

# The Montessori Elementary School Parent Newsletter



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# TMES

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We're on the  
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## Principal's News

Happy 2008! What a year we have had already! TMES has been busy with many special activities including going to the Roundhouse in Santa Fe to play violin during Charter School Day (read some of our student's experiences on page 4). Ms. Phyllis organized a Fractal Show by Jonathan Wolfe. 'Meet TMES' Day was a huge success with some of our students playing the violin for prospective parents, and of course, SBS testing is finally finished!

With the weather finally warming up a bit, it can be tempting to schedule vacations or activities during school days. It is very important to make school a priority and have children in school *everyday, on time*, unless they are sick. Try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school hours. Let your child know that attendance is extremely important and that unless they're sick, they must be in school. Be a good example yourself by staying

positive about your daily duties. Show them that promptness is an important attribute to have. A student who is ten minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year. Being involved in your child's homework and school activities shows them that education is important and you are interested in their learning. Discuss with your child what happened at school each day. Emphasizing school as important and a priority now, set's your child up for success in the future. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success. Remember, learning builds day by day, especially in a Montessori classroom. A child who misses a day of school, misses a day of learning. We are here to ensure the success of all of our students. Make school a priority and that will play a major role in the success of your child.

Mary Jane Besante

## Parent Education Night

We are proud to announce another Parent Education Night with Michael and D'Neil Duffy. Please join us on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for this fabulous opportunity. The topic to be discussed is the latest findings in Montessori Education and Brain Development. For those of you who attended the last Parent Education Night, you know what a treat this is. And for those of you who have not yet had a chance to join us, please save the date! This is a great opportunity to learn more about how cognitive development is increased through the use of Montessori math materials at TMES. For your convenience, a limited number of childcare spaces will be offered. Please sign up at the front desk to reserve a spot!

## Staff Education

Members of our Administrative Team; Ms. Kari, Ms. Molly and Ms. Evonne, traveled to Washington D.C. on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the American Montessori Society (AMS) National Conference. This is a yearly event that is an amazing continuing educational experience, as well as a great place to spread the word about our wonderful school! The featured speakers this year were; Betsy Coe, Miriam Wright Edelman, Art Costa, Gail Blanke and Jane Goodall (the world-renowned environmentalist and primatologist). Ms. Kari, Ms. Molly and Ms. Evonne would like to say, "Thank you for the opportunity to learn at the national level!"

## Ms. Susan's class

Our class has had many great volunteers helping with various classroom projects. We want to extend a big 'Thank You' to:

- Sherry Sazesh
- Lori Lancaster
- Stacy Visconti
- Monica Noce
- Lynett Griego
- Chinn Alei
- Lynn Boldt
- Mr. and Mrs. Shedden
- Michelle Salisbury
- Valerie Lopes

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! -Ms. Susan

## Fun Opportunities at TMES

- Yearbook Cover Contest- All TMES students are encouraged to submit an original artwork for the contest. One winner will be chosen and featured on the cover of the 2007-2008 TMES yearbook. Color artwork must fit in 8.5" by 11" space. **All entries are due by Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to your child's teacher.**
- TMES Talent Show- Talent Show Auditions will be held on **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, during lunch. Any student may audition but may only be in one act. All acts need to be at least 50 seconds long and no more than 2 minutes 30 seconds.
- Rate our school online- GreatSchools.com, a national website, has been created as a resource for parents looking for a school for their child. Please visit the website to read reviews written about our school and to write your own!

## Kudos- We really want to thank...

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

Thank you

- Becky Caalim
- Cara Flynn
- Angela Garcia
- Darrla Giersch
- Larissa Ritter
- Lama Breidi
- Aislinn Graham
- Jane Burns
- 'Grandma Dorothy'

## Spring book fair

The 6-9 classes are hosting the spring Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be held **March 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**. Proceeds from the book fair will benefit the 6-9 general fund, professional development, and buy more books for our classrooms! The theme for the book fair is 'Reading Road Trip'. We are in need of parent volunteers! If you would like to help with the book fair in any way, please contact Ms. Monica.



*Andrew Pineda, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, drawing a self portrait in Ms. Phyllis' Art class.*

*-Photo by Ms. Phyllis*

## Some Quick Notes.....

- Do you have moving boxes? As you know, we will be moving the school this summer and will need as many boxes as we can get our hands on. Please fold up and store as many boxes as you can! Thanks in advance for your help!
- Please remember to call the front desk if your child will be out sick or to school late. A voicemail will be sufficient if you want to call before the school day starts. If it will be an extended absence, please turn in a doctor's note to the front office.
- Do you have a Kindergarten girl who wants to be a Daisy Girl Scout? Please contact Patty Timpane at 343-1040. Troop Leaders and Adult Volunteers are also needed.
- Do you know an Intel employee? Let them know of a special program going on at Intel where a donation made to our school will be matched by the company. Tell them to go to [www.easymatch.com/intel](http://www.easymatch.com/intel) for more info. What a great way to really make a difference!

## TMES yearbook ad space and pictures

Ms. Angie and Cara Flynn (a TMES parent) are organizing the TMES yearbook for 2007-2008. Pictures from school and class events are needed! If you would like to share your pictures with us, please:

- o e-mail a copy to [caraflynn@comcast.net](mailto:caraflynn@comcast.net)
- o hard copies may be scanned at front desk
- o CD's with the pictures may be given to any teacher or sent in your child's folder.
- o Any way you can get the pictures to us would be great!

Ad space and sponsorship is also available. The ads may be used for business purposes or even as a 'personal dedication'. **The ad must be 'print ready' and is due by Monday, April 14th.** Interest forms will be available at the front desk. If you would like to purchase ad space or would like to be on our sponsor list, the details are as follows:

For business purposes:

- o Business card- \$20
- o Quarter page- \$25
- o Half page- \$50
- o Full page- \$100

For a personal dedication:

- o Business card size- \$5  
(Word count to be under 30, sent to [caraflynn@comcast.net](mailto:caraflynn@comcast.net) in JPEG or TIF format)

For sponsorship:

- o Name on sponsor list- \$10

Ad space and sponsorship may be paid by cash or check, payable to TMES. This is a great way to help TMES defer the cost of producing the yearbook! Yearbooks will be out in May. **Remember, the deadline to submit pictures is March 20<sup>th</sup>!** Also, see the 'Fun Opportunities at TMES' article on page 2!

## Mr. John's class

*Letter from Mr. John*

It's hard to believe it's the end of February already. The kids have been working hard and so have our parents. We have all been reading and writing poetry and we just concluded our study of the continent of Europe with some exciting and informative country research reports. Did you know Iceland has the lowest crime rate in the world and they consume the most candy? I wonder if there is a connection. We have also broken down the light spectrum into its beautiful array of colors.

We have had many parents volunteering their knowledge and time in our classroom. One parent volunteer was Alicia Anastasio, who took time out of her busy schedule to present a wonderful lesson on lasers, Galilean telescopes, colors, refraction, diffraction, lens configurations, and much, much more. The hands-on materials were great. We learned a lot from her presentation. It was a great experience for everyone in our class!

Darrla Giersch is another parent who so generously volunteers in our classroom and our school. She approached me with some wonderful opportunities. She informed me that PNM and BP were offering grants for educational materials for the classroom. I told her I had heard about this opportunity but knew very little about grant writing. Darrla mentioned some ideas for the grants which would include a solar powered fan for our new greenhouse. I am very excited about the grant possibilities.

I went outside and approached Ken Boldt with this idea and Ken spent all weekend working on some ideas for a "power lab" for teaching the basic fundamentals of electrical and solar power. Ken has come up with some great ideas. Amy Pai jumped on board as the grant writer who has great, positive insight into the grant writing process and Alicia Anastasio said she would help as well. Wow, what an outpour of help and support from the parents! We truly appreciate all you do.

I get overwhelmed with the community spirit that arose from these parents who are taking their time to help our school. As a community working together, it showed me anything is possible.

Other ideas for the grant proposal are wind generators, water wheel generators, solar collecting cells and water harvesting systems. The water collected from the runoff from the roof of our school can then be used for our greenhouse and school garden. I know Ms. Susan is writing a grant to get "seeds from space" ...how fun! What a great path for becoming a "green" school and doing our part in helping our beautiful Earth.

Again, thank you, thank you, and thank you to all the parents who support our classrooms and read with their children every night. I think I speak for all the TMES teachers by saying we couldn't do our job well without your help and support.

Student Letters

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M  
E  
S

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Violin Class went to the Round House in Santa Fe. We played Lightly Row, Song of the Wind, Go Tell Aunt Rhode, O' Come Little Children and Long Long Ago. The Governor watched us play. It was fun and exciting. After was a country rock band and a few other bands and singers. I think we should do it again someday.

*Juliana Griego  
Ms. Susan's class  
3rd grade*

Collaborative Council

Spencer Visconti,  
President

Rob Crandall,  
Vice-President

Jeff Li, Treasurer

Joanne Li, Secretary

Larry Espinoza

Mr. John's class has been studying poetry. Here is an example of one student's poetry, written with the powers of observation.

The Winter Day

It is snowy outside  
The wind tastes like ice  
I feel the wind blow  
I see the trees around the school  
I see the rock  
I hear the swings squeak  
I see the rock  
I touch a rock  
It feels smooth

*Erik Boldt  
Mr. John's class  
1<sup>st</sup> grade*

In the 9-12 community, we have done many things in the past few weeks. We went to the Roundhouse and looked at the art there. We got to ride in a coach bus! Wahoo! One day we finally got to use the greenhouse. When the sprouts are large enough, we'll sell them.

*Ryan Burns  
Ms. Kari's class  
5<sup>th</sup> grade*

We're on the Web!  
[tmesnm.com](http://tmesnm.com)

We are also sending this via e-mail! If you do not receive this via e-mail, please update your e-mail address (if you have one) at the front desk!

*(Right) Students; Ariaah Redhouse, Ivona Luetngen, Terra Visconti, Jared Berry, Symone Cole, Jared lopes, Hailey Foss, and Juliana Griego perform at the Roundhouse on 'Charter School Day'.*



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

March:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> - PTC Meeting @ 3:30 (childcare available for donation to 9-12 class)  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup>- Vernal Holiday/Start of Spring Break- **NO SCHOOL**  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> thru Friday 28<sup>th</sup>- Spring Break- **NO SCHOOL**  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup>- First day back from Spring Break

April:

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>- End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grading Period  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal @ 1:00  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> thru Friday 11<sup>th</sup>- Parent/Teacher Conferences- **NO SCHOOL**  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>- Planetarium/Explora fieldtrip (9-12 classes)