

# NEWS LETTER



**BIG BRANDS**



**PRETZEL RODS**



**VARIETY PACK**

Chocolate Covered Pretzel Rods made with:  
M&M's®  
Reese's Pieces®  
Heath Toffee®  
Rainbow Sprinkles

**60  
PRETZEL RODS  
VARIETY PACK**

**\$1  
EACH**

Reese's Pieces® is a registered trade mark of Hershey Foods Corp. M&M's® is a registered trade mark of Mars, Incorporated. Heath Toffee® is a registered trade mark of Hershey Foods Corporation.

**HAPPY  
SPRING**

## **Meher Montessori Gateway Fundraising**

**From Monday, March 11!  
To Monday, April 1**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH  
UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADUATES**

[www.mehermontessori.org](http://www.mehermontessori.org)



## ▶ Our Annual Partnership Breakfasts

Our Annual Partnership Breakfasts are being held this month. These events are for the graduating students from the Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary to share special projects that have been created with the students of the class they will be in next school year.

It is an exciting joint venture where children of different ages work together on common projects. The breakfasts are the show case for their projects and also gives families a wonderful morning together and parents can experience the upper level classrooms. The children are very excited to share their projects with their parents. Next month we will share some photos of these events and projects.

## ▶ Spring Break

**April 15th – April 19th**

## ▶ Camp Surf

The Elementary class and some of the older Lower Elementary students will be going to Camp Surf in San Diego the week of **April 29 – May 3**.

## ▶ Re-Enrollment

Re-enrollment applications for the school year of 2019–2020 will be sent home on **Monday, March 25th**. You must return the form by **Friday, April 5th**. It is our hope that all families at Meher Montessori School will re-enroll their children to reap the benefits of the quality education that is offered by this school.



The month of February was short but had a lot of interesting activities.

We had a wonderful turn out for our "Parent Night" on Thursday, February 21st in our classroom. Our parents that have been in my class for 2-3 years and new ones that attended introduced themselves to one another and felt a warm welcome. Your presence dear parents showed your support and interest in the educational endeavor of your children. There were three good topics that were discussed: the application of Montessori at home, how you can help your child to do better in school and questions about Montessori School. There was a beautiful sharing of ideas and learning strategies that parents have experienced in their years with our school. Pamphlets were handed out before the night expired. There were a lot of smiles, laughter and nods as these topics were discussed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your presence.

The graduating children in our class are the following: Ava Alatorre, Max Liu, Kyle Ogden, Logan Tam and Alvin Yan. They spent time in Ms. Tenold's Lower Elementary class for their annual Partnership Project.

Each year the graduating children from the Primary classes work cooperatively with the children from Ms. Tenold's 6 to 9 years old class on a joint project. We could see that our children are so happy and excited, as they look forward to being in Ms. Tenold's class. They felt great after each session. We will have a special breakfast in Ms. Tenold's classroom where the children's projects will be displayed and shown to their parents, teachers and administrators.

Another exciting event our children experienced last February was "Education Through Nature." This was educational and allowed the children to touch different reptiles and other exotic animals from around the world. They learned where they originally came from, what they eat and how they live in the rainforest. It was a "close up" view of the animals and the children were thrilled to see them passed around. They were well behaved during the entire show and very good animal lovers.

It's March and our classroom is going very well. We are very happy with the progress of our children in class. All our older children are reading, writing cursive and some are writing great words and simple

sentence patterns of their own. They use the movable alphabet everyday to spell out words from the materials given to them, for example a picture of an animal, classroom materials or objects used for writing. The most popular works they love to do are the long chains, and punching states or continents to form a puzzle like maps. The young ones are busy learning and mastering their sounds of phonics and writing their numbers in sequence from 1-100. These children love the sensorial, maps and practical areas.

We achieved another 100% School Shirt participation last Friday, February 22nd. We thank our parents and children for working together in order for us to have 100% School Shirt Day participation every month.

I am happy and proud to work with Mrs. Suh and Ms. Martinez in class. They are always abreast of our projects and special occasions each month. This March they have done two projects: a St. Patrick's Day Foam Bracelet and Banner. All these will be going home this month. Thank you ladies for a work well done at all times.

Our popular circle songs are the following:

**Hi There! Sung to "Shoo Fly"**

**Hi there, so glad you came** 3x

**1-2-3- let's shout "Hurray!"**

**Hurray!** (spoken).

**Hi there, so glad you're here** 3x

**1-2-3- let's give a cheer! Yeah!**

(spoken).

Love always,  
Mrs. Rivera, Mrs. Suh and Ms. Martinez







### The Month That Was Parent Night

Thank you once again to those that came for the Parent Night last month. We talked about how the Montessori principles can be applied and carried over to the home environment. Parents are the bridge that connect their child with what they are learning at school to what they can be learning at home. It was also a time when parents were able to ask questions; in turn other parents gave their own input and ideas and shared what they were doing at home with regards to discipline, having freedom with limits, as it pertains to the use of technology and gadgets.

### Education through Nature

We were privileged to watch a lively and very informative presentation by Mr. Shawn from "Education Through Nature." The children were thrilled to see different creatures like large walking sticks (from the tropical rainforests of South America); a sugar glider that belongs to the marsupial family (from Australia); a pink-toed tarantula, giant cockroaches from Brazil, a scorpion, a tangerine snake and an Australian lizard. We also had a chance to touch some of these creatures.

### This Month

The days have sped up so quickly and the busy month of March is suddenly upon us, ushering the new season of Spring.

- On the first weekend of March, the school held a Public Open House. In spite of the rain, visitors still came bringing their young children even as young as 18 months old to see the school. Zoe Alvarado came with her mom Desiree and her older sister Francesca to help welcome visitors and gave them tours around the campus. Thank you for giving your time to volunteer on that day, and keeping us company.

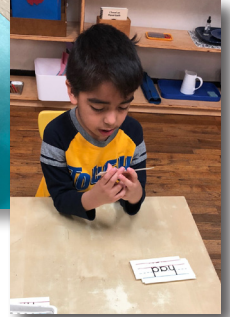
- Partnership Project – This year, we have 6 graduating children from our class: Zoe Alvarado, Jordan Chavez, Cylis Garcia, Luke Myers, Anasofia Veneziano and Jake Wong. They have been working together with the children in the Lower Elementary classroom (Ms. Tenold's class) to create joint projects. Their projects will be displayed at the Partnership Breakfast.

- St. Patrick's Day – we had a special snack party on Friday, March 15th. We read a story about St. Patrick and also talk about the beautiful country of Ireland.

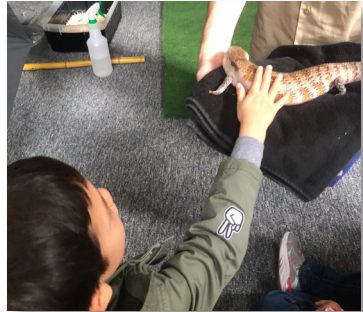
• School Shirt Day is on March 29th. Please make every effort to ensure your child is wearing his/her school shirt on that day so they don't feel left out and if everyone's wearing them (100%), they know they'll get a treat the following month. Sadly, we didn't reach that goal the previous month so, let's do it this March!

**Happy Spring to Everyone!!!**

Mrs. Roque and Ms. Lopez



**EDUCATION THROUGH NATURE**



**Class News**

Our class welcomed another new student this month, a 6-year-old boy named Luca! He also has a big sister who joined Ms. Strand's class in the Upper Elementary. We will have Partnership Breakfasts in March, an annual event that we do at Meher to introduce graduates to their new class for next year. Our 4 graduates, Mia Li, Naya Del Castillo, Anthony Perla and Ezio Veneziano, joined the Upper Elementary in the mornings to work on research reports together. The remaining members of our class warmly welcomed the Primary graduates from Mrs. Rivera's and Ms. Roque's classrooms to guide them in classroom work and show them around the room. Then as one of my student's said, "At the end, we celebrate all our hard work with a breakfast party!"

**Curriculum news**

In language, we are back to the basics and have been focusing on many children's spelling, grammar, punctuation, penmanship and capitalization. These are lessons they learn early on and practice throughout the year, and now we are doing a review in the areas that are needed. Children like to correct sentences I have provided for them and find the one error. They can all work together to spot it.

A popular math work is fractions. Students can name the fractions and also find which fractions are equivalent. A group of girls also pulled out the shapes from the geometry

cabinet, which are rectangles, and commented that these are like fractions! Our fraction work is circular. Making those types of connections across works is what we hope for the children to do.

Each month, we pick an artist and one of their more popular works to study. Children learn the artist's name, place of birth, and the time period they flourished in, and they draw and discuss their famous works of art. This month is Georgia O'Keefe's "Oriental Poppies". The students are encouraged to do their own renderings of the artwork to bring out their creativity, and to share their thoughts with each other and how they feel about the artist's work. Mrs. Gonzalez's daughter Samantha continues to volunteer in our class and recently did a lesson with everyone on the art element "value", which describes the darkness or lightness of a color. She helped each student make a value scale like this:



Please remember to take these completed artworks home on Fridays! They are in the child's folders which are in our classroom by the door they enter the class in the morning.

Thank you.

Ms. Tenold



We are excited to welcome a new student to our class - Marianne Adkison. She is a fourth year transfer, and has been welcomed excitedly to our environment. She is a great addition to the class, and we are thrilled to have her. We welcome the Adkisons to the Meher Community!

The Upper Elementary students thoroughly enjoyed the animal presentation a couple of weeks ago. They were able to see up close animals such as a snake, cockroaches, stick bugs, spiders, and others. They were able to ask questions about the animals, and the presenter did a great job giving information about each animal.

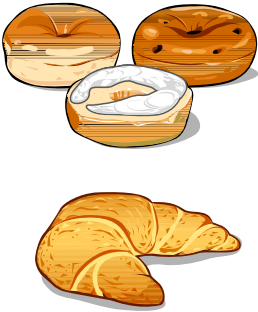
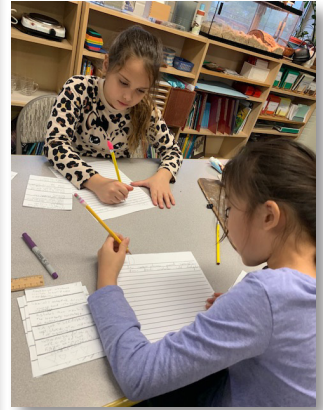
One afternoon, the class enjoyed working in the Meher Garden. We planted new flowers, did some watering, fixed the fountain, and tidied up a bit. The students thoroughly enjoy getting their hands dirty and connecting with nature.

Partnership projects have been completed with the third years from Ms. Tenold's room. We have really enjoyed having Ezio, Naya, Anthony and Mia visit with our students and work together on some really creative and interesting projects. Among the project ideas are games, math follow up work, animal research, and clay sculptures.





## WORKING ON PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS



I'm particularly happy about the arrival of March, the month of the Vernal Equinox, the month when sunlight and darkness split the day evenly, mingling a little warmth with our rainy days. For Nirali, March, well March 4th specifically, according to her calculations, meant that there were exactly 60 school days left. The students are chomping at the bit to move on, but a little apprehension about the next step lingers. In answering my question, if anyone felt anxious a propos high school, both Jordan and Vanessa unabashedly declared they were nervous, but "sooo" ready to move on! In fact, Nirali and Julia have already chosen to attend Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary High School, while Jordan and Vanessa have yet to finalize their decision. However, with some sixty days left, they still have papers to write, equations to solve, natural processes to observe, concepts to ponder, gardens to tend, and businesses to run ... but, yes, graduation is getting close, very close!

First, let's look at the papers they still have to write. Apparently, Eli is preparing our students for the stress, toil, and feelings of accomplishment that accompany essay writing. I know this because whenever I go to give them math homework they gripe about the essays they have to write. It's not like I haven't heard this complaint before. However, a number of Middle School alumni, who have come back to visit, remarked on how many nights they stayed up late writing papers for their high school English classes, and

duly noted that the number of Middle School writing assignments, which they grumbled about regularly, paled in comparison to their current writing load. One or two even mentioned they were thankful for the practice.

On the other side of the coin, their reading assignments also have not, and I imagine will not, slow down over these next sixty or so days. Fortunately, the students enjoy the classroom discussions on their reading assignments, which may include looking at the novel's historical context, philosophical queries, and literary elements. For example, the class recently started to read Agatha Christie's classic, "*And Then There Were None*." I listened in on the discussion as Eli skillfully guided the conversation to focus on characterization. First, he noted aloud the manner in which Ms. Christie developed one of her characters - there are nine others. Then, subtly stepping aside, he encouraged the students as they excitedly observed and expressed how Christie brought the other characters in her story to life.

Coincidentally, the students are working on characterization for their own stories. Below, I've reprinted a line or two from their work.

*After a long day, she walked into the forest, her black boots stained with mud, water seeping through her soles, her leather jacket snagged on a branch, ready to rip.*

*Jordan Calderon – 8th grade*

*The boy's long, blonde locks bounced, his bright, blue eyes shining like two stars on a dark night, his face glowing as he smiled widely. His dirt stained shoes pounded the concrete floor as he ran, his light grey denim jacket flying alongside him as the wind blew harshly.*

*Julia Hernandez – 8th grade*

*Her chiseled muscles shined with sweat as she stretched her strained body, her long, dark brown hair pulled into a tight ponytail, her hazel eyes filled with pure determination.*

*Julia Hernandez – 8th grade*

Finally, and briefly, I want to mention the other things that are happening academically. For starters, in math the students are studying the basic rules of exponents and observing, manipulating, and creating exponential functions. In Biomimicry, Mr. Chavez has been methodically helping students develop the tools they'll need to develop designs that can deal with global warming. Ms. Chagoya continues to delve into astronomy, chemistry, and physical concepts, while Ms. E is busy helping the students define, assess, and then redefine their business models. Lastly, Mr. Page is finishing up introducing programming tools and preparing the students to work with the program Hyper-studio. Anyway, suffice it to say that we have enough to keep us busy, very busy, for the next sixty days!



**CPR CERTIFICATE**







### Last Month

I would like to thank the parents that were able to attend Parent Night last month. It was a small group, but hopefully, it was informative for those who were able to make it. This year the topic was language. Packets were left on the coat rack for those who did not attend. Please let me know if you did not receive one. I still have a few left.

Valentine's Day was a big success this year. Many of the children brought Valentines to pass out to their classmates. The children all sat in a circle and took turns passing out what they brought, one at a time. While it was time-consuming, the children all enjoyed seeing what their friends brought for them. Also, it seemed like having the children bring in their own reusable bag from home worked out really well. We will likely switch to that method for all events from here on out.

### In the Classroom

For the second year in a row, we will be celebrating Women's Month in the classroom. Last year, Julius' mom was kind enough to gift the class a wonderful assortment of books about women. This year we

will build on that. I welcome ideas and suggestions in this area. For March we are also learning more about the Irish culture in honor of St Patrick's Day. My books on this are limited at this time. This is another area I hope to build on through books and music. And, finally, March 2nd was Dr. Seuss' birthday. We have an assortment of Dr. Seuss books in the classroom this month to celebrate his contributions to children's reading. As always, your child is welcome to bring a book to school, any day of the week, for me to read to the class.

This month the graduate children began to learn more about grammar. We started with understanding the differences between the singular and plural versions of words and how the spelling may sometimes differ. From there we will move on to nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. The younger children are focusing on movement in the classroom. Pushing in a chair with two hands, carrying one thing at a time, and walking from one point to another all require refinement of movement. Through repetition, the children are bettering these skills.

Many children have been



bringing their Kindness Cards back to have me read them aloud to their classmates. I encourage the children to do this. It helps their classmates to recognize what kindness is and also sends the message that even the little things count. When I fill out a Kindness Card, I do not tell the child they are getting one. It is meant to be a surprise in the mail. Therefore, please be sure we have your child's current address, to ensure that they are receiving their card in the mail. If your address has changed, there is a yellow change of information form on the coat rack you may fill out.

I am excited to say that we finally reached 100% participation for School Shirt Day again!! This will be our first baking activity of 2019. School Shirt Day this month is on Friday, March 29th. Please help your

child remember to wear his or her shirt on this day.

Until Next Month,  
Mrs. Wildhaber,  
Miss McCray, Miss Tinajero & Miss Sykes

### AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASS



EDUCATION THROUGH NATURE



ALUMNI

fyi

March 2019



A note from an Alumni who graduated in 2017 from Meher Middle School and started with us in Primary.

Hi Mrs. Muñoz,

It's Nathan Martinez. I hope all is well for everyone at Meher. I am doing very well at St. Francis. I have been on Scholar Roll and maintaining a 4.0 GPA even with Honors classes. This year, I joined the schools television broadcast, KNIT and have been active in producing material and filming. In addition to serving KNIT, I was asked to be a team manager for the Basketball team. Me being an only child, my parents wanted to make sure the education they chose for me would provide me the ability to be independent and self-sufficient. Thankfully, my parents sent me to Meher, giving me all the confidence and independence to set goals and accomplish them. I appreciate them very much, and the wonderful faculty and staff at Meher.

Sincerely,

Nathan Martinez



# Montessori vs. Mainstream

## An Educational Comparison

### Montessori

- Based on helping the natural development of the human being.
- Children learn at their own pace and follow their own individual interests.
- Children teach themselves using materials specially prepared for that purpose.
- Understanding comes through the child's own experiences via the materials and the promotion of children's ability to find things out for themselves.
- Learning is based on the fact that physical exploration and cognition are linked.
- The teacher works in collaboration with the children.
- The child's individual development brings its own reward and therefore motivation.
- Uninterrupted work cycles.
- Multi-age classrooms.
- Working and learning matched to the social development of the child.

### Mainstream

- Based on the transfer of a national curriculum.
- Children learn from a set curriculum according to a time frame that is the same for everyone.
- Children are taught by the teacher.
- Learning is based on subjects and is limited to what is given.
- Children sit at desks and learn from a whiteboard and worksheets.
- The class is teacher led.
- Motivation is achieved by a system of rewards and punishments.
- Block time, period lessons.
- Single-graded classrooms.
- Working and learning without emphasis on social development.