

The Montessori
Elementary School
3821 Singer NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505.769.0149

Volunteers Work Overtime During the Holidays

The first boxes began arriving on December 22, and they have continued to be delivered just about every day since. Boxes full of beads, maps, buttons, knobs, and cool new activities like learning chopsticks and spreading sand in a Zen garden.



Joanne Li checks through the lists of Montessori materials ordered, while mountains of boxes wait behind her.

Volunteers and Council members **Joanne and Jeff Li** needed a Zen garden as they opened every box and checked to make sure the school received everything that was ordered. Many parents and teachers helped out and, thanks to a gargantuan effort from our TMES community, the school is full of new materials and ready for 2006.

A big thank you to everyone who put so much into getting the school ready for our children. We appreciate all of you!

An extra special thanks to **Jeff, Joanne, and Alan Li**. It's difficult to put into words just how much this TMES family gave us by spending virtually all of their holiday time at the school. Please tell them thank you whenever you see them around the school!

Take a look at the bulletin board outside Ms. Melissa's room to see photos of the volunteers hard at work.



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Parent volunteer Angela Salazar puts together a new Hundred Board.

Playground and Front Desk Help Needed

If you or someone in your family would like to help out TMES, please consider volunteering for playground duty or front desk help. **Ms. Phyllis** has put together a schedule, so please contact her at 228-8209 if you have any extra time to give. Coverage for both the front desk and the playground is especially important on Wednesday afternoons—your help will allow the teachers and administration time to attend regular staff meetings.

Playground Safety Wish List

Let **Ms. Phyllis** know if you would like to donate any of the following items:

- 11 covered clipboards**
- 7 walkie talkies**
- 11 whistles**
- 11 mini first aid kits**

Space Available at TMES

TMES currently has openings for students in the kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes. If you know anyone who might be interested, ask them to drop by the front desk and fill out an application. Any children who start now are automatically enrolled in the fall—no lottery or wait lists!

Mr. Frank is Back!

We are so happy to report that **Mr. Frank Leto** is back at TMES this semester, teaching music to our children on Mondays and Tuesdays. A big thank you goes out to those TMES parents who worked so hard to raise the funds for this special music program! Mr. Frank is excited to be here and says “The children sound wonderful!”

Kudos

Many thanks to the following parents who volunteered their time to TMES over the holidays:

Larry Alei

Daniel Bailet

Rebecca Bailet

Edie Baldinger

Jane Burns

Cynthia Carter

Almaz Desu

Annie Diefenthaler

Carl Fernandez

Keith Fleming

Theresa Fleming

Debra Garrett

Terry Geubelle

Darria Giersch

John Giersch

Donna Gordon

Aislinn Graham

Brian Graham

Lynnett Griego

Jeff Li

Joanne Li

Monica Manley

Dawn McCuster

Monice Noce

Linda Norman

Cindy Peterson

Jill Riester

Ric Riester

Mary Salazar

Ron Samples

Roberta Sanchez

Melissa Torrez

Connie Trujillo

Diego Trujillo

Wanda Tuck

Anne Uhring

Myrle Wasko

Katherine Young

Starting in February, we plan to publish this newsletter on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. The next newsletter will come out on February 2 and the deadline for submitting information is January 27 (but the earlier the better). If you have any questions about the newsletter or would like to submit articles or notices, please contact Jill Riester at 281-1337 or at riesterr@msn.com. Thanks!

Welcome to Mr. Dennis Smith

The Montessori Elementary School is proud to welcome **Mr. Dennis Smith** to Albuquerque. Mr. Dennis is our new 9-12 teacher, and he comes to us from Ohio.

Mr. Dennis received his elementary Montessori certification in Bergamo, Italy, under the direction of Mario Montessori. He has been involved in Montessori education ever since, as a teacher, administrator, and teacher educator. He founded and administered Alexandria Montessori School in Ohio before returning to graduate school to complete his doctorate in Educational Psychology.

Most recently, Mr. Dennis served as a consultant to Montessori charter schools in North Carolina and Florida. His experiences have convinced him "that it is possible to have quality Montessori in a charter program."

Welcome, Mr. Dennis!

Calendar Additions/Changes

Following are reminders, additions, and changes to the TMES calendar.

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| January 16 | MLK, Jr., Day
No School |
| January 18 | Playground & Green Thumb Meeting , 6:30 pm at the Frontier
Fundraising & Development Meeting , 6:30 pm at the school |
| January 20 | Welcome Back Potluck , 4 pm at the school (look for more info in your child's communication folder) |
| January 24 | Parent Violin Meeting (Ms. Angela and Ms. Canice's K and 6-9 students), 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the school |
| January 25 | Parent Violin Meeting (Ms. Canice's students from Ms. Kari and Mr. Dennis' class), 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the school |
| January 26 | Field Trip to Frank Leto Concert
More info coming soon! |
| January 28 | <i>A Day for Charter Schools</i> at the Captiol in Santa Fe |
| February 28
to March 2 | Standards Based Assessment Testing
3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th graders only will be tested from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. No school for K, 1st, and 2nd graders. |
| March 6 - 10 | Book Fair (sponsored by Kindergarten classes) |
| March 17 | Underwater Overnight at the Aquarium (3rd and 4th graders) |
| March 22 | Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early dismissal, 12:30 pm |
| March 23-24 | Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School |
| April 7 | Teacher In-Service
No School |
| April 13 | Science Fair (postponed from 1/20) |
| April 14 | No School |

Book Fair a Huge Success

by Kari Schein

We have wonderful news about the Book Fair hosted by the 6-9 classrooms in early December. **The total amount of sales exceeded \$4,000!** The money TMES is able to spend on books is about \$2,000.

We would like to thank the parents who spent time working the cash register, unloading and boxing books, and general maintenance of the books. We couldn't have done it without your help.

Our current situation has put us in great need of books. This money will help us get started in the area of group reading books and reference materials. We hope to go to the Scholastic warehouse this week to pick out books for our classrooms.

Please bring in any books you would like to donate and give them to your child's teacher. Any books they can't use will be shared with the other classes. I know we are especially looking for encyclopedia sets for the four elementary classes (they do not have to be new).

Thank you so much for all the help, patience, and community spirit. We are so fortunate to have the parent support and volunteer help you offer.

Reminders

Be sure to call the front desk by 8:30 am, if possible, if your child will be absent.

Before volunteering at TMES, you will need to fill out fingerprint and background check forms and take them to the APS Main Office (725 University SE). Pick up the forms from the TMES front desk, and ask Ms. Besante to sign them before you leave!



Those aren't Montessori materials! Alan Li practices the fine art of patience while his mom and dad work long hours.



Violin News

The advanced violin students from **Ms. Kari's** class will be performing at *A Day for Charter Schools* at the State Capitol Roundhouse in Santa Fe on Saturday, January 28. TMES will also

display our students' work and share information about the school. All parents and students are welcome and encouraged to attend this great event!

Ms. Canice and **Ms. Angela** will hold **Parent Violin Meetings** on Tuesday, January 24 for all of Ms. Angela's students and Ms. Canice's kindergarten and 6-9 students, and Wednesday, January 25 for Ms. Canice's students from Ms. Kari's and Mr. Dennis' classes.

Parent Committees

Playground and Green Thumb

Next meeting:
 January 18, 6:30 pm at the Frontier Restaurant
 Contact: **Keith Fleming**, 259-3827 or ahelpinghandnm@com-cast.net

Fundraising and Development

Next meeting:
 January 18, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the school.
 We will begin preparations for our upcoming fundraising events scheduled to take place in the next few months. We would appreciate any parents, teachers and staff members participation in the next meeting. If you can't make it, then stay tuned...we will be launching our first fundraising event information and dates in the next several weeks.
 Contact: **Kerry Perry** at perrykerry@aol.com

Publicity, Communications and Volunteers

Contact: **Laura Buell**, 891-1995 or nmbuells@yahoo.com

A Note About the New Montessori Materials by Melissa Sandoval

What an honor it was to be asked to aide in the ordering of our new Montessori materials! What a responsibility! Montessori teachers are taught during training that “it is the work of the child to create the man.” In other words, the child is laboring very vigorously all of her young life to make herself into the adult she is to become. Now, that is a lot of pressure when it comes to ordering the materials that our children will use during their duration at The Montessori Elementary School. First and foremost, I had to think about the child’s educational, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. Then came the needs of the teacher—a complete set of classroom materials. I also had to think of the needs of the school—great quality materials at a good price! After all the “needs” were taken care of, then came the “wants.” What materials would the children enjoy that they didn’t have before? What materials would the teachers appreciate having more than one of? With all of this in mind, I picked up the phone, turned on my laptop, and began creating orders.

About 2 weeks later, all the materials began to arrive. It was very exciting to open all of the boxes and peek inside, especially knowing these are brand-new materials that will be here for years to come. It takes most schools a few years to acquire the amount of Montessori materials we now have at TMES. We even have some “work” that we didn’t before!

I could not have done this amazing task on my own. After all, we were working against time—the children would be back on January 4th. We also had to overcome the obstacle of the Montessori companies being closed for Christmas. Plus, the delivery companies were already overwhelmed with holiday packages. **Ms. Kari’s** assistance in placing orders for the older elementary children was a huge help. Also, the enthusiasm of all of the volunteers, especially **Jeff and Joanne Li**, was absolutely amazing! What made it worthwhile for me, though, was the look on the children’s faces the first day they came back to school. After all, it’s all about the children!



Nicole Fleming sets up a new flag board.



Almaz Desu, parent volunteer, shows her enthusiasm for unpacking the new Montessori materials!



TMES Receives Funding for Computers

We are pleased to announce that TMES recently received a \$50,000 grant from the state to replace all the computers.

Sponsor a Shelf

Several TMES families have already joined our Sponsor a Shelf program by donating \$200 for a shelf in their child’s classroom. If you are interested in sponsoring a shelf, please contact the front desk at 796-0149 or stop by the office.