

P A R E N T N E W S L E T T E R



Welcome to all the new and returning students
of Meher Montessori School.

This is our 39th year of service to the children of the Los Angeles Area.

We look forward to a new school year full of excitement
and enthusiasm for learning and discovery.

Adela Muñoz
Director

www.mehermontessori.org

september 11



Nurturing and helping each child to develop their full potential through the principals and direction of the Association Montessori Internationale has been our mission from our School's beginning in 1972. AMI was founded by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1929 to protect and maintain the integrity of her life's work.

Meher Montessori School's dedicated and inspired AMI-credentialed teachers, through their training, prepared environment and Montessori materials, work to instill a lifelong love of learning and creative and critical thinking skills. They also work to build caring self-motivated citizens who respect others and their environment.

We are a community of teachers, parents and students working together – not just for the intellectual development of the child – but also their social, emotional and spiritual development.

The start of the new school year has been bustling with energy and excitement. The classrooms are filled with joyful children happy to be back at school and the new ones are quickly getting adjusted. We look forward to another wonderful and successful school year.



OUR STAFF

We are very proud of our staff. We have the most experienced and dedicated AMI Montessori teaching staff in the Los Angeles area. Our teaching assistants, day care staff and other support personnel are excellent as well and many have been with our school for more than a decade.



John Page is the Founder and Executive Director of our School. He founded the Meher Montessori School in Altadena in 1972. He taught

there, as well as administrated, until 1982 when he started an affiliated school in Alhambra. Then for the next 2 years he taught in Alhambra, as well as doing its administrative work, until starting our Monterey Park School.

He is a graduate of UCLA and the AMI Montessori Institute of Los Angeles. Mr. Page holds an AMI Elementary teacher credential from the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee. He is currently teaching the Upper Elementary classroom for children 9-12 years of age.

Allison Tenold is assisting Mr. Page in the Upper Elementary. Allison is a

bright young star hailing from the great state of Washington. This summer she completed her first summer session of Montessori Elementary training at Mr. Page's Alma Mater...The Montessori Institute of Milwaukee.



Allison has many years of experience in the field of Education. She holds a Masters in Education from Eastern Washington University and is credentialed to teach in the WA public schools. Most importantly, Allison is passionate about the Montessori philosophy as she was a Montessori child herself. Meher looks forward to a strong team in the Upper Elementary class. In addition to her passion for teaching she is a volunteer soccer coach in her spare time. We are very pleased to have Allison join our family.



Eugene George is our AMI Montessori elementary teacher for the Lower Elementary classroom with children from 6-9 years of age. Mr. George graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later traveled to Bergamo, Italy and spent a year taking his Montessori Elementary Teacher Training. Mr. George has more than twenty two years' experience teaching Montessori elementary children. He taught for us for three years from 2000 to 2002 and returned to us in 2006 after a three year hiatus.



Salena Bayon is with us for her eleventh year. She is in her fourth year as Mr. George's full time asistant in the Lower Elementary Class. Her daughter Kaya is starting her second year in Ms. Munoz' primary class.



Xavier Barrameda's Montessori experiences began when he was of primary age. His mother received her AMI Teaching diplomas for all levels from 0-12 years of age, and opened a small school in the Philippines for his siblings and neighbors. It has now grown to six schools. Xavier's father also completed the Montessori Adolescents Program. So as you can see, Xavier has been submerged in Montessori most of his life, and that inspired him to become a Montessori teacher. Xavier recently completed his Elementary training at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee, and received his Masters in Montessori Education at Loyola University in Maryland. Xavier has had the added benefit of learning and training in his own homeland with his parents' keen Montessori environment and rigorous in-home training. Mr. Barrameda is familiar to many of our children as he was here as a volunteer in Mr. George's class in the Spring giving the children many lessons. The children are quite fond of him. Xavier continues working with Mr. George giving lessons in the Lower Elementary.





Philomena Thomas is an AMI Montessori teacher in our northern downstairs primary classroom. She is a 1963 graduate of the Good Shepherd Maria Montessori AMI Training Centre in Sri Lanka. In 1968 she founded the Montessori program at De Sales Heights Academy in Parkersburg, West Virginia where she taught for 11 years. Philomena later went to South Africa and established a Montessori School in Johannesburg. She then taught for 3 years in Hawaii before joining our staff in September 1986.

Althea Wildhaber has worked for Meher Montessori Schools off and on since 2000. She is teaching with Mrs. Thomas. She has worked in the primary classrooms at both the Monterey Park and Altadena schools, as well as before and after school daycare. In addition to completing her required child development course, she has also earned an AA in Social Sciences from PCC. Althea graduated from The Montessori Institute of San Diego with her AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma.



Ji Young Suh is Philomena Thomas's full time teaching assistant. She is starting her eighth year as Mrs. Thomas' assistant. Ji with our school for many years as a parent. Her two children, Joon-Woo and Erica are former students. She is a



graduate of Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea and received her Child Development Certificate from Patten University.



Nichole Muñoz is with us for her eleventh year. She completed her required Child Development course work at East Los Angeles College. Nichole graduated from The Montessori Institute of San Diego with her AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma. She is a teacher in one of our downstairs primary classrooms. Nichole is also in charge of our School's web site.



Cynthia Martinez is an assistant in Ms. Muñoz' class and works in our primary day care. Cynthia is a very special staff member because this is her twenty-seventh year of service in our school. She started with us in September 1984 when our Monterey Park facility opened. Besides having completed course work for her Child Development I certificate, she has completed a special two-week course on the Montessori Method for the paraprofessional.



Anette Mills (nicknamed "Coach") started working at the Meher Montessori School in Monterey Park in 1992 as a park-time P.E. teacher. She also worked with the primary children in extended day care in the afternoon. She completed her required child development courses

at East Los Angeles College. In 2001 she transferred to the Altadena Meher Montessori School to assist in the classroom and afternoon daycare and returned to our Monterey Park facility a few years ago. She is currently on leave and will return to Ms. Muñoz' class soon.



Maria Rivera is with us for her tenth year. She is a teacher in one of our primary classrooms. She is a graduate of Western Mindanao State University in the Philippines where she achieved two B.S. degrees. One is in chemistry and the other in elementary education. In addition she has a Certificate of Specialization in Pre-school Education. Maria graduated from The Montessori Institute of San Diego with her AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma.



Michelle Gonzalez (Samantha & Jacqueline's mom) joined our staff four years ago as a substitute teacher and a librarian. This is her third year assisting full time in Mrs. Rivera's class. Michelle earned her certificate in Child Development from Rio Hondo College.



Marta Ruvalcaba works with the primary children in the extended day care in the afternoon. She began

working at Meher Montessori School as a substitute in 1992. Marta has many years of experience working for El Rancho Unified School District Children's Center for ten years and The Los Angeles Unified School District Children's Center. She holds a Children Center Teacher's Permit from the State of California and an A.A. degree. She celebrated 30 years of service providing childcare for children.



Nancy Ramirez is back at Meher Montessori School. She currently works part-time in Mrs. Rivera's classroom. She attends East Los Angeles College and has seventeen years experience in child care.



Gail Shaeffer is our former school director and has been with Meher Montessori School since 1984. Gail has many years of teaching experience, as well as 9 years experience administrating at MMS. Gail has a B.S. in elementary education from Boston University, a California Elementary Teaching Credential, and is a graduate of the AMI Montessori Institute of Los Angeles. This year will be Gail's fourteenth year as our art director. She works with staff members as well as children to bring more art into the school. Mrs. Shaeffer also gives special art lessons in the afternoon after school to children who sign up.



Willetta Lew (Jasmyn's mom) is our librarian. This is her third year in charge of our wonderful library. This year she will be in charge of our Book Fair as well.



Elodia (Kookie) Chavez (parent of Meher Alum Evita & Eli) is the school's administrator. She is in charge of all student records, county required student reports, payroll, and human resources.



Linda Joe (aka Mrs. Yoshida – Taylor & Timmy's mom) is in the office a few days a week. She is in charge of the school newsletter and with her graphic arts background also makes class materials for the school. She assists Mrs. Shaeffer with the after school art program.



Adela Muñoz is our School's Director. She started with the school as a part time substitute teacher in September 1992 and became our assistant director in July of 1993. Adela graduated from the AMI Teacher Training at the AMI Montessori Institute of Los Angeles and holds an AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma.



Karina Page is the wife of John Page, and has been helping with the

Schools in various ways. She currently keeps the gardens, purchases regular supplies, works the "Downstairs Library," and assists in special events. You will most often see her in the garden, tending to its needs throughout the year.



**Innisbrook
Fundraiser**

**Friday,
September 30
to
Friday,
October 14**

**Please Help
Support Your
School!**

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Wildhaber's Class

Here we are in the beginning of another school year. Mrs. Wildhaber, Mrs. Suh and I would like to welcome all our new and continuing children and also our parents and wish them all the best in the coming school year.

The returning children are very happy to get back to school after the long summer vacation. It seemed like they couldn't wait to see their friends in a familiar surrounding and also to lay their hands on the materials and start to work right away. The teachers are equally excited and happy to have our children back and welcome our new ones. We are ready to start another happy and fruitful year. The new additions to our class are Gianne-Marie Alatorre, Danica Neri, Ryan Su and Meghan Williams.

The new children had their first day of school, fear and anxiety, and also some tears but are now quite well-adjusted and settled in their new environment. Andy Chen, one of our returning children, had a very long vacation in China and just returned a couple of days ago.

He was so happy to be back and we were very happy to have him back.

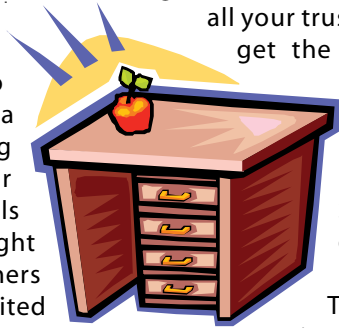
We had such a wonderful and fruitful year last year. We couldn't have made it without you, our very supportive parents. We are sure that this will be another year to remember well. We need your help, encouragement and above all your trust so that your child can get the fullest benefit of our Montessori program.

Back to School Night was on Thursday the 22nd of September. I was really excited and anxious to meet every one of you.

Thank you for taking the time to be there for our children.

Our first School Shirt Day of the year is on Friday the 30th of this month. Please show your School spirit by helping your child wear his or her School Shirt on that day.

Love to all of you,
Mrs. Thomas
Mrs. Wildhaber
Mrs. Suh



Ms. Muñoz' Class

Hello everyone and welcome to a brand new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer. I had a nice vacation and came back ready to make this a great school year.

This year, I am lucky enough to have Ms. Martinez with me as my full time assistant. She has helped make these first few weeks of school smooth, and she has also helped my new students become comfortable in the class.

I have a large group of returning students this year and everyone came back to school ready to get to work. Lessons, lessons, lessons. That is all they want. Anything and everything I can give them. Because of this desire for knowledge we were able to jump in right where we left off at the end of the year. I am so happy to see the excitement in the children's faces each day when they walk into class. This tells me that we will get so much done this year and have a great time doing it.

During the month of September we celebrated two birthdays. Julian and Andrew brought

cupcakes to share with the class and we were happy to be part of their special days.

Thursday, September 22nd, was Back to School Night. I had a nice turn out and I hope I was able to answer everyone's questions. If you have any other questions you can always e-mail me at NMunoz@mehermontessori.org.

On Friday, September 30th, we will have our first School Shirt Day of the year. Please help your child remember to wear their School Shirt. There is always a wonderful sense of unity when you walk into the classroom and see everyone in his or her School Shirt.

I am looking forward to all this school year has to offer.

Ms. Muñoz
Ms. Martinez



Mrs. Rivera's Class

Here we are in the beginning of another school year. Truly the years come and go so quickly. I do pray that this school year will just be as fruitful as the years past. I believe we will continue to have strong support and trust from our dear parents.

We welcome all our new and returning students! I do hope and believe that we will be able to attain our goals before this school year ends. In our class we have seven new children: Eden Lee (2.3 years old), the sister of Aden and the youngest in class, Mika Kaneko-Grun (3.2 years old), Sachiko's younger sister, Madison Herrera (3.3 years old), Kasey Ly (3.3 years old), Julian Chagoya (3.6 years old), Damian's brother, Jose Gomez (4.5 years old) and Alexis Bodnar (4.9 years old). They are all great and are adjusting to their new prepared environment. So far so good! Our returning children were so happy and anxious to be back in school. They have tons of stories to tell



about the places they went, relatives they have visited, and new things they wore and brought to school to share and tell during our circle time.

At this point, I would like to give a special "Thank you!" to Adrian De Dios and his mom Arti, for sharing in class their experiences of a beautiful Disney Cruise in the Bahamas. They showed their photo album and gave detailed

information on the places they went. The children were all seated and eyes wide open to what they were hearing and seeing! At the end of their talk, Arti gave one important message to the children and that is "To stay close and obey their parents at all times during the trip." Once again Arti and Adrian,

thank you so much for that enriching experience you have shared in class.

Mrs. Ruvalcaba was very kind to share with us in class a celebration of Mexican Independence

Day! This comes every 16th of September. She spoke about Mexico's history, celebrations and music. The children participated by dancing and singing while carrying a Mexican flag. Thank you so much

Mrs. Ruvalcaba for that special time, it is highly appreciated and a job well done!

The children in our class were so surprised but very happy to have seen our cute, delicate and happy "tarantula!" The class as a whole had a feeling of completeness and energy ever since we had our new pet. The children named her "Sparkie"! The bright golden stripe on her body inspired the children to this name.

We had our Back to School Night on Thursday, Sept. 22 in our classroom. Thank you parents for taking the time to come. I hope I answered some of your questions. The Back to School Night was a night of enlightening, bonding, and socializing, making our partnership stronger to help our children attain their educational goals.

Every last Friday of the month we have our "School Shirt Day." Our first School Shirt Day will be this Friday, September 30th! A class who has a 100% School Shirt participation on that day will receive a pizza or an ice cream sundae party. Please help your child remember to wear one and be one with us in showing support to our class and the school as a whole.

Parent Effectiveness Training will be conducted by Mr. Page, Founder and Executive director of our school this coming Oct. 8th-

29th. Four fruitful and challenging Saturday classes that would benefit you and your child to have a peaceful and strong bond with one another.

I am very blessed to have Mrs. Gonzalez working with me in class again this school year. She helps my teaching run smoothly, sees that projects are accomplished and discipline is successfully reinforced. Thank you so much Mrs. Gonzalez for your dedication and hard work.

With all our love,
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Gonzalez



Mr. George's Class

Welcome everyone to the Lower Elementary Class. This year we have another trained teacher, Xavier Barrameda. Xavier is from the Phillipines and took his AMI Elementary Training at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee. His parents operate six Montessori Schools in the Phillipines. Xavier's prowess can be manifested in the use of his I-Pad. Lesson presentations pop-up on his screen with one touch. He has lightened my load and has provided new blood in the classroom. The children have been immersed in his lessons.

My newcomers have been busy. They had lessons on the Century Time Line with the study of A.D. — B.C. and the 5 periods of Time. Mr. Page presented them with the Story of "God Without Hands" and "The Coming of Life."

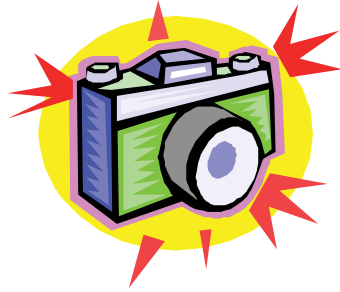
In grammar they studied suffixes and prefixes and the noun family.

My middle group reviewed the Needs and Food of the Plant, Geography charts, flags of North and South America, rivers of North America and Time Lines.

My older group has studied Early Man with the "Clock of Eras." Mr. Barrameda gave them lessons on Squaring in Math. They were working on Command Cards in Grammar.

This should be an interesting and productive year with two trained Montessori Elementary Teachers.

Sincerely,
Mr. George
Mr. Barrameda
Ms. Bayon



**PICTURE DAY
WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 26TH**

**REMEMBER
SCHOOL SHIRT DAYS
ARE EVERY LAST
FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**



Mr. Page's Class

Welcome to the Upper Elementary Classroom!

We were so happy this year to see a classroom full of eager happy faces on the first day of school. Ms. Tenold and I are pleased to have your children in our room. All the children were in the Upper Elementary Classroom last year with Mr. Harrod and all of them were used to having lessons

with me as well. In fact, many of our children were students of mine when I last taught primary from 2003-2009.

On the first day we divided up our classroom into 3 "houses" – **Pompeii**, **Herculaneum**, and **Lapilli**. Each name is from the first story I read them, *Ashen Sky: The Letters of Pliny The Younger on the Eruption of Vesuvius*. This story with its accompanying woodcut illustrations tells the story of the only first-person account of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The three house names play prominently in the story – and have given us an easy way of divvying up the students for certain chores and duties. They are not related to academic abilities

or groupings for lessons.

Our class, accompanied by some of the older children from the Lower Elementary classroom, will be going to Pathfinder Ranch the first week in November. We will spend a week in the mountains in Mountain Center, east of Lake Elsinore and west of Rancho Mirage. This has been a tradition of the Upper Elementary Class to go in the fall.



The camp is operated by the Boys and Girls Club. Specific information about the week's outing will be available soon.

We started out the year with the first three of the five Montessori Great Lessons. The Lower Elementary children joined us for the first one: **God With No Hands**. It tells the story of the creation of the universe with particular attention given to our sun and earth. The elementary children are attracted to the grand and mysterious. It contains all the seeds of human development: coldness, darkness, fire, air, solids, liquids, gas, elemental obedience and the establishment of order. The child's imagination provides participation. The story distills the unreachable into the understandable. This first great lesson begins to answer some of the children's questions...but more

importantly, it excites new ones.

In the second week of school, with the Lower elementary children again joining us, I told the **Story of the Coming of Life** – using the *Time Line of Life*. This story focuses on the development and refinement of earth, flora and fauna. It brings to the child's attention the diversity, beauty, and tenacity of life. The timeline that accompanies the stories represents some of the biological and geological events that are part of earth's history. It represents a few of the plants and animals that have graced our earth. At the end of the second story the child is introduced to the crowning special life form: the Human Being.

Just this last week Ms. Tenold told the third Great Lesson – **The Coming of Human Beings**. So far the child has been placed in contact with abiotic and biotic features of the world. Each

and continuation of life. This story becomes **our story**, the child's story with the third Great Lesson. The human being enters the scene with the very special attributes of reason and will or intelligence and love, with an ability to work with the mind in ways unknown to other animals and with the possibility of choice. Dr. Montessori said, "something new came into the world with man, a psychic energy of life, different from any that had yet been expressed."

In addition to these first Great Lessons, the children have been working with a myriad of exercises – including many for the early understanding of the earth and its relationship to the sun. Also we have been working with the tenses of the verb and what we call "logical analysis" – which looks at the function of different parts of speech

Helena Morales 9/22/11

Transformation of a square into a Trinomial

$$\begin{aligned} 20^2 &= (4+6+10)^2 \\ &= 4^2 + 6^2 + 10^2 + 2(4 \times 6) + 2(6 \times 4) + 2(6 \times 10) \\ &= 16 + 36 + 100 + 2(24) + 2(24) + 2(60) \\ &= 16 + 36 + 100 + 48 + 48 + 120 \\ &= 52 + 180 + 168 \\ &= 232 + 168 \\ 20^2 &= 400 \end{aligned}$$

element in creation, whether living or not, is subject to natural laws, to inner directives, and universal order. Each contributes through its very difference to the conservation

and phrases in sentences.

In math, many of the children having been working on building their multiplication skills and working on early squaring and cubing – and

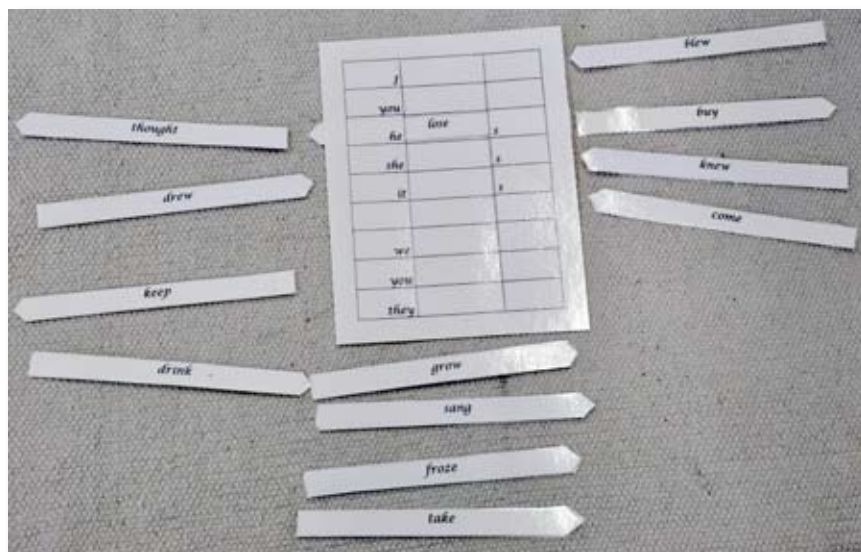


building binomials and trinomials – early algebra work.

They are all so eager and excited! And so are we! The children have been getting lessons, lessons and more lessons – with little time to waste. Each child is excited about learning new things and is finding our community both stimulating and supportive.

Continue to look to our class for exciting learning.

Hi! I am Allison Tenold and the children call me Ms. Tenold. I am in my first year with Meher Montessori and am the assistant to Mr. Page in the Upper Elementary classroom. This summer I completed the first of three summers at the Montessori



Institute of Milwaukee to become certified as an Elementary Montessori teacher. The summer before that, I completed a Master's degree in Elementary Education at Eastern Washington University in Spokane, WA. Spokane is where I grew up and attended Montessori school from preschool-6th grade. That is where my love for Montessori began, and I am beyond thrilled that I am now teaching Montessori and am at such a phenomenal school with your extraordinary children. I am lucky to get to spend a lot of time with the children during the day- in class, at lunch, and outside on the playground. The first week, we started right into

the Fundamental Needs Chart and I engaged the children in thought- a lot of their work and what they learn about is related to the needs of humans. I have also been doing lessons on the Sun and Earth and have been tickled with the kinds of intriguing questions the children are asking- such as global warming and what would happen to the temperature of the earth on the equator if the earth didn't spin around itself. On September 23, we celebrated the autumnal equinox by reading The Myth of Persephone and eating pomegranate seeds, which in Greek mythology signified the beginning of autumn. It was a wonderful celebration!



**HELP OUR SCHOOL EARN
\$250 TO \$2500!**

It's easy! Just shop and log receipts from The Shops of Montebello from September 15, 2011 and May 15, 2012 to support our school. Bring receipts to Guest Services, located on the lower level in Center Court to earn ten points per dollar spent (five points for purchases made at JCPenney, Macy's and Macy's Home). All receipts are returned immediately.

Questions? Call 1-800-539-3273 or visit shopsatmontebello.com.

EXTRA CREDIT POINTS

Earn 50 points per dollar spent at these new stores
September 15 - October 15:
Daniel's Jewelers, Express, Gap, Gymboree, Hollister, Justice, NY & Co., PacSun, Things Remembered, The Children's Place and Vans.

After School Art Class

After school art classes will begin on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 for this new school year. We have two wonderful groups of children. The first class which goes from 2:30 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. has a mix of children from the three primary classrooms and several children from Mr. George's classroom. During the next few months these children will begin the process of developing their drawing skills. There will also be many fun holiday projects in the mix of lessons.

The second group goes from 3:40 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. The children in this group have all been in the first class and have been in the art program for a long time. Many of these children have progressed a lot in the development of their drawing skills.

The first classes have been planned as a fun introduction or reintroduction to the art program and also an opportunity for the art teachers to get to see what skills the children have mastered and what they need to work on.

We look forward to a great year in art class filled with the childrens' artistic creations.

Gail Shaeffer and Linda Yoshida



Primary Daycare

Welcome back to School!

We look forward to providing your child with a fun recreational and educational after-School Daycare program. Our creative learning centers include: arts and crafts, dramatic play centers, game time centers (board games), table and floor activities (toys), library center and afternoon snack time center. These are followed by story time and outdoor recreational time.

Have a wonderful new school year !

Daycare Staff — Mrs. Gonzalez, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Wildhaber, Mrs. Ramirez and Mrs. Ruvalcaba

Elementary Daycare

Dear Parent,

The Elementary daycare is a very kid-friendly place, complete with toys, computers and of course - kids. Every day at around 4:15 p.m., a child is chosen to serve snacks to anyone who is hungry at the moment. Also, every Friday we have movie day - and the children vote on the movie they will watch. Remember, you may bring a movie to share as long as it is rated G!

Thank you for reading.

Elementary student,
Sofia Martinez

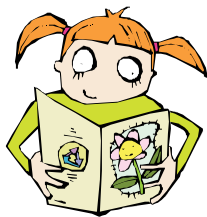
Library News

Hi everyone, we would like to welcome back all new & returning students, teachers, and staff. Meher Library is proud to be transitioning all its books to the state-of-the-art Daneizo



Library Management system. Its specific bar-code assigned to each book helps with student searches by title, title keyword or author, and gives the location within the Library. It also tracks books checked-out and sends automatic reminders. We are excited to make these new capabilities available as quickly as possible. Many thanks and appreciation goes to Carol Cadena, (Luis and Emma's mother) and Mrs. Page for assisting us in this transition. They are working daily to complete the bar-coding as we organize and categorize the books, and re-arrange the Library layout. Our Grand Re-Opening goal is Monday, October 10 – be sure to come visit us at the Opening Celebration!

Doug and Willetta Lew
Librarians



FREE Electronic Waste Recycling Event

**October 8th - 9th
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

The Shops of Montebello parking lot.

**Earn 2,000 points per
screen 4" or larger (CRT
Monitors, TVs, Laptops,
Computers).**

**All other electronic waste
will be accepted for safe
disposal, but no additional
points will be given.
Don't forget to mention
Meher Montessori!!!**

Once the first gate is closed
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER
from the Exit gate! It is very
dangerous for the out going
cars and people inside the
gate.

Thank you.

**NOTICE
TO
PARENTS**



ALTADENA NEWS

WELCOME BACK MONTESSORI STUDENTS AND PARENTS.



NEW SCHOOL YEAR – The summer went by so quickly and now we are into our 2011-2012 School year. The children have all grown over the summer and there is a new excitement about the Montessori materials. Many children are reading and they are amazed at this accomplishment! The new children are wanting to do everything in the classroom. They are exploring new materials everyday. I love giving lessons to the new children and seeing their eyes when they have mastered a Montessori material that they can do by themselves.



NEW CHILDREN – We would like to welcome to our School the new Children – Leila Johnson, Jordynn Tucker, Lauren Tucker, and Holden Shrader. These children are wonderful and happy to be in the classroom. Many of our older children are helping them with the new transition into a Montessori classroom.

STAFF – Miss Avila is working with the nappers and daycare. She again is keeping our School spotless. Welcome back Miss Avila. Miss McCray is back assisting in the large classroom and helping the children with her vast experience of the Montessori method. Welcome back Miss McCray. Mrs. Hyde is happy to be back teaching and directing our little Montessori School.



SUMMER TIME FOR THE STAFF

– Mrs. Hyde — “I had a wonderful time in Cabo San Lucas with my husband. The weather was humid but you stayed in the pool most of the day. I also enjoyed another trip to Mexico with my whole family for the fourth of July. My granddaughter (Bri) started walking in Mexico with a captive audience!!”

Miss McCray – “I had a great summer vacation in San Francisco and Las Vegas.”

Miss Avila – “I worked at Meher during the summer for day care. I made some neat projects. I saw some old friends and took care of my grand-babies.”

SCHOOL SHIRT DAY – We will celebrate Meher Montessori School Shirt Day on Friday, September 30th. If all the children wear their school shirts then everyone will receive a treat!! If you want a new school shirt or sweatshirt please contact the staff. Prices are in the daycare room and a display of school shirts are on the window side of the daycare room.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS – Teo Fassi (3 years old), Harrison Harper (4 years old) and Holden Shrader (4 years old)

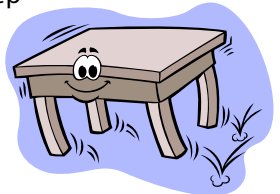
FUNDRAISER – Our annual fundraiser will start Friday,

September 30th. Information will be coming soon. Please support our little School!!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Please keep it simple. No jumpers or characters at School. Piñatas are great but please do not fill them with candy. Lunch and a dessert are sufficient. Thank you in advance!



EARTHQUAKE DRILL – We had our first earthquake drill Friday, September 9th and it was a big success. We talked about the earth shaking and how we can protect ourselves by covering our heads and ducking under the tables. We then proceeded outside for roll call. The children really enjoyed it and we will keep having them every other month. Next month we will tackle a fire drill.



“One becomes a well-balanced adult only if one has fully been a child.”

—Dr. Maria Montessori

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY

BY BRIAN BOLDOC, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, JUNE 18, 2011

THE POPULAR HISTORIAN DAVID McCULLOUGH SAYS TEXTBOOKS HAVE BECOME 'SO POLITICALLY CORRECT AS TO BE COMIC.' MEANWHILE, THE LIKES OF THOMAS EDISON GET LITTLE ATTENTION.

'We're raising young people who are, by and large, historically illiterate,' David McCullough tells me on a recent afternoon in a quiet meeting room at the Boston Public Library. Having lectured at more than 100 colleges and universities over the past 25 years, he says, "I know how much these young people—even at the most esteemed institutions of higher learning—don't know." Slowly, he shakes his head in dismay. "It's shocking."

He's right. This week, the Department of Education released the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress, which found that only 12% of high-school seniors have a firm grasp of our nation's history. And consider: Just 2% of those students understand the significance of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mr. McCullough began worrying about the history gap some 20 years ago, when a college sophomore approached him after an appearance at "a very good university in the Midwest." She thanked him for coming and admitted, "Until I heard your talk this morning, I never realized the original 13 colonies were all on the East Coast." Remembering the incident, Mr. McCullough's snow-white eyebrows curl in pain. "I thought, 'What have we been doing so wrong that this obviously bright young woman could get this far and not know that?'"

Answer: We've been teaching history poorly. And Mr. McCullough wants us to amend our ways.

The 77-year-old author has been doing his part—he's written nine books over the last four decades, including his most recent, "The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris," a story of young Americans who studied in a culturally dominant France in the 19th century to perfect their talents. He's won two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

"History is a source of strength," he says. "It sets higher standards for all of us." But helping to ensure that the next generation measures up, he says, will be a daunting task.

One problem is personnel. "People who come out of college with a degree in education and not a degree in a subject are severely handicapped in their capacity to teach effectively," Mr. McCullough argues. "Because they're often assigned to teach subjects about which they know little or nothing." The great teachers love what they're teaching, he says, and "you can't love something you don't know anymore than you can love someone you don't know."

Another problem is method. "History is often taught in categories—women's history, African American history, environmental history—so that many of the students have no sense of chronology. They have no idea what followed what."

What's more, many textbooks have become "so politically correct as to be comic. Very minor characters that are currently fashionable are given considerable space, whereas people of

**HISTORY IS A SOURCE
OF STRENGTH. IT SETS
HIGHER STANDARDS FOR
ALL OF US.**

major consequence farther back”—such as, say, Thomas Edison—“are given very little space or none at all.”

Mr. McCullough’s eyebrows leap at his final point: “And they’re so badly written. They’re boring! Historians are never required to write for people other than historians.” Yet he also adds quickly, “Most of them are doing excellent work. I draw on their excellent work. I admire some of them more than anybody I know. But, by and large, they haven’t learned to write very well.”

Unlike Mr. McCullough. His new book possesses the same vitality that won his biography of John Adams critical and popular acclaim. And “The Greater Journey” was an even more elaborate tapestry to sew. “In writing conventional history or biography, the plot and the characters are pretty well set for you,” Mr. McCullough says. “But with this, I put in or left out as I wished.”

Luckily, he is judicious in his choice of characters, and he weaves together their seemingly disconnected lives seamlessly. In Mr. McCullough’s Paris, Samuel F. B. Morse, the future inventor of the telegraph, tries his hand at painting, scooting on a scaffold in the Louvre as he makes copies of famous portraits. Outside, his friend, the novelist James Fenimore Cooper, braves a cholera epidemic to visit Morse at the museum every day.

Across the Seine River, Oliver Wendell Holmes, a student at the École de Médecine, watches surgeons dissect cadavers—a procedure that was banned in Massachusetts until 1831. Meanwhile,

Charles Sumner, who would become a powerful senator from the Bay State, attends lectures at the Sorbonne, where he notices blacks seated among whites. Soon, he realizes “the distance between free blacks and whites among us is derived from education, and does not exist in the

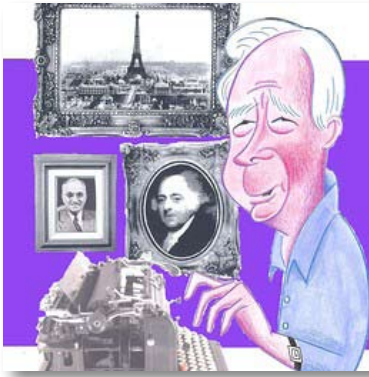
nature of things.” To diminish that distance, Sumner dedicates his life to abolition. Through these vignettes—and many more—Mr. McCullough highlights these Americans’ ambition to excel.

Mr. McCullough learned to write from a series of great teachers, most notably

Thornton Wilder, the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and novelist who was also a resident scholar at Yale, where Mr. McCullough graduated in 1951. To this day, he remembers Wilder’s teaching that a good writer preserves “an air of freedom” in his prose, so that the reader won’t know how a story will end—even if he’s reading a history book.

“You know that the Brooklyn Bridge exists,” Mr. McCullough explains, referring to one of his former subjects. “I’ve got to get you so involved in the story of how it was done that you begin to wonder, ‘Oh my God! Are they ever going to be able to do this?’” Thus, via his writing style, he hopes to impart a lesson of history: “There’s no such thing as a foreseeable future.”

Wilder’s example, he believes, provides another lesson. “Teachers are the most important people in our society. They need far more pay, obviously, but they need more encouragement. They need more respect. They need more appreciation from



all of us. And we shouldn't do anything to hinder them or to make their job harder."

Despite his indictment of what's wrong with our teaching of history, Mr. McCullough maintains a cheerful demeanor as we talk. His dress is simple: a sedate blue blazer with grey slacks and a dark plaid tie—a tribute to his Scotch-Irish heritage. Yet this plain costume doesn't detract from the former off-Broadway actor's performance: His face does all the talking.

It's not their fault our children are ignorant, he says animatedly. "It's our fault," he says, pointing to his chest. "I mean the parents and grandparents of the oncoming generation. We have to talk about history, talk about the books we love, the biographies and histories." He continues, "We should all take our children to historic places. Go to Gettysburg. Go to the Capitol."

And teach history, he says—while tapping three fingers on the table between us—with "the lab technique." In other words, "give the student a problem to work on."

"If I were teaching a class," he says, "I would tell my students, 'I want you to do a documentary on the building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Or I want you to interview Farmer Jones or former sergeant Fred or whatever.'" He adds, "I have been feeling increasingly that history ought to be understood and taught to be considerably more than just politics and the military."

What about textbooks? "I'd take one of those textbooks. I'd clip off all the numbers on the pages. I'd pull out three pages here, two pages there, five pages here—all the way through. I'd put them aside, mix them all up, and give them to you and three other students and say, 'Put it back

in order and tell me what's missing.'" You'd know that book inside and out.

Mr. McCullough advises us to concentrate on grade school. "Grade school children, as we all know, can learn a foreign language in a flash," he says. "They can learn anything in a flash. The brain at that stage in life is like a sponge. And one of the ways they get it is through art: drawing, making things out of clay, constructing models, and dramatic productions. If you play the part of Abigail Adams or Johnny Appleseed in a fourth-grade play, you're never going to forget it as long as you live."

"We're too concentrated on having our children learn the answers," he summarizes. "I would teach them how to ask questions—because that's how you learn."

Fittingly, Mr. McCullough says he got the idea for "The Greater Journey" by asking a question. One day he was stuck in traffic near Sheridan Circle in Washington, D.C. In the center of the circle stood the statue of "good ol' Phil Sheridan," a Union general in the Civil War, "with the requisite pigeon on his head."

Staring at the statue, Mr. McCullough wondered: "How many people that go around this circle every day have any idea who that is?" (My guess: Nobody.) As he was mulling this over, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" came on the radio, and a realization rushed over him: America's artists and musicians were too little appreciated. "The Gershwin side of American accomplishment"—and here Mr. McCullough looks me straight in the eye—"is too seldom given credit."

Thanks to Mr. McCullough, our ledger of historical appreciation is a bit more balanced.

Mr. Bolduc is a fellow at the National Review Institute.

**I WOULD TEACH THEM
HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS—
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW
YOU LEARN.**

Parent Effectiveness Training Reminder



Signups Due

Happier Parents

Friday, September 30, 2011

Classes begin

Saturday, October 8

Happier Children



Happier Families



Sign

Up

Today!

mehermontessori.org

For more information please call 323.724.0683

“Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

We are now in full swing of a brand new school year with happy and excited faces of both children and parents everywhere. Returning students are excited to see their friends and also for all the new lessons awaiting them. One can also sense their relief in returning to their routine and a consistent daily schedule.

There are also tears and fears from both the new students and their parents. A mix of emotions both exciting and frightening is present as they move into this new chapter in their lives. Most of our parents have done research and carefully chosen to have their child in a Montessori School. They have studied the vast amounts of information now available to them on scientific research and reports that validate and confirm the findings by Dr. Maria Montessori that led to the development of the Montessori Method.

To new parents and returning parents I say to you, believe in your decision and believe in the Method. It is truly a gift for life and our students become stewards of their gifts by learning to use their time and talents wisely. Trust in the trained teachers and their trained assistants to take your child on this journey in a most loving and caring way and with the guidance of Dr. Montessori. We are a community that is highly committed to the Montessori pedagogy and to a life of kindness and concern for others.

As the parent, you are partners with your child's teacher everyday in the classroom. You may not be physically present in the classroom throughout the school day but your emotional and psychic presence are there always for your child. Your attitude and your confidence in regards to your child's school and teachers is something your child absorbs and it affects their classroom life. Your respect of their learning environment shows in your actions also. Things like getting them to bed early so that they are rested and ready each new day and getting them to school on time so that they may begin their day properly and not playing catch-up imparts an understanding of the importance of school. Also, joyfulness in the start of a new day and new challenges and new experiences that one will have in that new day helps a child to develop a feeling of excitement and happiness for each day.

You are your child's first teacher and we thank you for entrusting us with the care and development of your child. We will continue the lifelong path of learning that you have started at home for them.

Peace and love-
Adela Muñoz
Director