

NEWS LETTER

THANKFUL!



► Winter Break

This year the Winter Break will be from Dec. 25th – Jan. 5th. The school will resume classes on Jan. 8th. Happy Holidays!

► Holidays

This year the Thanksgiving Holidays will be on November 23rd and 24th. The school will be closed on both days.

Look for the sign-up sheet in each class for the time your holiday celebration will take place.

► Food & Toy Drive

Our Food & Toy Drive will begin Monday, December 4th.



► Parent Conferences

Our first round of Parent Conferences begins on Monday, December 4th. Each class will have their own flyers.

► Fundraiser Results

Thank you for your support!

Our fundraiser was an amazing success! We could not have achieved the final total of sales without everyone's effort.

We will have a final count next newsletter!

► Information Changes

Please notify the office immediately if there are any changes in your personal emergency information, for our files. It is very important that we always have up-to-date information in case we need to reach you in an emergency. Any home or work changes and also any changes in those authorized to pick up your child should be written down and turned into Mrs. Muñoz or Mrs. Chavez as soon as possible.



October's excitement went by quickly and November is having a blast of it now. After the Halloween Parade, the children in our class still hum, sing Halloween and fall songs and love to recite the poems they have learned last October. The children were the center of the "Paparazzi" crowd of parents, relatives and friends for one drizzle day! Most of their costumes depicted heroes such as Spiderman and Captain America and including Disney characters such as Knights and Queen, Princesses and many more. Mrs. Suh was the good witch and Ms. Tinajero wore a beautiful Maleficent costume for Halloween.

After posing for a Halloween class picture, the children walked back to class to change from their costumes to their regular school clothes. Thank you dear parents for helping out during this special event, it made the occasion go smoothly. For lunch the children feasted on their delicious pizza of cheese and pepperoni toppings complete with veggies, dip and water to drink. This pizza was the prize for winning our 1st School Shirt day! After lunch the children who prepared "Goody Bags" started to distribute their goodies

one at a time to their classmates. All the children also had a big paper bag with their Halloween project, fall project and goodies.

Our Charleston Fundraiser ended on the 29th of October, I would like to thank our parents and children for working hard to meet our goal. The proceeds will be used to buy needed materials for the classroom.

We had our "Picture Day" on the 25th of October and it went smoothly. The children wore their best clothes and looked so handsome and beautiful. I believe that when the pictures are released, everyone will have a "thumbs-up!"

Our classroom is full of energetic and enthusiastic children. The younger children love to explore and work on the materials of the practical life and sensorial areas, especially the work that deals with the enhancement of their large motor skills: water works, cutting, pressing or pinching with the use of their three fingers, polishing, feeling, hearing, to mention a few. Most of the older children are reading, writing cursive letters and phonograms, and counting and recognizing numbers in sequence. They show contentment

and patience as they worked on the charts, boards, quantities and chains of the math area. Geography, function of words and puzzle maps are the most interesting work for them. They are able to differentiate masculine from feminine pronouns, singular and plurals, antonyms, and homonyms in the language area.

Mrs. Suh and Ms. Bayon as usual are busy with the children: aside from teaching good manners and conduct, they keep them focussed with the Thanksgiving project to decorate our classroom and stairways. The children punched colorful fall leaves and turkeys and while they were asked one by one what they are thankful for. The children are really honest with their answers which included their younger brother or sister, parents, friends, toys, pets, school, food, houses, and even their teachers. They had a U.S.A. flag as their Veteran's project prepared. These activities helps the children to relax, be entertained and at the same time leads them towards the next process of writing on the line paper. A million thanks to you ladies for a work well done every day. Your task and hard work every day is highly appreciated.

Lastly, here are a few reminders: Parent Conferences are from Dec 4th to the 8th. We will make our meetings short (about 20 minutes per parent) but fruitful. For those who cannot make it that week, please let me know and we will set a new date. I'd like very much to talk to you concerning your child. Secondly, we will have our Thanksgiving Party on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd. A flyer has been posted. School will be closed

on Thursday, Nov. 23rd and Friday, Nov. 24th. Last but not the least is our School Shirt Day, Friday, Nov. 17th. We had 100% participation for the second time and I do believe we will make it again throughout this school year. Please help your child wear his school shirt on that specific day. Thank you so much our dear parents for your help and support. The teachers and children in our class appreciate everything that has been done and given to our classroom by our parents.

Have a "Happy Thanksgiving Day" to one and all!

Love always,
Mrs. Rivera, Mrs. Suh, Ms. Bayon,
Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Alvarado



Thanksgiving Poem:

Funny Bird

**A Turkey is a funny bird,
its head goes wobble, wobble.
All it knows is just one word,
"Gobble, gobble, gobble!"**



We welcome the cooler weather this season and the time change as well. The Halloween parade last month was a success, even if we had to do it indoors because of the light drizzle that day. The children enjoyed parading and admiring each others' costumes. Creativity was also on display with what some of them were wearing. Thank you to all of you who contributed and sent food items for our snack party.

There are two new girls in our class. Summer is three years old and joined us last October. Serena, (2.10) recently moved from Japan and started this month. Both of them are slowly adapting and adjusting to our classroom environment. Welcome to both of you.

Since a majority of the children in our classroom are either younger or are new to this environment, the practical life shelves have become quite popular. Too often parents wonder why we use breakable bowls, glasses, and real cutting implements in our classrooms. The materials are fundamental because they are the means by which the child is going to develop his movement, fine motor control, and concentration among other things.

Maria Montessori saw the need of creating a special environment for the child, and she writes, "... so that he can be free to carry out his own exercises without bothering other people. The child can then carry out the actions in his own realm, in his own imperfect way, freely and without interruption. This is the idea that lies behind the creation of an environment for the child ... we wish to prepare an environment for life where the child can develop life." (The Creative Development in the Child, p. 52)

Here are some characteristics of the Practical Life materials in the Montessori environment:

- They should be **real** and not toys (jars, knife, pails, scissors).
- They must be made from **natural** materials like wood and glass because they are more attractive to the child's touch.
- Using **breakable** items, one that sounds and has weight is a built in control of error that shows the child immediately how he is carrying along with the task without adult intervention. This enables him to evaluate his movement and be able to control himself.

We've had our share of several

► Ms. Tenold's Class

Class News

Our 3rd years joined the Upper Elementary at Pathfinder Ranch the week of November 6-10. The rest of the class was very excited when they returned on Thursday afternoon! We heard about many of the exciting adventures from the week, like horseback riding and hiking. We are also looking into a possible trip to Eaton Canyon as a whole class to learn about the plants and wildlife in that area. There was no school on Friday, November 11 to observe Veteran's Day.

November Birthdays: Mateo Chavez turned 6 on November 17.

Curriculum News

During the month of November, we have been studying Vincent van Gogh together. We discuss his life, famous works and techniques, and children are making some of their own artwork in his style. Our featured musician for the month is the Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky and we are listening to his work called "Night on Bald Mountain" which is a series of compositions inspired by Russian literature. Some children take the introduction to these famous artists and musicians further than the class discussion and do their own research.

We are pleased to see much integration of subjects, which is a pillar of Montessori. The Montessori curriculum is meant to be one of integrated studies, rather than one of separate subjects and topics taught only at certain grade levels. For

bowls and glasses breaking here and there, but guess what? It teaches the children indirectly how to be careful when they carry something. Hopefully as the year progresses, we will have fewer breakages as the children learn to move gracefully and control their bodies.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we will take time to reflect on what we are thankful for. We will read stories and talk about the first thanksgiving, and sing songs about turkeys and harvest time. We will also talk about the Native American philosophy of gratitude and respect for all living things.

Our birthday celebrants this November are:

- Bella, turning 3 on the 21st
 - Connor, turning 3 on the 23rd
 - Zoe, turning 4 on the 27th
- Happy Birthday to you all!!

Calendar Reminders:

Nov. 17 – School shirt day comes a week earlier because of the holiday.

Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Feast

Dec. 4-8 – Parent/Teacher conferences. Please make time to come to this as we will discuss your child's work and progress in the Classroom. Sign-up sheets will be out soon.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart ... even for the blessings that we cannot see. Give thanks anyway."

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Roque, Ms. Mills, Ms. Kulwicki and Ms. Martinez

example, the class will be observing the garden and a child had already said she wanted to see if the plants had grown taller. Well, she brought out the measuring tape and began measuring the height of the lemon tree. Of course many other students readily joined in and we could do a mini-lesson on how to measure objects and read the measurements. Another first-year child had heard some of us talking about how the flower turned itself a certain way in order to get sunlight, and he came over and asked why. This led to asking more and more questions, such as how stems are made and how more plants grow.

bearded dragon, two finches, and three betta fish. You and your child would be asked to transport the animals to and from school, clean their cages, and give them food and water. Thanks!!



Calendar News

The Thanksgiving holiday is November 23-24, and the school will be closed. Our class is having a wonderful celebration with families and a potluck lunch on Wednesday, November 22. Some children will perform for the parents. Thank you for sharing in that. We will also need family volunteers to take care of our pets over winter break. We have a



ENJOYING SALAD FROM THE GARDEN



FOREST ECOLOGY



HORSEBACK RIDING



WALL CLIMBING



ARCHERY



ETHNOBOTANY

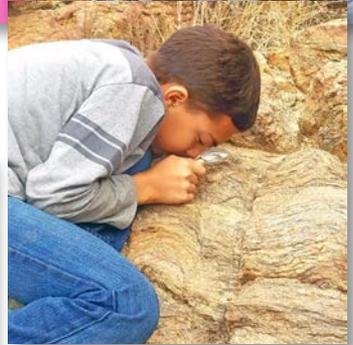
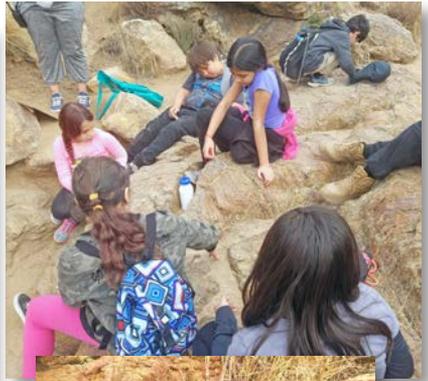


WEATHER EXPERIMENTS

CANOEING



GEOLOGY



SKIT NIGHT



ANIMAL AND FRESHWATER ECOLOGY



A TRIP TO THE CENTRAL LIBRARY IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

Happy Fall, everyone! In this past month, the Upper Elementary students have enjoyed many fun moments. For Halloween, the class creatively invented many carnival type games like a pumpkin toss and tic tac toe for the Lower Elementary students to enjoy. They invited the younger students upstairs to play these games and win prizes too. Everyone had a great time! For our music session with Mrs. Holmes, the class enjoyed listening to Halloween themed symphony music.

Another highlight of the month was our whole class outing to the downtown Central Library. Together, with two awesome parent chaperones, Kalina Patel and Desiree Alvarado, we walked down to the bus stop on Garfield Avenue. With Tap cards in hand, we boarded the 68 bus and ventured downtown. Once we arrived at the library, we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the courtyard of the beautiful building. Afterwards, a Library docent greeted us and brought us upstairs to the children's section for a presentation about library organization, a tour and a fun scavenger hunt. Once the students were done with that and

had a chance to get library cards and peruse the sections, it was time to depart back to Meher on the bus! It was a memorable day!!

Our fall camping trips have also taken place. The 6th years enjoyed a trip with the Middle Schoolers to Joshua Tree, spending a few days in tents and preparing their own food. The 4th and 5th years, along with Ms. Tenold's 3rd years, took a trip to Pathfinder Ranch. For 4 days, we all stayed in cabins and went rock climbing, hiking, canoeing, horseback riding, and learned about ecology and botany. They had such a blast out in nature, Pathfinder Ranch is always a favorite highlight of the year! Thank you SO MUCH to all of the parent chaperones who volunteered their time to drive us and also camp with us! These trips would not be possible without all of your support.

Looking to the next month and feeling excited for what is ahead. Fall greetings and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!!!



I knew that Thanksgiving was coming, but when a student, or maybe it was Ms. Lopez, reminded me that next week is the Thanksgiving Holiday, I thought how quickly the year was speeding past. So, before the year gets too far ahead, I thought I would catch you up on a few of the things we've done, or will be doing till winter break.

Let's begin with math. Depending on their previous experiences with math, students have been exploring ratios and proportions, percentages, exponential functions, logarithms, and scientific notation. However, starting the first week of November, all students have taken up the study of functions, variables, equations, graphing, and other concepts commonly associated with algebra. While algebra will be the general direction of the class for the next couple of months, short detours into other topics, brought on because of interest or necessity, are likely to occur!

In history, to this point, we have been reading about the medieval period in Europe; however, that is soon due to expand to include regions in the middle east and beyond. We have also begun to discuss the foundations of historical inquiry - sourcing, contextualization, and corroboration - skills that historians use to investigate and evaluate past events, and

hopefully tactics students will use to assess the reliability and truthfulness of what they read!

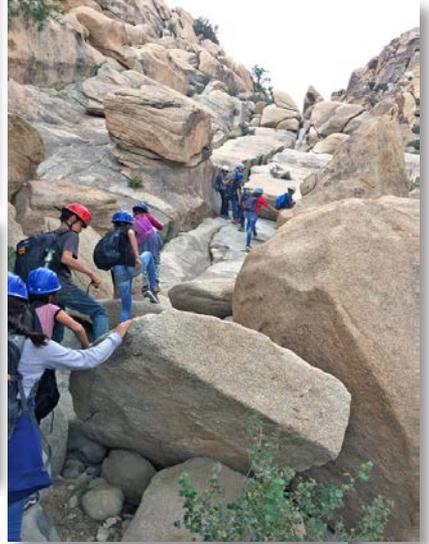
Corresponding to our study of the medieval period in history, we will be reading literary works set in the middle ages, whether they are stories written in that time period, like Chaucer's, *The Canterbury Tales*, or more modern stories that are set in that period, such as *The Midwife's Apprentice* and *Castle Diaries*.

In addition to studying and analyzing literature, we will devote a fair amount of time to developing student writing, which will include narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. We will also tackle presentation skills, creating material and then presenting their ideas to a group.

As you know there's so much more that we do besides math, history, and language arts, but I'll catch you up on that in the next newsletter, which, if everything continues at this pace, will be out real soon.

















Happy Fall!

Red Ribbon Week

As always, I was very impressed by the children for Red Ribbon Week. The focus of RRW has changed over the years. Perhaps I am dating myself, but when I was a child, RRW was to celebrate a drug-free body. The focus has since shifted to healthy bodies. In fact, the ribbons your child got to bring home on the last day of RRW, stated: "Healthy Choices Are a Big Deal." The children were great at coming up with ways to keep our bodies healthy. Hydration with plenty of water, fruits and vegetables, plenty of rest, running or other exercises, and hand washing were among the more popular suggestions for staying healthy.

Halloween

On Halloween day we had a change of schedule. Due to rain, we moved the costume parade from the playground, upstairs to Upper Heicher Hall. And, I must say, it was a great location! The

children enjoyed showing off their costumes to their classmates and the parents alike. After the parade ended, the children spent about 10 minutes running around on the wooden floor. As we didn't have to worry about woodchips snagging on delicate costumes, this was a more relaxed, and enjoyable event overall. Once the festivities ended, all the children changed out of their costumes and proceeded into class for a regular work day. In the afternoon, we cleaned up early to get our class party underway. I was pleasantly surprised by how many children chose to bring a goodie bag or small toy to pass out to all their classmates. Once the older children finished helping the younger children pass out the treats in the October bags, we migrated into the daycare room for some party food and music. We hope everyone that chose to celebrate Halloween had a fun and safe evening.

High Touch High Tech

On Friday, December 1st, High

Touch High Tech will come to our school for an on-campus science program. This will be the third year in a row we have hired them for a science program. Every year, I pick a different program. This year it will be volcanoes. I am not sure who is more excited, the students or me. The program will be held in the nap room at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st. Parents are welcome to attend.

Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place the week of December 4th. There are digital signups this term. An email was sent out with the details, and a flyer was also placed with your child's sign out sheet. Just in case you lost the info sign-ups are through: www.ptcfast.com/reg1

Entry code: 0MU1218200. One sign up per child please, unless otherwise specified.

In the Classroom

Geography and Writing are really taking off in the classroom. More children are working on more land puzzle maps, and identifying the names of various landmasses. Some children are also coloring and labeling paper versions of the puzzle maps. This is a big deal because the children may only color a map once they have successfully identified all the names on the corresponding puzzle map. The graduate children are working more on land and water forms and identifying animals native to the seven continents.

As for writing, more and more children are ready to move on to the next step. For many three-year-olds, that means daily practice of sounds

on a chalkboard. Many four-year-olds have moved on to writing sounds in a writing booklet. They are so excited to have "graduated" to paper, that they will choose to write in their booklet several times a day. Some of my older four-year-olds are now writing 3 and 4 letter words in their booklets. And my oldest are writing out sentences spelled phonetically. The graduates are also learning about capitalization at the start of sentences and for names, as well as a period for punctuation at the end of their sentences. As their sentences are all telling statements right now, we have not delved into the world of exclamations points and question marks.



School Shirt Day

Alas, October did not yield 100% participation on School Shirt Day. Therefore there was no baking activity in November. November's School Shirt Day was on Friday, November 17th. Hopefully, everyone decided to participate this month so that we can make the apple cake (changed from apple muffins) in December.

December

December is a busy month. In addition to High Touch High Tech

and conferences, we have a toy drive that begins on the 4th. The plan is to then take a walking field trip to The Altadena Fire Station to deliver the toys the last school week of December. More details on that to follow. On the last day of school, we will have our Winter Program and Class Gift Exchange. This year the children will be exchanging books instead of toys. Also, as I mentioned at Back to School Night, we have a Santa come to hand out the gift exchange items to the children. If any parent is uncomfortable with that, please let me know by December 8th, so that we have time to come up with an alternate plan.

December is a month filled with

holidays. If you would like to share a book or a small presentation about a family holiday you celebrate, please feel free to contact me for more details. As always, I will have books about Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, and winter out for the children to enjoy for the month of December.

This year the Winter Break will be from Dec. 25th – Jan. 5th. The school will resume classes on Jan. 8th. Happy Holidays!

Until Next Month,

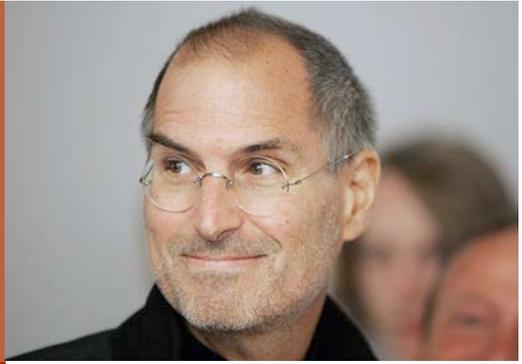
Mrs. Wildhaber
Miss McCray, Ms. Avila
& (after a brief sojourn
in Monterey Park) Miss
Tinajero





Chris Weller

October 23, 2017



Bill Gates and Steve Jobs raised their kids tech-free — and it should've been a red flag

Interviews with Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and other tech elites consistently reveal that Silicon Valley parents are strict about technology use.

A new book suggests the signs may have been clear years ago that smartphone use should be regulated.

There may be a way to integrate tech into the classroom, however, that avoids its harmful effects.

Psychologists are quickly learning how dangerous smartphones can be for teenage brains.

Research has found that an eighth-grader's risk for depression **jumps 27%** when he or she frequently uses social media. Kids who use their phones for at least three hours a day are much more likely to be suicidal. And recent research has found the teen suicide rate in the US now eclipses the homicide rate, with smartphones as the driving force.

But the writing about smartphone risk may have been on the wall for roughly a decade, according to educators Joe Clement and Matt Miles, coauthors of the recent book **"Screen Schooled: Two Veteran Teachers Expose How Technology Overuse is Making Our Kids Dumber."**

It should be telling, Clement and Miles argue, that the two biggest tech figures in recent history — Bill Gates and Steve Jobs — seldom let their kids play with the very products they helped create.

"What is it these wealthy tech executives

know about their own products that their consumers don't?" the authors wrote. The answer, according to a growing body of evidence, is the addictive power of digital technology.

'We limit how much technology our kids use at home'

In 2007, Gates, the former CEO of Microsoft, implemented a cap on screen time when his daughter started developing an unhealthy attachment to a video game. He also didn't let his kids get cell phones until they turned 14. (Today, the **average age** for a child getting their first phone is 10.)

Jobs, who was the CEO of Apple until his death in 2012, **revealed in a 2011 New York Times interview** that he prohibited his kids from using the newly-released iPad. "We limit how much technology our kids use at home," Jobs told reporter Nick Bilton.



BILL GATES WOULDN'T ALLOW HIS CHILDREN TO HAVE CELL PHONES UNTIL THEY TURNED 14, FEARING THE EFFECTS OF TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME.

In "Screen Schooled," Clement and Miles make the case that wealthy Silicon Valley parents seem to grasp the addictive powers of smartphones, tablets, and computers more than the general public does — despite the fact that these parents often make a living by creating and investing in that technology.

"It's interesting to think that in a modern public school, where kids are being required to use electronic devices like iPads," the authors wrote, "Steve Jobs' kids would be some of the only kids opted out."

Jobs' children have finished school, so it's impossible to know how the late Apple cofounder would have responded to education technology, or "edtech." But Clement and Miles suggest that if Jobs' kids had attended the average US school today, they'd have used tech in the classroom far more than they did at home while growing up.

That's at the average school at least, according to the coauthors. A number of specialty Silicon Valley schools, such as the Waldorf School, are noticeably low-tech. They use chalkboards and No. 2 pencils. Instead of learning how to code, kids are taught the soft skills of cooperation and respect. At Brightworks School, kids learn creativity by building things and attending classes in treehouses.

Edtech won't be a 'cure all'

If there is any concession Gates has made on technology, it's in the benefits it offers students in certain educational settings. In the years since Gates implemented his household policy, the billionaire

philanthropist has taken a keen interest in personalized education, an approach that uses electronic devices to help tailor lesson plans for each student.

In a recent blog post, Gates celebrated Summit Sierra, a Seattle-based school that takes students' personal goals — like getting into a specific college — and devises a path to get there. Teachers in personalized learning settings take on more of a coaching role, helping to nudge students back on track when they get stuck or distracted.

Technology in these cases is being used as specifically as possible — and in ways Gates recognizes as useful for a student's development, not as entertainment.

"Personalized learning won't be a cure-all," he wrote. But Gates said he's "hopeful that this approach could help many more young people make the most of their talents."



Montessori for Ageing and Dementia

<https://montessoridementia.org/montessori-ageing-and-dementia>



La Dotoressa, a new musical about the feminist, scientist, educator, mother and advocate for world peace, Maria Montessori, presents a reading at Lincoln Center.

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Angelina-Fiordellisi-to-Lead-Reading-of-New-Musical-About-Maria-Montessori-20171011>

