

**The Montessori  
Elementary School**  
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Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505.796.0149  
www.tmesnm.com

**Mary Jane Besante**  
Principal  
**Stan Albrycht**  
Business Manager

**Collaborative  
Council**  
Spencer Visconti, Pres.  
Rob Crandall, VP  
Joanne Li, Treasurer  
Daniel Bailet  
Jeff Li

**Montessori  
Education  
Foundation, Inc.**  
Jill Riester, President  
Cara Flynn, Treasurer  
Daniel Bailet  
Lynn Boldt  
Darrla Giersch  
Debbie Kennedy  
Kari Schein



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## TMES Debate Teams on TV

Congratulations to the TMES Debate Teams for their outstanding participation in “The Pit Bull Debates,” broadcast on Channel 27 on January 18. The debate teams were **Dustin Luetgen** and **Veronica Sanchez** on the Affirmative and **Alex King** and **Beowulf Owen** on the Negative. Great work!

## Bowl-A-Thon A Success

A big thank you to all the parents, teachers, and kids who helped make the first-ever TMES Bowl-A-Thon such a great success! We all gathered at Sandia Bowl on Saturday, January 27, and had good fun bowling and snacking. Preliminary estimates are that we made a little over \$1,500 from the day. A fundraising update will be sent out in the next week or so that will outline some of the plans for the money that had been raised so far. **Ms. Ashley’s** class will receive a Pizza Party because their fundraising total, \$587.50, was the most out of all the classes. (Don’t worry, the Jog-A-Thon will be in April—the rest of you can try again!) Seriously, all the children are winners because the money raised will buy much-needed items for the school. Thanks again to everyone for all your hard work!



## Field Trip to the Zoo

by *Lexi Garcia*

On Wednesday, November 1, the Upper Elementary went to the zoo. We went to the zoo to observe animals for history. When we got to the zoo, we split up into groups. When we were observing the animals, we heard the naked mole rats had babies! Later, we were all back together for lunch and then we went to the playground. It was so much fun!

## Playground Committee Meeting

If you’re interested in helping out with the Playground Committee, please **plan to attend the committee meeting on Thursday, February 1, 5 pm at the school.**

## Meet the TMES Collaborative Council

The Collaborative Council is responsible for the fair and uniform application of all federal, state and local laws in the operation of the TMES. The Council is also responsible for “governing the implementation of TMES’ charter,” and is the policy-making body for TMES. The Council exercises its leadership “primarily through the formulation and adoption of policies.”



### Spencer Visconti, President

Spencer Visconti, board member since February 2006 has two children attending TMES, Terra in Ms. Monica’s class and Alec in Ms. Ashley’s class. Spencer’s professional life is as a Systems Engineer designing and troubleshooting telecommunication networks and equipment for Sandia Labs, Los Alamos Labs, Holloman AFB and various other Federal institutions throughout New Mexico and the Southwest. Spencer also voluntarily serves on several APS charter school committees that focus on both long-term success and legislative needs for charter schools. Spencer’s better half is Stacy, his wife, who has the hardest job in the world of stay at home mother of three. You may see Stacy quite often at the school always smiling as she volunteers two days a week in several classrooms.



### Rob Crandall, Vice President

Rob Crandall recently joined the Collaborative Council and brings a wealth of experience, including time in the U.S. Coast Guard as well as degrees in psychology and education. Rob has worked in public schools, treatment centers, state government, correctional institutions, community colleges and psychiatric hospitals. Rob says that “serving on the council is an exciting opportunity to see education from yet another perspective. The council members and the principal are wonderful, committed individuals, which makes council work pleasant and rewarding.” Rob is married with four children, three dogs, and some fish.



### Joanne Li, Treasurer

Joanne Li’s professional background is in finance and operations working for Hewlett Packard for 13 years. She holds a BBA in accounting from the University of New Mexico. Joanne’s son Alan has attended this school for the last eight years and is currently in the 9-12 program.



### Daniel Bailet

Daniel Bailet is dad to Jody in Ms. Kari’s class and Ben in Mr. John’s class. Daniel has been on the Council for a year, and also helped start the school’s charitable organization, the Montessori Education Foundation. When not hanging around the school Daniel is focused on a number of projects, including a biotech company in Albuquerque, a water utility in the East Mountains, and energy policy and infrastructure development consulting overseas.



### Jeff Li

Jeff Li is a returning member to the TMES Collaborative Council. He has a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and an MBA in Human Resources/Organizational Development. Jeff currently manages a professional and operations staff of 15 in Albuquerque for PNM Resources. He also has 14 years of experience in product/systems development and management at a financial institution. His son Alan is 10 years old and is in the 9-12 program.

## Meet the TMES Staff



**Mary Jane Beseante, Principal**

**[mbesante@tmesnm.com](mailto:mbesante@tmesnm.com)**

Ms. Besante is a second year principal with 11 years of classroom teaching experience. She holds both a BA and an MA in elementary education and a K-12 Administrative License. She also has an endorsement in Teaching English as a Second Language. Ms. Besante's professional background includes extensive teaching experience and leadership in curriculum development and implementation. Says Mary Jane, "I feel privileged to be the principal of The Montessori Elementary School, and look forward to beginning my Montessori Certification in the Spring. I value your input, thoughts, and feedback. Please take the time to introduce yourself to me, my door is always open. For longer visits, I am happy to schedule an appointment."



**Evonne Delgado, Administrative Assistant**

**[edelgado@tmesnm.com](mailto:edelgado@tmesnm.com)**

Ms. Evonne has 25 years of administrative and finance experience. She received a bachelor's degree in business management from the College of Santa Fe, and began her career at APS as a budget analyst. Ms. Evonne is thrilled to be here and loves working with the students, staff, and families of TMES.



**Kim Box, 9-12 Teacher**

**[kkeller-box@tmesnm.com](mailto:kkeller-box@tmesnm.com)**

Ms. Kim is full of life, loves children, and is completely dedicated to her family. One of her prime goals is to help children love to learn and learn to love. She feels this can best be accomplished with the Montessori Method. Ms. Kim is currently completing her 6-12 training through CMTE/NY. She graduated from Northern Arizona University with a BS in Geology. Before her time began as a Montessori teacher, Ms. Kim taught middle school math and ran an after-school math tutor program in Flagstaff. She has also taught at the college level as an Earth Science lab teacher. Kim has been teaching at both the 6-9 and 9-12 levels at TMES for the past three years. She is excited at the prospect of continuing to carry the vision of Maria Montessori to our children.



**Molly Hartman, Special Education Teacher**

**[mhartman@tmesnm.com](mailto:mhartman@tmesnm.com)**

Ms. Molly, who will begin with TMES next month, was born, raised, and educated in New England, but considers herself a New Mexican at heart. She has lived here for almost 30 years, raising her family and running a business. She chose education for her second career 15 years ago, and has taught regular education in all intermediate grades plus special education resource and inclusion. Ms. Molly has a BA in Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education, and also holds several Level III K-8 and K-12 licenses. She is certified in dyslexic-specific strategies, Workshop Way methods, and Direct Instruction curriculums. Ms. Molly and her husband have one son, whose own growing family "enriches our lives immensely." Ms. Molly says she is "very excited to be given the opportunity to work at TMES with its unique staff and students. I hope to support the enrichment of eligible students through the classroom environment as well as develop intervention strategies for those students in need of a boost."



**Ashley Kasperek, K-1 Teacher**

**[akasperek@tmesnm.com](mailto:akasperek@tmesnm.com)**

Ms. Ashley, brand new to TMES, recently graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She is familiar with the Montessori philosophy and classroom because her mother was a Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher for many years. Says Ms. Ashley, "I am very excited to be here! Please stop in and say hello if you have a chance."

## TMES Staff, cont.



**Phyllis Kennedy, Art Teacher**

**pkennedy@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Phyllis earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1977, where her speciality was printmaking. After a brief thawing out in New Orleans, she began graduate studies at New York University. Upon earning her MA from NYU School of Education she set out for New Mexico to become a fine art photographer. Her urban landscapes were picked up by Kron/Reck Gallery who represented her and placed her work in several collections. (Co-director of the gallery in the 80's was none other than our own Karen Reck, Ms. Kari's assistant.) Ms. Phyllis' Cibachrome prints can be seen at Santa Fe's Museum of Fine Arts and the Albuquerque Sunport. Ms. Phyllis completed her Montessori internship in early childhood last year at TMES and will finish her training this year. Ms. Phyllis says teaching art at TMES is the best job she ever had.



**Susan Kranz, 6-9 Teacher**

**skranz@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Susan is currently in her fourth year as a Montessori educator. She has an elementary 6-9 certification from the American Montessori Society and an Internship License from the State of New Mexico. She completed her undergraduate work at The University of Phoenix in business administration. She received her master's degree in elementary education from The University of Phoenix. She is also certified in the Phono-Graphix reading program. Ms. Susan has raised three wonderful children who now live in different parts of the country and she enjoys visiting them whenever she can.



**Canice Laubhan, Violin Teacher**

**claubhan@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Canice received a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and a BMEd from Northern Arizona University. She received her MM in violin performance from Georgia Southern University. Ms. Canice has completed both long-term and short-term Suzuki training, and she has 10 years of studio teaching experience. She taught for both the Northern Arizona University Preparatory School and Georgia Youth Symphony Program, and also started an after-school violin program at an elementary school in Georgia. Ms. Canice is the principal second of the Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra, and is a member of the Giovanni String Quartet.



**Monica Manly, 6-9 Teacher**

**mmanly@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Monica obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, and she is currently pursuing Level One teacher licensure via Portfolio Review under the guidance of Ms. Geri. Prior to joining the TMES family, she received her Montessori 3-6 teacher certification and taught for four years at the preschool level. Ms. Monica says she is "thrilled to begin my career at TMES. The support of the staff, students, and families has been tremendous."



**Angela Salazar, Violin Teacher**

**asalazar@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Angela has been teaching Suzuki Violin at TMES for the past two years. She received a BA in Music at the University of New Mexico, and has also completed graduate courses in Suzuki Violin Teacher Training at UNM. Ms. Angela has taught group violin lessons as well as individual violin instruction at the UNM Music Prep School. She has played violin and viola in the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra and the University Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Angela also played viola in the International Symphonic Festival in Dublin, Ireland.

## TMES Staff, cont.



### **Kari Schein, 9-12 Teacher**

**kschein@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Kari has been teaching Montessori Education for over 12 years. She began her Montessori career in Kalispell, Montana, where she taught in both the 6-9 and 9-12 classrooms. She was lured to the Southwest in 1996 to teach at The Montessori School of Albuquerque. Since that time, she has taught both the lower and upper elementary classes, in both private and charter schools. Ms. Kari is also employed by CMTE/New York as a Montessori Teacher Trainer and intern consultant. Ms. Kari's love for Montessori has kept her driven in discovering the spirit and learning strategies of children. In her experience, Kari has found Montessori students, teachers and parents are unique in that they are "taught to reflect humility, sensitivity, responsiveness, and a deep respect for nature and for all people. We are fortunate to be working toward this goal with our TMES community."



### **Angie Sellers, K-1 Teacher**

**asellers@tmesnm.com**

Ms. Angie has taught Kindergarten and first grade at TMES since 2005. She is a transplant from Florida, where she grew up and attended the University of Florida. She graduated with a BA in Elementary Education in 2004 and is in the process of completing a Master's degree in Gifted Education from the University of South Florida. Ms. Angie also completed Early Childhood Montessori training in Albuquerque. Says Ms. Angie, "teaching at TMES is a source of great professional satisfaction. I believe that the administration, teachers, families, and materials at our school provide a wonderful learning environment for students."



### **John Weber, 6-9 Teacher**

**jweber@tmesnm.com**

This is Mr. John's first year at TMES. He received his Montessori certification for 6-9 year olds in 2002 from the North American Montessori Teachers Association. From 2001 to 2006 he assisted and became a team teacher at The Cottonwood School in Corrales, in the lower elementary classroom. In 2005, he received his Masters in Education in Montessori Integrated Curriculum. Prior to that he taught sculpture and ceramics from his home to adults and children and ran three summer pottery camps from 1999 to 2001. In 1985, Mr. John received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UNM, and, in June 2007, he will receive certification in a 3-year mentorship program with The Tracking Project (a community of educators and Native elders from around the world designing a series of teachings to connect individuals directly to the natural world.)



### **Loric Box, Educational Assistant (Ms. Kim's class)**

Mr. Loric has a passion for life, especially with his family, having three kids and a beautiful wife. Mr. Loric has become immersed in the Montessori philosophy over the past six years, and says he is "continually amazed by its application. The Montessori Method, at its heart, strives to impart a love for learning. Throughout the curriculum it seeks to work with the whole child, by first appealing to the senses, and then spiraling deeper into more abstract realms of thinking and learning." Mr. Loric has been trained in 6-9, and is currently in the process of finishing his 9-12 training through CMTE. He is also pursuing a BA in Education through the College of Santa Fe. Mr. Loric counts it as a wonderful opportunity and pleasure to work at TMES.

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## TMES Staff, cont.



### **Fanny Compean, Educational Assistant (Ms. Melissa's class)**

Ms. Fanny has worked in a Montessori environment for the past ten years. She loves working with children of all ages, and has experience in all levels of Montessori education, from toddlers to 6-12 year olds. Ms. Fanny received her Montessori training from the National Center for Montessori Education. Her favorite subject to teach is math because when she was a child she struggled with it. She says that she is inspired by the Montessori materials and hopes to help children understand and love math at a young age. Her most memorable experience was attending the NCME national conference in San Diego, California. Ms. Fanny is a licensed educational assistant with the State of New Mexico.



### **Jenifer McQuarie, Educational Assistant (Ms. Monica's class)**

Ms. Jenifer has five years of experience in Montessori Education as an Educational Assistant and Head Teacher. Ms Jenifer has also been trained in the National Center for Montessori Education/New Mexico Teacher program for Early Childhood 2 ½ - 6 years. Ms. Jenifer is currently finishing her course work and will soon test to receive her Montessori teaching certificate. Ms. Jenifer currently holds her educational assistant licensure from the State of New Mexico. She plans to take more college courses to achieve her level 3 certification as an Educational Assistant.



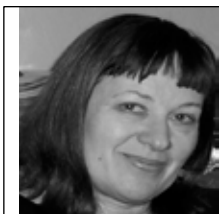
### **Danielle Northness, Educational Assistant (Ms. Susan's class)**

Ms. Danielle is a licensed educational assistant with the State of New Mexico and received her Montessori training from the Dallas Montessori Academy. Ms. Danielle has two children attending school at TMES. Connor has been attending at the school for two years and is currently a 4th year. Chloe is in Kindergarten and Ms. Danielle "feels especially lucky to have her start her schooling at TMES.



### **Jessica Pinon, Educational Assistant (Mr. John's class)**

Ms. Jessica completed her American Montessori Society assistant training this summer, and is also a licensed educational assistant. Currently, she helps with the After School program and, being bilingual, teaches Spanish to the students in Mr. John's class. Ms. Jessica is a 2003 graduate from Rio Grande High School.



### **Karen Reck, Educational Assistant (Ms. Kari's class)**

Ms. Karen, who joined TMES last August, is a native of Albuquerque, attended schools in the North Valley, and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from UNM in the 1970s. Last Spring she re-enrolled at UNM in the Masters of Education program with K-8 licensure. She met Ms. Kari in one of her UNM classes last summer, applied to work at TMES, and completed Montessori Assistant training. In the 1980s Ms. Karen and her husband dance Argentine tango and organize tango events and classes. Ms. Karen lives in Los Ranchos with her husband of 23 years. One of their daughters is a junior at Valley High School; the other is a college junior in Washington State. They have three cats, two dogs, and lots of toads in their backyard pond.

## Updated School Calendar

*Thursday*

**February 1**

**Playground Committee Meeting**  
5 pm at the school

*Wednesday*

**February 7**

**Montessori Education Foundation Meeting**  
4:15 pm at the school

*Friday*

**February 16**

**Teacher In-Service**  
No School

*Monday*

**February 19**

**Presidents' Day**  
No School

**February 26  
to March 2**

**Open Registration Week**  
Begins Monday at 10 am, ends Friday at 5 pm

*Wednesday*

**February 28**

**Collaborative Council Meeting**  
4:30 pm at the school

*Thursday*

**March 8**

**Science Night**  
6 pm to 7:30 pm

*Wednesday*

**March 21**

**Early Release, 12:30 pm**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

**March 22-23**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
No School

**March 26 - 30**

**Spring Break**  
No School

*Friday*

**April 6**

**Vernal Holiday**  
No School

**April 19-20**

**Teacher In-Service**  
No School

*Wednesday*

**May 23**

**Graduation and Last Day of School**  
School closes at 12:30 pm.



## Box Tops 4 Education

Keep clipping those Box Tops coupons! Our goal for the year is \$500 (that's 5000 box tops) and we are just about half way there! Money raised from the Box Tops promotion will go toward purchasing new materials for our wonderful classrooms. Don't forget to write your child's first and last name on each box top coupon. We will have drawings for great prizes from Itz and Cold Stone Creamery!

## Letter From a Parent

by **Fujie Xia**

My daughter **Anita** joined TMES kindergarten in late Aug 2006 after being accepted at Albuquerque Christian School. Since then she has enjoyed every day here with TMES. Before we came to TMES, my husband and I had visited almost every single private school in NE Albuquerque except Montessori. We did not know much about the Montessori philosophy until we talked to **Ms. Mary Jane** and the class teacher **Ms. Angie**. Then we thought we would just give it a try and see how she would do in school. We were very surprised about her academic achievement as well as her social skills. She learns a lot compared to students her age at other schools, but she does not feel much pressure in school.

We are very happy with **Ms. Angie** and her assistant. **Ms. Angie** puts her heart into teaching the students well. My daughter **Anita** loves learning from her and enjoys going to school.

We're happy with the school not only because of Anita's achievements but also because of the school as a whole. I had never seen any principal who knows every student's and parent's name, or a principal who goes to the playground to talk to the kids often. I was impressed that, when there was a lot of snow on the playground, **Ms. Mary Jane** greeted the students and parents in the teacher's parking lot. It was cold to be outside even for a few minutes. That time our teachers kindly parked their cars away from their parking lot, so that we could use that parking lot to drop off our children. We would not expect to see such courtesy at other schools. I even saw one teacher greeting all his class students at the parking lot. The teachers really want to serve above and beyond their duty, I believe because our principal is setting a good standard through examples. I thank **Ms. Mary Jane** for leading such a wonderful education program. I give many thanks to all the teachers. Lastly, thanks to all the parents who have done so much to the school. We are lucky that our children are with TMES.

***The Montessori Education Foundation (the nonprofit organization that supports the school) recently received contributions of \$1,000 each from two TMES families who wish to remain anonymous. Thanks to both of them for their generous support of the school!***

**Do you have a story to tell about what The Montessori Elementary School means to you? If you'd like to share it with the TMES community, please send a note to Jill Riester at [riesterr@msn.com](mailto:riesterr@msn.com).**

