



Mrs. Muñoz

Hello Meher family and friends, June is here and it is hard to believe that another school year is ending. We have all had the most incredible

challenges this last year but we are

here, we are strong and we are hopeful. The resiliency of the children and the trust and support of parents was a shining light through this year and really helped make it happen. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to send out a big congratulations and thank you to the students and parents for making our spring fundraiser and first ever Read-a-Thon the most successful fundraiser in Meher history. We raised over \$20,000! The money raised will help with so many of the school's needs, such as replacing lovingly worn Montessori materials. Our top readers were Julian S. from Mr. Mindes' class with almost 2000 minutes, Ezio V. in Mr. Mindes' class with over 1000 minutes and Lou in Ms. Tinajero's class with over 700 minutes. All of the

students received special thank you gift bags with reading themed prizes as a thank you.

Please make sure that your re-enrollment packets are turned in as soon as possible including the self-mailer for your August 15 tuition reminder. A reminder that the last day of the School year is Thursday, June 17. We are closed Friday, June 18 and summer school begins on Monday, June 21.

On a sentimental note, it is so heartwarming to receive updates on alumni as they graduate from high school and college. Seeing them thrive and succeed and sharing their accomplishments means so much. All of our students are so special and they never stop being part of the Meher family.

Please let me know if you have any questions about summer school or next school year and may you all have a great summer.

Adela Muñoz



Mrs. Rivera

A Report From Mrs. Rivera

The month of May is here. This month falls in the season of spring, the loveliest of all seasons. In the first week of May we have been focusing on springtime miracles



and weaknesses.

Thank you so much to all my parents who are there to support our class and the school as a whole in all the activities set for this school year; including our fundraiser. Congratulations to Joaquin and Silas for winning a big prize in our Read-a-Thon fundraiser. You made a difference. A round of applause to their parents for guiding them in this special event. Thank you to all the parents in our class for supporting our fundraiser, you are truly a blessing to our class. We had our delicious pizza lunch and ice cream sundae in the patio area as our class prize.

Cinco de Mayo came and the children enjoyed my reading of the history of this celebration. I shared my giant book, a self-explanatory book, very simply and colorfully made. This book was donated to our class by my former students' mom, whose children both graduated from my class. They are the Salinas sisters, Diana and Anna. This was about three to five years ago! I preserved it by covering it with a huge plastic cover so the paint won't wear out. The grand finale was the children's faces shown at the end of the book. We ended the day with the generosity and kindness of Ms.

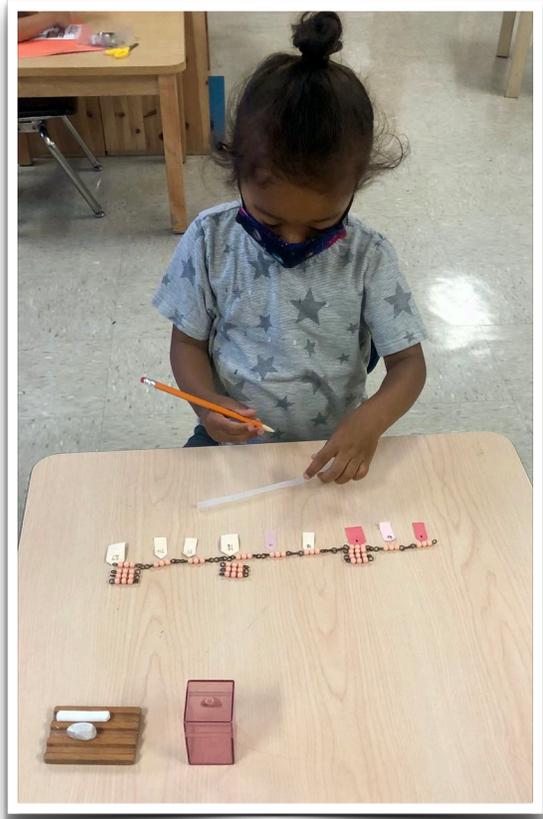
Martinez in bringing in a good and healthy snack for the children: Mexican bread with the colors red, green and cream; accompanied by a horchata drink. Thank you so much!

I'd like to take this time to say thank you to our administrators, Mr. Page, Mrs. Munoz and Mrs. Chavez, for giving us a healthy and delicious luncheon accompanied by gifts in Teacher Appreciation Week. I appreciate it so very much! Thank you once again to all.

Now about classroom progress. The older children are polishing their reading skills by reading more phonogram words and learning some functions of words.

Phonograms are two or three letter combinations that represent a vocal sound; for example "oy" that says "oi" as in boy. These words can later be written in cursive and the children also love to spell them out using the movable alphabet. There are 70 basic phonograms.

Short and long chains are practiced as skip counting of numbers and are very useful in multiplication. The children focus their learning process in the language and



math areas. They still have this coming school year to master and learn all that is needed to strengthen their reading skills. Before they graduate next year they will be able to read and write, make a journal notebook or a story, and be more a confident and independent child. The younger children are moving into counting and writing more numbers in sequence. They are almost done with their phonic sounds and are starting to write their name! They love their rug works and modeling after the older children. In this way they are learning to be industrious and courteous.

Again, I would like to say thank you to Ms. Martinez, Ms. Mills, and Ms. Ramirez for all your support, discipline, and follow-up with the children. Thank you also for the art works you give to the children and the little treats generously given for special events in school. All these are enjoyed by the children and create memories they will never forget from their early years of learning at Meher. Ladies, your continuous dedication, patience, love and compassion to these children is priceless and inspiring. Keep up the good work; I am blessed to work with you all!

To all my parents and children, see you all back this summer class!

Ms. Mills, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Martinez and I thank you dear parents for the opportunity to serve your children.

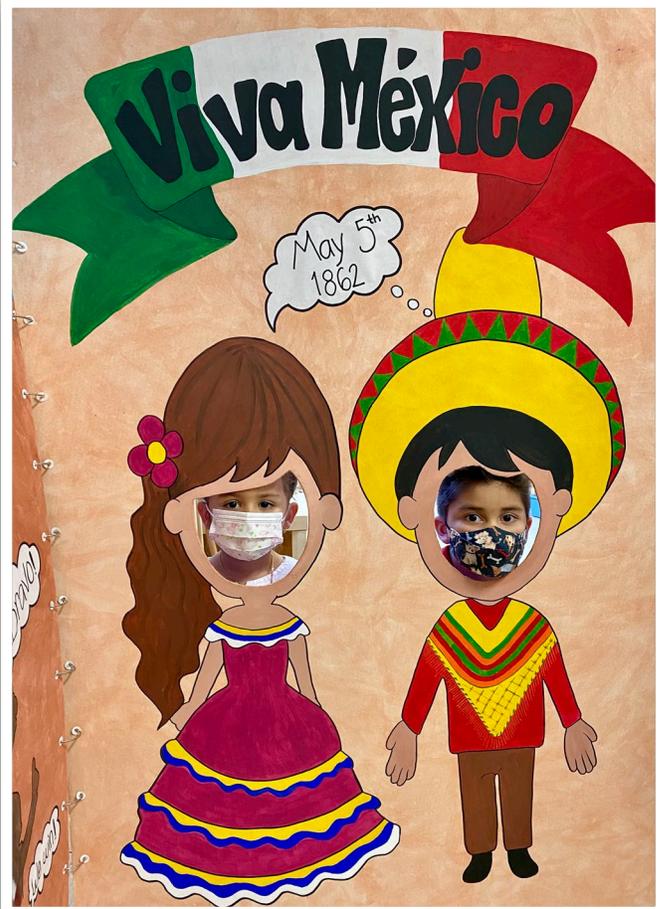


Ms. Lopez

A Report From Ms. Lopez

Hello Parents, This is the last newsletter of the current school year. We're officially at the end! It's been such an amazing year despite the pandemic. The children made the best of a not-so-ideal situation.

This month we welcomed a new student to our classroom, Benito. He is doing so well and adapting to our classroom. He's been receiving lots of practical life lessons and a



few sensorial. Welcome, Benito! We also celebrated Santi's 6th birthday on May 13. We celebrated with pizza and Super Mario-themed cupcakes. Happy Birthday, Santi! For Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) we learned some history about the battle in Puebla, Mexico. As a small celebration, we ate the sweet bread known as *Conchas*.

Parents, it was wonderful meeting with you all and discussing the progress of your children. It's always great to hear stories about the children outside of school and how the Montessori environment is shaping their attitudes and personalities. Having the liberty to choose the activities they want to work with in school allows them to make conscious decisions and good choices. The children have worked so hard and this time



of the year it shows. At the beginning of the year, many children learned their sounds and numbers, and by now most are working with the moveable alphabet, reading and working with the bank and stamp games. As they progress in the classroom, their lessons go from the concrete to the abstract e.g. working with the bank game to memorizing math facts with the math charts and bead boards.

The school year will soon come to an end and all I can say is, "What a year it has been!" I want to give a special shout-out to my graduates this year-Giana Santi, and Aston. In their three years in the primary classroom, they have developed and grown into independent children. They take great pride in being leaders in our classroom. Day after day they show what a 'Graduate Student' represents in the Montessori environment. I reminisce about the times they would ask for a lesson which previous graduates had and I would tell them "When you're a graduate you can have that lesson." Finally receiving it reminds them of the time their former classmates did it. They always say "I remember when so and so had this lesson." This is one of the many reasons

mixed age groups work so well. The older children have the chance to be role models and leaders to the younger children, and the younger children look forward to working up to the progressive lessons, such as math and language.

The graduates are working hard and preparing for graduation. Our graduation ceremony will be Thursday, June 17th. Mrs. Muñoz, Mrs. Suh, and I are working closely together to plan for a wonderful and safe ceremony for the children. Parents of graduates will receive details about graduation soon.

Thank you parents for this wonderful year! I'm looking forward to what the 2021-2022 school year will bring.

With love,
Ms. Lopez and Mrs. Suh.



Mr. Mindes

A Report From Mr. Mindes

**Hello Meher
Families!**

**“Our pupils [are]
equipped in
their whole
being for the
adventure of life,
accustomed to the**

**free exercise of will and judgment,
illuminated by imagination and
enthusiasm”**

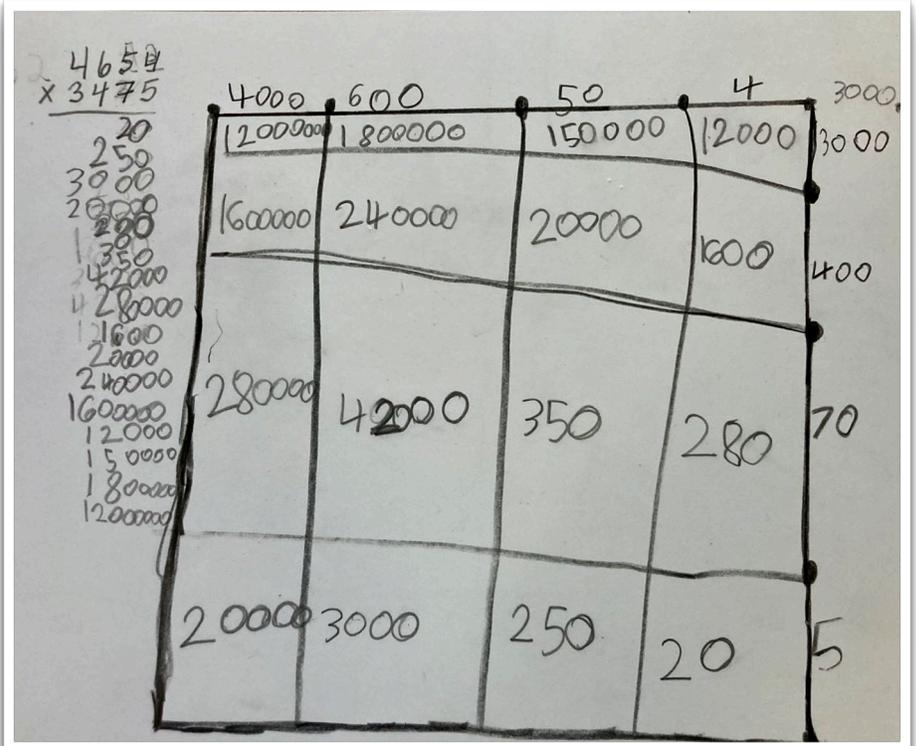
The above quote, attributed to Dr. Montessori, is the goal (in my eyes) of a Montessori education. We believe our school's small group lessons, instruction adapted to different developmental states, freedom to choose work (guided by responsibility), and our larger classroom interaction support the initiative needed to be "equipped for the adventure of life." As the end of the school year is close upon us, we hope that those students moving on,

whether to the next year at Meher, middle school or any other place, are equipped with imagination, enthusiasm, confidence, and initiative!

Upper and Lower Elementary Class notes

Even though I know it was going to happen, it still amazes me and brings a celebratory feeling when I see a student, seemingly struggling with reading, suddenly and confidently start to read! It's as if just a few months earlier, they didn't see reading as a painful chore! Of course, too, there were the already proficient readers that were challenged to read more advanced texts and identify the central theme.

Also, in mathematics, multi-digit multiplication problems, say a problem like 4654×3475 , became doable and requested! Similarly, skills such as long division, fractions with different denominators, the place-value system (for the younger), or working with exponents, percents, area, and volume (for the older) appeared to just click. As a teacher, even though we may forget it during the year, new ideas learned by our students, or anyone

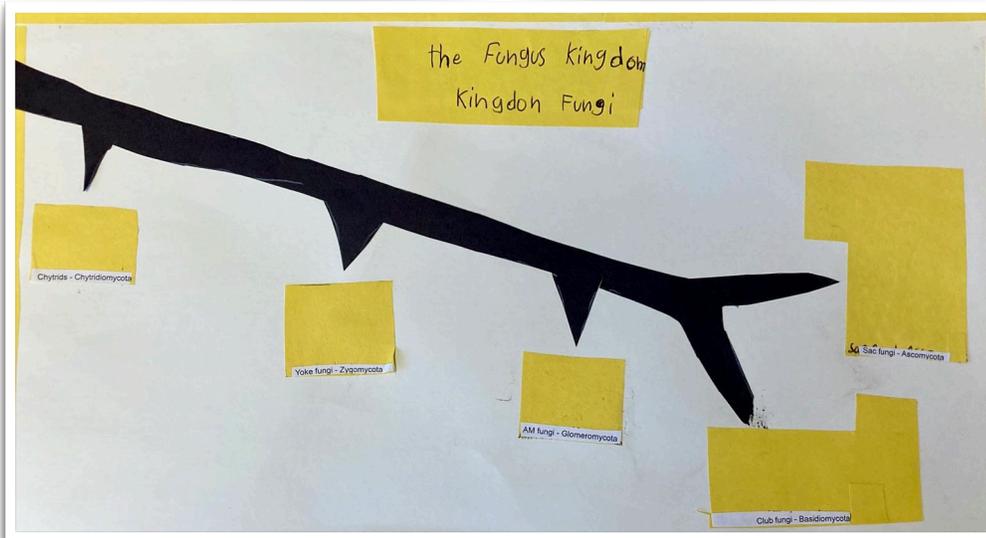


else for that matter, just need time to simmer, ferment, before sprouting.

In our study of life sciences, specifically taxonomy, we have finally reached a kingdom of organisms that the students can see! Who hasn't seen a mushroom sprout in some damp wet place; or picked up an orange to find its peel sporting a greenish white mold; or that piece of bread, with its corner stained with some funky color scheme ... Welcome to Kingdom Fungi.

Finally, as the older students have

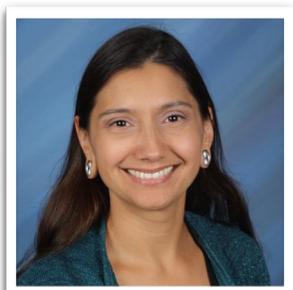
worked fairly regularly on summary writing and sentence construction, I recently asked them to write paragraphs. Brandon, a history buff leaving us for middle school next year, chose to write on the Freedom Riders - civil rights activists from the 1960's. Below is part of his paragraph:



“On May 14, 1961, a bus arriving at the Anniston, Alabama Greyhound Bus station was met by a mob of 50 Klu Klux Klan members, southern segregationists. They slashed the bus’s tires, broke its windows ... Later, they would fire bomb the bus ... forcing riders to escape out through the windows ... The bus riders, members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) were testing a 1947 Supreme Court ruling that segregation on interstate bus travel was unconstitutional”

End of the year parent conferences

If you haven’t already, please sign up for a parent conference. The sign up sheet is on the sign-in table by the gate. In the meeting, we will discuss your child’s progress, qualities, proclivities, and any other related thing to help support your child’s journey. As always, if there is no time on the sign-up sheet that accommodates your schedule, contact the office and an amenable time will be found. Looking forward to meeting with you all soon!



Mrs. Wildhaber

From Ms. Wildhaber, Director of our Altadena Campus School News

A huge thank you to everyone who helped support us by

participating in the Read-A-Thon fundraiser. Much like the fall fundraiser, we not only met our goal but exceeded it greatly. We could not have done it without you. However, if fundraisers are not your thing, there are still plenty of other ways you can show your support for the school. Scholastic book orders put free books in your child's classroom with just about every order. Both classroom teachers also have a wishlist that you can order materials and supplies from directly. Additionally, wearing your Meher

Montessori shirts, hoodies, or masks while out and about is another great way to support us. You can follow us on Instagram as well.

As this is the last newsletter of the school year, the staff of Meher Montessori would like to thank all the families for their trust and support this year. While this year was unlike any other, the joy, exuberance, and love your children showed us every day, made every new challenge worth all the extra effort. Thank you!

I would also like to thank the Monterey Park Campus administration: Adela Munoz and Elodia Chavez, as well as the school's founder: John Page, for all their support this year. Overseeing a preschool during a pandemic brought extra hurdles, and knowing I could turn to them for help navigating around them was a comfort.

Important Dates:

June 16th - In class pizza party for both classrooms to celebrate May’s 100% school shirt participation.

June 17th - Last day of school. Graduation ceremony for Mrs. Wildhaber’s class.

June 18th - School Closed

June 21st - First day of Summer School

Mrs. Wildhaber's Classroom

Picture this: A brand new two-year-old, standing in front of the drawing activity saying "help" because she is just not quite tall enough to reach the paper to put it on the tray. She is not asking anyone for help specifically, she is just saying it repeatedly out into the ether, waiting for a nearby older child to come to her. Which happens every time.

Now, fast forward to just three months later. The same two-year-old heads to the shelf with the drawing activity, only this time she does not say help. She takes the tray with the crayons off the shelf and sets it on the floor. Then, still not quite tall enough, she realizes that if she steps to the side of the shelf, she can reach the drawing paper



that way, and she proceeds to do so. Then as she is about to place the paper on the tray that is still on the floor, she realizes she has grabbed two papers by mistake. After spending a few minutes properly separating the papers, she puts one on the tray and walks back to the side of the shelf to replace the extra paper. She then picks up the tray off the floor and proceeds to her table to begin creating art. This is what Montessori does for children. Community assistance when needed while also fostering growth, independence, confidence in one's abilities, determination, and perseverance.

I have another example of Montessori in action in the classroom. A child pointed out to me that one of the buttons in our beautiful new buttoning frame had come loose. I set the dressing frame aside until I could procure the red thread necessary to keep it uniform in color. Once I had the thread ready, I asked one of the children who has become skilled at sewing a four-hole button in our sewing activity, if they would like to fix the dressing frame for us. The child was so excited to be asked to do this. There was so much pride on their face as I helped them set everything up. Being able to use their skill from our little activity of sewing a button onto a scrap of fabric, and apply it practically was a huge accomplishment for the child.

On May 5th, Miss Tinajero brought mini conchas (Mexican sweet bread) for our

class. As I explained to the class that Cinco de Mayo is to honor a battle won between Mexico and French invaders, I was so proud of the way the class was able to break it down and restate the story in their own words: the French were trying to steal from the Mexicans and they wouldn't let them. And, as many of the kiddos are working on a variety of puzzle maps, some were really surprised that the French traveled so far to try to take something.

Another celebration in May is Eid al Fitr, which is the Muslim celebration of breaking the fast after Ramadan. While there are many differences in all cultural celebrations, once again the children continued to impress with their ability to find connections across multiple ways of life and belief systems. Through a guided discussion, they were able to connect new clothing with Lunar New Year, presents with Christmas and Hanukkah, and eating special food and praying with Hanukkah.

During lunch, I have begun incorporating music from other cultures for the kiddos to enjoy. These are mostly instrumental compilations. I do not want to inadvertently expose them to language or lyrics too mature for them. Any recommendations from the Amazon music library, to continue to broaden the musical exposure for the kiddos, is greatly appreciated. Right now we have Latin guitar, music from the east,



Zahnai

Isaiah

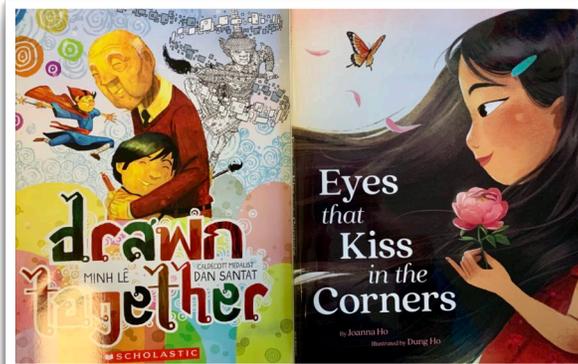
relaxing Celtic music, and Japanese instrumental music worked into our rotation.

Speaking of Japanese music, May was also AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) month. I would like to thank Austin, from Miss Tinajero's classroom, for bringing awareness to the kiddos by gifting them all goody bags filled with snacks they may, or may not, have previously been exposed to.

As I am always looking for ways to incorporate diversity into the classroom, I was so happy that I was able to procure two new books to honor AAPI Month. *Drawn Together* and *Eyes that Kiss in the Corner* are two beautiful books that speak of the generational cultural divide some

Asian-Americans experience with the older generation. It also tells of how the children in the story bridge the gap. Some of the girls in my classroom were particularly engaged in *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* as they saw themselves in the illustrations.

As the school year comes to an end, I would like to say how proud I am of this year's graduates. After completing the three-year Meher Montessori program, they are ready to move on to the next chapter in their lives. Not only do they have a strong foundation in reading, writing, and math, but they also have a strong foundation in what will make them good citizens of the world. They are curious, generous, funny, kind,



helpful, engaging, the list goes on.

Any teacher would gladly welcome these kiddos into the first-grade classroom in a good year. In a year where teachers are going to have to spend more time than usual trying to normalize their classroom after a year filled with distance and hybrid learning, the graduates are likely going to shine in their first-grade classrooms. Accustomed to full-day in-person learning, I have no doubt they will continue to be leaders in the classroom, and a big help to their new teachers.

Before closing on behalf of Miss McCray and myself, I would like to thank all the families for the thoughtful gifts during May's teacher appreciation week. Aside from the beautiful flowers, delicious lunches, and generous gift cards, the kiddos also showered us with extra love in the classroom. There was an abundance of in-class art the students gifted to us that week, as well as so many hugs! Many of the students chose that week to hug us for the very first time this school year, which just made the hugs all the more meaningful.

Until Next Fall,
Mrs. Wildhaber and Miss McCray.

P.S. Here's the my Amazon wishlist link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/RUXHQKPM6WMP/?ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist. The Dixie and Mittens books would be greatly appreciated as Scholastic does not carry those books and they are the perfect level for some of my early readers.

"The teacher has two tasks: to lead the children to concentration and to help them in their development afterwards."

Dr. Maria Montessori

A Report From Ms. Tinajero



Ms. Tinajero

The children and I have been talking about grace and courtesy a great deal. Grace and courtesy lessons are very important to introduce to the children at this age because these lessons teach the children

what it means to be polite and how to appropriately communicate their feelings. A few examples of grace and courtesy are: walking in the classroom, using the materials properly, using kind words to express how you feel to someone else, greeting someone, and pushing in your chair. Over the month during group time I modeled a few lessons on grace and courtesy, one in which has become very important since the weather in Altadena is so random. I showed the children how to properly hang up and take off their jackets from the coat rack. We have also discussed how to politely ask children to move aside when some one is in their way. Another very important grace and courtesy lesson that we



also modeled was how to solve a conflict when someone is being unkind.

Care of our environment-

When the children come into this environment they are taught the basic ways to



care for themselves and the environment. For example, when spills occur, this becomes an impromptu moment for me to give the child a lesson on how to clean up a spill. Many times when the children are eating during lunch time they spill or drop food on their floor. These are some moments where we take the opportunity to give a lesson on how to use the dust pan or crumb tray. These lessons help the child become independent in the environment. We provide the children with tools and cleaning materials so when accidents occur they can take care of it themselves.

The children also care for our outdoor environment. They help Mrs. Maggie sweep the wood chips back onto the playground, and they help water our garden. We are currently proudly growing tomatoes, corn, potatoes, strawberries, and pumpkins. Caring for the environment helps the children appreciate it while also facilitating independence and refining their large and fine motor skills.

We did it! What a year it's been! I want to start by thanking all the families and students in the classroom. I am so incredibly thankful for each and every one of you, each child has brought their unique personality and has challenged me in the classroom. I see challenge as growth and I always make a point to tell the children that when we are challenged and find a way to overcome the challenge, we grow. I want to thank the children for always being kind and being so wonderful this whole year. When the school year started the children came into a classroom different from before the pandemic. They were so resilient and adapted wonderfully to the new rules and regulations that were brought upon us as necessary. Thank you all so much. Till next year...

Ms. Tinajero
Ms. McCray
Mrs. Maggie

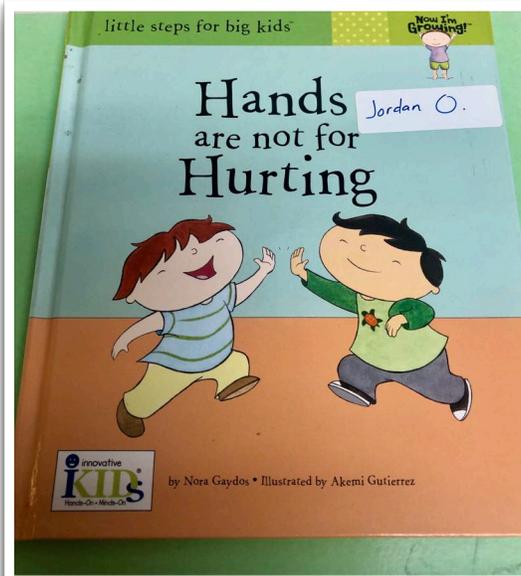


Fundraising Report From Fundraising Co-chairs

Wow! There are really no words to describe how excited and grateful we were to witness the Meher Community coming together for our first ever Read-A-Thon Fundraiser! Students, parents, and teachers joined in the effort to spend quality time at home reading on a daily basis, all for the common goal of raising funds for our two campuses. The results were a complete success that surpassed our expectations. Together our community raised just over \$22k in net funds coming directly to our school. To celebrate, each classroom had a pizza party when everyone registered for the Read-A-Thon; and we ended with an ice cream social where students made their own ice cream sundae creations, and the top readers and pledgers were recognized for their contributions. The teachers also enjoyed a special luncheon for all of their contributions!

The top reader was: Julian who logged in 1988 minutes! Way to go Julian!

- The Top Reader and Pledger was Ezio Veneziano who logged 1035 minutes and raised \$1836.18!
- Mr. Mindes' class took the prize for teamwork, with 4 students (Cylis, Ezio, Anasofia and Henry) raising over \$1000 each, and total class contribution of \$9,479.58! Those are impressive numbers!



We want to give a special shout out to the group of parent volunteers that worked diligently to organize this event for the school, we could not have done it without you. We all agree that the best part of the

work is reaching out and getting to know the parents better. Great friendships were formed during this time!

- Mr. Mindes' class: Jennifer Lahoda and Giuseppe Veneziano;
- Ms. Lopez's class: Veronica Chavez
- Ms. Rivera's Class: Meher Alumna Lauren Rodarte;
- Ms. Tinajero's Class: Allison Lineman
- Mrs. Wildhaber's class: Aziza Johnson
- Fundraising chairs: Lizette Espinosa Veneziano and

Jennifer Lahoda

A special thank you to the wonderful companies who sponsored the fundraiser: **Infanttech** and **Pacific Resource Recovery** – they donated the gift cards and the gift baskets for our top readers and fundraisers! So grateful for their support.

We are excited that there will be new Montessori Materials for the children, and there are enough funds to help with PPE equipment as well as the School will be getting a complete repainting - inside and out - over the summer. Thank you again, it looks like a Read-A-Thon will be a yearly event that our Meher Community can be excited about for years to come!

Lizette Espinoza and Jennifer Lahoda
Fundraiser Coordinators

Meher School Alumni High School and College Graduation



From Janet Waldez (mother of Alyssa & Andrew Waldez)

Hello Mrs. Muñoz,

We are very proud of Alyssa! She will be attending *Grand Canyon University* in the fall. She will major in Mathematics for Secondary education and minor in Law. During the summer she will volunteer mornings at Camp Ramona and work afternoons at the after school program at Montebello Unified.

Dad is already crying knowing she is leaving for Arizona.

She's been wanting to stop by to say hi, I will let her know.

(By the way, Andrew will be attending Bosco Tech this fall.... he's going into 9th grade) Time flies!!!!

I included some pictures!

Janet



3 Meher Graduates Graduate from Ramona Convent



Alyssa Waldez

Alysa Hurlic

Jackie Gonzalez

Taylor Yoshida (2011) attributes her love of traveling through the knowledge of maps from Mr. Page (Primary), the love of science to Mr. George (Elementary), the love of the great outdoors to Mr. Harrod (Upper Elementary) and the love of Art to Mrs. Shaffer (the school Art program).

She can now see her organizational skills and thought processes as a direct result of her Montessori Education. After graduating from Meher, Taylor attended Chandler School in Pasadena where she excelled academically and became a five sport athlete.

After her promotion from Chandler, Taylor attended Flintridge Preparatory School in La Cañada where she blossomed even more. Taylor continue her studies and athletic career at Occidental College, where she was awarded a summer research program in

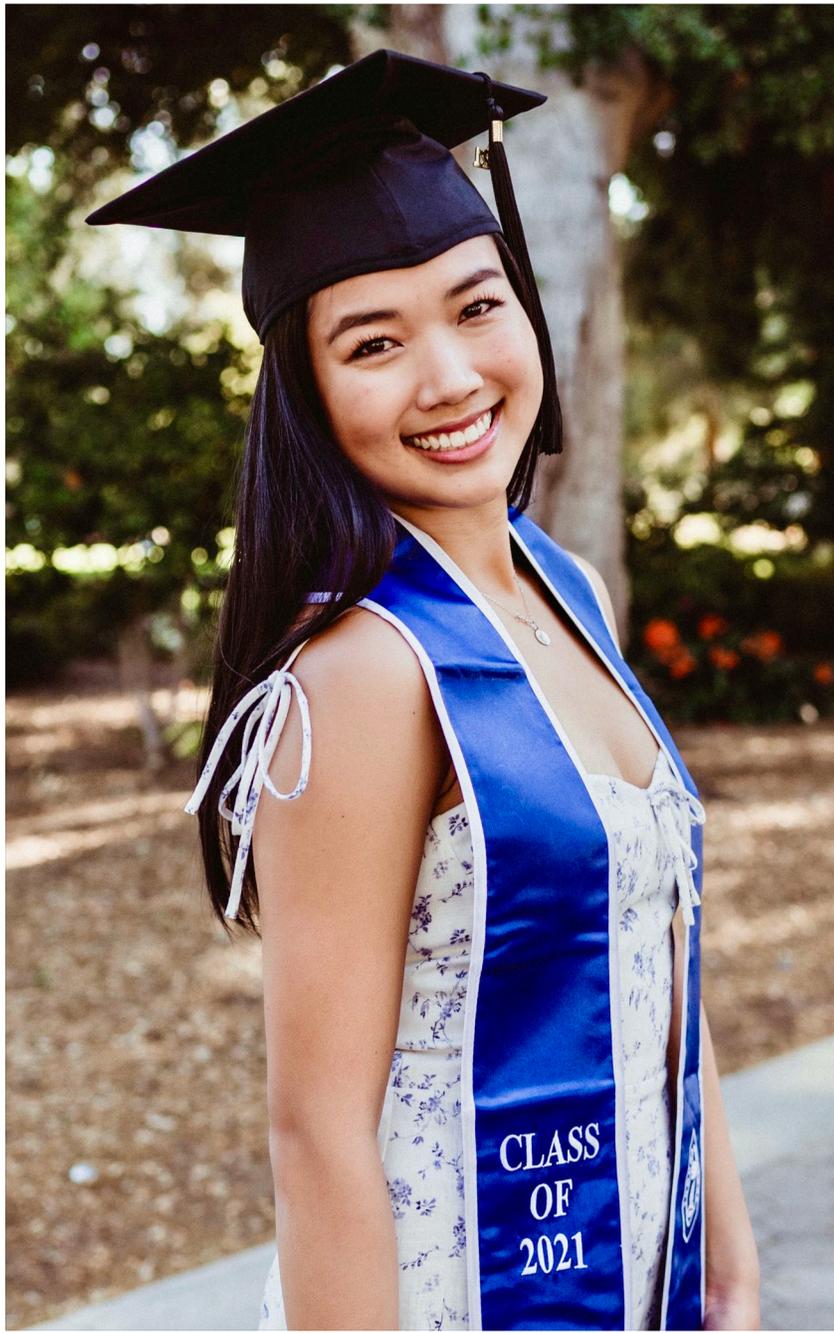
her sophomore year. It was then that she realized how much she enjoyed science.

As a 2021 graduate with a BA in biology, Taylor's future plans include traveling, studying abroad, or continuing



her research on cellular and molecular biology with her professor. Whatever path she chooses, Meher Montessori School will always be a part of her educational foundation. Thank you Meher.

Mrs. Yoshida



We can't believe Renae is graduating college either! It went so quickly. Since classes were all remote this year, Renae lived in several different places and made the best out of the situation. Renae's sister Noe survived her first year of college. Although she would have preferred being on campus, she found the remote environment made it easier to make her 7:30 am classes!

Here is an update for Renae, and a photo attached:

Renae M. Tamura (Meher Class of 2011) will graduate from Pomona College with bachelor degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science. Renae was a four-year member and two-year captain of the Pomona-Pitzer Women's Basketball Team. Renae has accepted a position with Boston Consulting Group and, much to her parents' delight, will be based in the Los Angeles office. Renae is celebrating her graduation (and vaccination) with a trip to Greece.

Following is from an email to Mrs. Munoz from Jadene Tamura - Renae's mom.

Hi Adela!

We are all well, thank you. I hope you and your family are also happy, healthy and staying sane! We're also so glad that Meher has been able to keep going through this difficult year.

We think of our Meher family fondly and often!

Love, Jadene

"He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence."

Dr. Maria Montessori

Greeting to all the Meher Family from the Martinez family!

We hope you are all well, healthy and keeping safe.

Nathan will be graduating next Friday, May 28 with a 4.3 GPA--Scholar Roll (aka Summa Cum Laude)!

Nate was part of various student programs and clubs at St. Francis High School. He remained part of the National Honors Society for all of his high school career, KNIT student television (named VP his junior year and President his senior year) where he made film production features including documentaries and short-film productions. Nathan recently received 12 awards at this year's Festival of the Arts winning in various for categories for director, editor, and producer. If you are interested in seeing some of his winning work, here's a link to the festival:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/9495298/events/9681811/videos/221425717>

Nathan was also a LINK leader this past year, a transitional program for incoming freshmen, helping them make a smooth transition from middle school to high school. With the pandemic the transition was done mostly via Zoom and Nathan went on campus to film virtual campus tours to help incoming freshmen

become acquainted once school reopened.

Nathan was also part of Habitat for Humanity, Spanish Honors Society, and Sports Medicine Club.

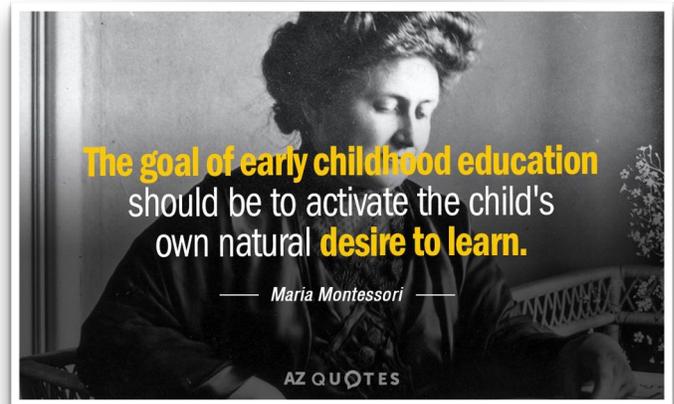
Nathan will be starting Loyola Marymount University in the Fall. He was accepted to their Health & Human Sciences division and will be focusing on a major in medicine.

We want to thank all the teachers and staff at Meher Montessori. We know that Nathan's success is one we share with you all because you helped shape the student and leader he has become.

Have a great summer and be safe!

Warm Regards,

Susie & Rudy



Meher School Primary and Elementary Graduates

