.

TMES Spirit Week

The TMES Montessori Education Week & Spirit Days on February 23rd-27th were chalk full of fun events that were designed to teach our students more about Dr. Maria Montessori, Montessori education throughout the world, what peace is and how everyone can make a difference, meeting and making new friends at TMES and ended with our students singing 'Let There be Peace on Earth' with other Montessori students across the world on Friday. Pajama day was a huge hit! We will have to do it again!

Keep up the good work. Many of you have gone above and beyond in fundraising and volunteering, but it's been said that some families are dismayed by the amount of fundraising we do and therefore, are choosing to not participate. Please don't get overwhelmed. We realize that not every family can make a monetary donation to TMES and we can appreciate that. When we ask for help in our fundraising efforts, it includes doing things that do not cost money, just a little time and effort. Sending out an email to friends, mentioning a fundraiser to family, hanging up an ad at work, volunteering to help, it all adds up to help us provide the "extras" for your children.

My hope is that we will have *every* family at TMES involved in our efforts so that we can continue to provide the education that every student deserves. It will take every family's participation in the effort in order to succeed. Thank you in advance for your help and dedication. TMES is a school like no other and together, the future is bright.

-Mary Jane Besante



Above- Kindergarten girls enjoying Pajama Day on February 23rd.

Office Notes...

- We have a lot of unclaimed items in the lost and found. Currently, some of the items are hanging up in the area in front of the offices so please stop in to claim any items of your child soon. Also, remember to label all of your child's removable items with a Sharpie!
- If you received a letter in your child's folder about missing immunizations, please don't forget to get us an updated immunization record. Every public school student must have an up-to-date immunization record or exemption form on file at the school in order to attend.

Kudos- We really want to thank...

We have some great parent volunteers who go above and beyond! Thank you for volunteering at TMES and making our school great!

Thank you

- Becky Caalim
- Ann Baca
- Ruth Duran
- Catherine DeValle
- Missy Liotta
- Teresa Fleming
- Carl Fernandez
- Aleta McDonald
- Dawn McCusker
- D'Val Westphal Cordova
- *All the volunteers for Jump for Heart!*

Quotes from Ms. Natasha's Class

The following are quotes for 'Dreams' from the MLK, Jr. lesson in Ms. Natasha's class:

- My dream for the world is for criminals to drop their weapons and have peace. That's what I want. ~ by *Nathan*
- My dream for the world is no more war. I hope Russians do not have war because my uncle is in Russia. ~by *Kaiah*
- A dream I have for the world is for them to stop littering and to live greener. ~by *Alexus*
- My dream for America is peace on earth. Everyone should be nice to one another. Martin Luther King is a great person. ~by *Mariah*

SBA Testing Schedule

SBA testing is fast approaching for the 3rd-6th graders! We will begin testing on Monday, March 30th right after Spring Break. Each group has 11 tests to take, and we hope to accomplish 1 to 2 tests a day. We will test each day of the week of 3/30 - 4/3 followed by testing on 4/6 - 4/7. We will take a break for parent conferences and the Vernal Holiday. We plan to finish any remaining testing and make-up testing the week of 4/14 - 4/17. ***Remember to adjust any appointment plans since attendance is all important for these days.*** Since the Fine Arts teachers may have to support testing this year, there will be adjustments in the Fine Arts schedule to avoid any conflict with testing times. You will be informed of that schedule as soon as it is available. We will be sending home helpful hints for you to help your student be best prepared to test successfully as we get closer to those dates. Right now the most important thing you can do for your child's success on the SBA test is to make sure that they will be healthy and not miss a day of testing!

A letter from our BoxTops Coordinator

I wanted to thank everyone who has been collecting box tops for the school this past year. You all are awesome! YTD, we have earned about \$447.30. We are hoping to reach our Goal of \$500 by the end of the School Year, so please keep collecting and turn in those box tops. Ms Kari has the collection box in her office. Our first raffle for the year was held on Friday, February 13, the kids were excited and a total of 6 prizes were handed out. Please remember to include a piece of paper with your child's name on it inside of the bag with Boxtops, this way we can be sure to include your child in the next raffle.

Thank you again,

~ Catherine (Cici) DeValle, Box Tops Coordinator

Extra bonus BOX TOPS going on now: Betty Crocker Fruit Snacks, I Love My School Sweepstakes, and the MARKETPLACE

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx> are other ways to help. Many popular On-Line Merchants - Eddie Bauer, Kohls, JcPenney, etc. will also donate a percentage of your purchase back to Boxtops on behalf of our school. So if you are an internet shopper, it can really add up to a lot of money for TMES! See www.BOXTOPS4Education.com for more exciting information about collecting Boxtops.

To register under TMES, simply type 'Montessori' in the school name box and 'New Mexico' in the state box to find our school name.



TMES Yearbook

The TMES Yearbook Committee is requesting pictures you have taken this year at TMES events, fieldtrips, in the classroom, etc. If you would like to submit any pictures that may be included in the yearbook, please send them to Ms. Alissa at ahamilton@tmesnm.com. The pictures need to be:

- In .jpeg or .pdf format
- Be a minimum of 300dpi resolution
- Have a description of who is in the picture, what class and what is going on.
- Be submitted by April 10th.

Thanks for your help! More yearbook info to follow soon!

www.TMESNM.com Updates

Our website is constantly being updated now so check in often for the latest news, classroom updates, violin practice sheets, school documents, pictures and event details! Every classroom has their own page where the teacher can make it their own so it is a great way to keep up to date with your child's classroom and learn what is going on in other classrooms. TMESNM.com is also a good resource to refer anyone to if they are interested in our school or the golf tournament. The golf tournament registration and details page are conveniently located on our homepage. More exciting information will be added soon such as: TMES press releases, administration information pages, archived newsletters, Montessori method resources, etc! So make www.tmesnm.com your first stop for all school info!

TMES is going green!

You are receiving this via email **only** so that we can reduce the use of paper, ink, and resources. TMES is also sending out the majority of communication with parents via email too. Please try to check your email daily so that you will not miss any school information being sent via mass email. Add 'MJ Sams' to your email address book so the emails do not get flagged as junk mail. If you would like to add or change email addresses on file, please email MJ at: msams@tmesnm.com. Thank you for helping us use our resources wisely!

Ms. Kari's Corner

One of the questions I receive most from parents is "How can I be more educated in Montessori...the philosophy as well as what my child is doing in class?" Aside from attending Parent Education Nights and conferences with your child's teacher, there are many other ways to become an educated Montessori Parent. New to our TMES website will be links to sites we feel are invaluable as you embark in your quest to become a more educated Montessori parent. We will also have a list of books the TMES staff has compiled for your reading enjoyment. Please let me know if you have a favorite that we have overlooked.

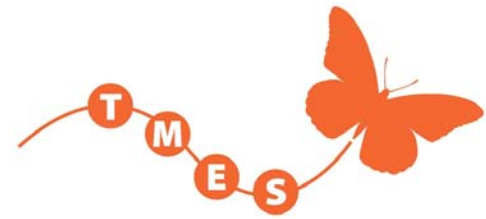
Speaking of Parent Education Nights, I am proud to present to the families of TMES a wonderful evening planned with Jonathan Wolff. Set aside this evening as a "must attend" on your calendar, **Friday, April 24th**. Jonathan Wolff is the Founder and Director of Learning for Life and Montessori Leadership. He provides retreats, workshops, consultations and coaching for parents, educators, leaders, Boards of Directors, community organizations and learning communities around the globe. After earning his B.A. degree in Secondary Education from Temple University, Jonathan began teaching at-risk youth in Philadelphia. Early in his career, he read several books on the Montessori philosophy and quickly recognized the power Maria Montessori's work in human development had to effect transformation not only within the young child, but within adults as well. He went on to study with Mother Isabelle Eugenie, one of Dr. Montessori's first students, earned his Early Childhood Credential through the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), and began his career as a Montessori educator at one of the first Head Start Montessori Centers in the United States. Jonathan's incisive ability to apply Dr. Montessori's educational constructs to training adults led him to positions as a teacher trainer, as the director of education and training for various education and business organizations, and as the administrator for several nationally recognized schools. Thirty years in the field have provided him with solid first-hand experience in leading and managing rapidly growing for-profit and not-for-profit schools, education institutions and business organizations.

We have worked very hard to provide this wonderful evening for our TMES families. Please attend and learn all you can from this amazing Montessorian. The evening's topic will be on "The Nine Characteristics of Montessori Friendly Parenting." This session will help you understand your child's academic achievements in the Montessori environment as it relates to life at home.

This is a great opportunity you should not miss. Please try your best to attend and I will see you there! ~Ms. Kari

Introducing the 'TMES Monarchs'

TMES has a new logo and mascot! On Friday, Feb. 27th, the entire school was introduced to our new mascot, the Monarch Butterfly, at a school assembly to wrap up Spirit Week. The monarch butterfly has been incorporated into the new TMES logo (right). The monarch represents the transformation the students at TMES embark on as they grow and change during their years at our school. The school colors are green, orange and tan. Green symbolizes the growth of our students and our unyielding effort to be eco-friendly, orange represents the monarch and tan connects us to the earth. A HUGE thank you goes out to Megan Ward for designing the logo! We really appreciate it Megan!



Did you know...

- To help build community within TMES, the Parent Patrol and Starbucks are hosting 'Friday Coffee' in the commons every second Friday of the month. Please join us to meet other TMES parents and for a good cup of java! Thank you Becky, Cara and Missy!
- We have already saved about 3000 pieces of paper by sending out reminders, updates, newsletters, etc. via email instead of making paper copies!
- Over 500 people attended 'Meet TMES' day on Feb. 21st and we received 142 applications during the two hour block of the event! The line was out the door and through the parking lot waiting to get in. We received close to 200 applications by the March 2nd Lottery. TMES is hot, hot, hot!



Above top, Above bottom, and Right-
The 'Lotus Dragons' perform for TMES students.

Chinese New Year Celebration

On February 4th, TMES had a special performance from the Lotus Dragons for the Chinese New Year celebration. The Lotus Dragons are a martial arts organization that observes the Chinese Cultural New Year. After the dancers performed, the students were able to ask questions. This is always a time to see the Montessori students at their best. The questions were thoughtful and ingenious. So much so that Si-Fu Doug commented to Ms. Kari that he had never had such inquisitive questions by this age of students. Thank you Mr. Diego for arranging this special performance!

Sunflower Market BBQ Fundraiser

The Sunflower Market has so generously organized a BBQ fundraiser to benefit our music department! The BBQ will be held on **Saturday, April 4th from noon - 4:00 pm** at their Corrales location at 10701 Corrales Rd. NW. Ms. Canice and Ms. Alissa will be there along with a few TMES students playing the violin and barbecuing. Please join us at Sunflower for burgers, brats, and music to support our music department!

TMES Items Available

Show your TMES pride! We have various items available for purchase, such as: license plate covers, bumper stickers, clothing, etc. at: <http://www.cafepress.com/nmhandcrafted>. The items are only available through that website. A portion of the proceeds will go to TMES. **Thank you to Cara Flynn for designing the TMES products!**

3rd Annual TMES Golf Tournament & Silent Auction Updates and Needs

The golf tournament and silent auction are really coming along! Thank you to all of you who have helped so far by spreading the word, getting donations, and volunteering to help. Every little bit goes a long way to making a difference to TMES students. Remember to get all those donations, player registrations and sponsorships in by **April 3rd** so we can make sure that your child's class receives the points for the class challenge contest! The contest rules and information are available on www.tmesnm.com under the 'Student Life' tab. I have received several emails from parents about the donations that they have collected for the auction- we have some really awesome stuff! I will be posting a link soon on our website to the silent auction donation list with all the donations listed for you to see. I hope you will join us at the Jonathan Wolff Parent Education Night or at Isleta Eagle Golf Course so you can bid on a few items yourself! Remember that all the money raised goes directly to benefit your child's education!

We are still in need of a few things to make this event really successful. We need:

- **Items for the goodie bags.** If you know of any businesses or restaurants who would be willing to donate coupons or vouchers for the goodie bags, please let me know! Also, any individual packaged items or small items (ie: freebie type things) are needed for the bags. Sunflower market has already donated canvas shopping bags and water bottles for every golfer so help me get those bags filled!
- **Sponsorships.** 'Overall' and 'Hole' sponsors are still needed for the tournament. If you know of any business that might be interested in being a sponsor, please direct them to our website for the 'Details' document on the homepage for an explanation of what each sponsorship level will receive. Let them know how much TMES families appreciate the support they give us and we will support their business in return!
- **Players.** We have several teams signed up already but the more the merrier of course! If you know of any golfers, let them know that we have other individual players to team them up with if they don't have a team of their own to sign up. It is a fun tournament so every level of player is invited to join in!
- **Silent Auction Donations.** I have about 60 items donated so far (if you haven't brought yours in, please do so now!) but donations are our biggest money maker of the event so please keep asking for donations! As I said, I will post the list of donations on the website soon to tempt you! The donation items would make awesome gifts so keep in mind birthdays, graduations, etc. coming up. This is a great opportunity to get cool gifts, at unbeatable prices for a worthy cause (your child)!

As always, feel free to contact me anytime and give out my contact info to anyone who has questions about the event. Thank you for your continued support! -Ms. MJ, TMES Development Coordinator msams@tmesnm.com

Jump Rope for Heart

Our first annual TMES Mix-It-Up Health Fair for Jump Rope for Heart was held on Wednesday, March 4th. The entire school 'mixed it up' with other TMES classes, making new friends, and learning fun ways to keep our bodies and hearts healthy for life. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to run an activity, the kids loved it! All the money you raised for the American Heart Association truly makes a difference in helping combat heart disease in the U.S. Thank you Ms. Karen for sharing your own personal story about heart disease, it really hit home for many of us. TMES was featured in an article called '*Going the Extra Mile in the Fight against Heart Disease and Stroke*' by Melanie Atterborn, of the American Heart Association, in the AHPERD newsletter for our efforts for this worthy cause. The newsletter goes out to all the PE teachers across NM. You can read the article on our website under the 'Activities' tab.



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We're on the Web!
www.TMESNM.com

We are sending this via electronically only! If you do not receive this via e-mail, please update your e-mail address (if you have one) with MJ at: [msams@tmesnm.com!](mailto:msams@tmesnm.com)

Jonathan Wolff- TMES Parent Education Night

We are proud to present to the families of TMES a wonderful evening planned with Jonathan Wolff. Set aside this evening as a "must attend" on your calendar, **Friday, April 24th**. If you have questions about Montessori Education and your child, this evening was created for you. (Read more about Jonathan Wolff in 'Ms. Kari's Corner'.) Expect a very dynamic evening with group work and community building. **We will also have various Silent Auction items available for you to bid on!** So please join us for this fun and educational evening- this is an opportunity you do not want to miss! We will send out more details about this event soon.

'The Nine Characteristics of Montessori Friendly Parenting'

When: Friday, April 24th, 2009

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: TMES Commons

Bring: paper, pencil, an open mind and money for the Silent Auction (cash or check)!

PTC Notes from Ms. Kari

Thanks to all the parents who attended the PTC Meeting on Feb. 11th. We tried to move the time up to 3:30pm so more Kindergarten parents could attend. The new time brought the ratio of Kinder parents up, but the Elementary parents attendance dropped drastically. So for the March 11th meeting, we moved the time back to 4:00 pm. It would be so nice if we could meet the needs of everyone. I know after school is a difficult time for working parents and parents of students who have activities right after school, but if you could rearrange just one Wed. a month to park and attend the PTC, we could organize a wonderful group to be a helpful hand to TMES.

If you would like the minutes from the latest PTC, please email me at: kschien@tmesnm.com and I will send you a copy. I would love to have one of the parents who regularly attend the PTC take over recording the minutes and maybe even have a column in our TMES newsletter? If you are interested, let me know.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15th at 4:00**. The topic is: *'Homework- Does it have a place in Montessori Curriculum?'* again since we were not able to get to it at the meeting on March 11th. As always, TMES students may join aftercare at no cost to you. I hope to see you there!

***** Important Upcoming Events*****

March:

Tuesday 17th - Pillow Concert at 3:30 pm in Ms. Canice's room

Wednesday 18th - Invention Convention

Monday 23rd thru Friday 27th - Spring Break- **NO SCHOOL/NO CHILDCARE**

Monday 30th - SBA Testing Begins - until completed- possibly till April 24th

April:

Wednesday 1st - Staff Planning Day- **Early Release @ 12:30** (whole school, K-6th grade) **NO AFTERCARE**

Saturday 4th- Sunflower Market BBQ at the Corrales location to benefit our music department from 12:00-4:00 pm

Monday 6th thru Friday 10th- Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the Fine Arts Dept.

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th - Parent Teacher Conferences- **NO SCHOOL/NO CHILDCARE**

Friday 10th thru Monday 13th- Vernal Holiday- **NO SCHOOL/NO CHILDCARE**

Friday 17th- Friday Coffee in the Commons @ 8:00-9:00 am - join us for coffee and community building!

Friday 24th- Jonathan Wolff Parent Education Night and Silent Auction @ 6:30-8:30 pm

Saturday 25th- 3rd Annual TMES Golf Tournament and Silent Auction at Isleta Eagle Golf Course