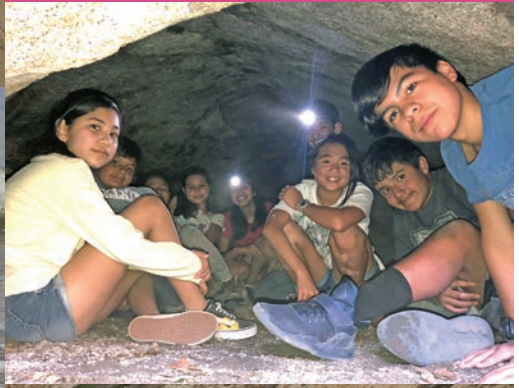




# NEWS LETTER

## Meher Middle School at Camp Whitsett and Abalone Cove



### ▶ Parent Conferences

Our second set of Parent Conferences will take place the week of **May 14–18**. Sign-ups the week before will show the times available for conferences. At the conference you will receive a written progress report. However, you certainly do not have to wait for a formal parent conference to talk to your child's teacher. Teachers always have time for informal conferences. Just ask.

### ▶ Parent Open House

Come one, come all!!! To our annual Parent Open House on Wednesday, May 23rd, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All children, parents, grandparents, and other friends are invited. This Open House is a special time for your child to show you his or her work.

### ▶ School Shirt Day

Don't forget! **Friday, May 25th**, is Meher's School Shirt Day! Let's have 100% participation so every class can have a party.

### ▶ Book Fair

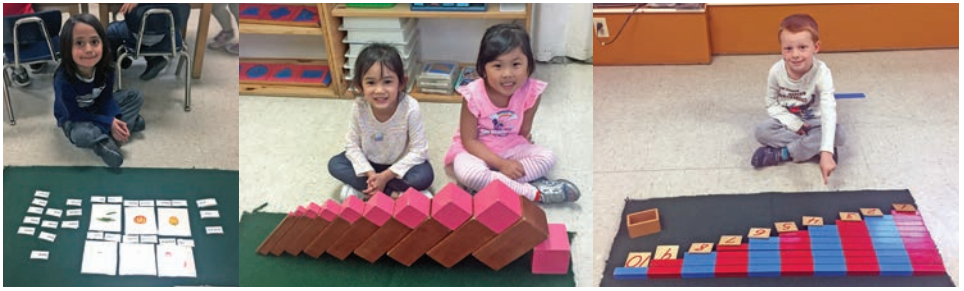
Our Scholastic Book Fair started Monday, May 14th and will end on Friday, May 18th. This Book Fair is a great way to introduce a variety of books to your children's library and help the School at the same time. The majority of the sales go back to the School through Scholastic dollars. We use 100% of the Scholastic dollars towards materials and books for all the classrooms and library. Also, during the Book Fair, we will have individual boxes for each classroom with "wish lists" from their teachers. This wish list is created to provide their students books the teachers would like to add to their curriculum.

### ▶ Holiday

Don't forget! **Monday, May 28th**, is Memorial Day and a School holiday.

### ▶ Public Open House

**Saturday, June 9th**, from **10am-2pm** is Meher's Public Open House! If you refer anyone to our school that enrolls, you'll get \$100 off your tuition.



Time flies so fast and we are approaching the end of the 2017-2018 school year. We are now in the month of May and exciting activities are just around the corner in the school. The most important of these activities is our Parent Conferences which will be from May 14 to the 18th. Sign in papers posted in front of our "sign in and sign out book." We have 5 days to choose from and 20 minutes to discuss your child. Please be on time as we will have a tight schedule. If by chance there are changes in your time, please call the school before the time you have been scheduled. Thank you so much for your understanding. Within the parent conference week is also our Scholastic Bookfair. I will make a Wish List of book donations that the children in our class would read and share in our circle time in class. Reading is the key to success.

Our Cinco the Mayo celebration was on Friday, May 4th. We had a nice luncheon. Thank you for the food. Last but not the least is our Parent Open House on Wednesday, May 23rd. It will be from 5:30 to 7:00 in the evening. On this night, the children are proud to show their parents the lessons they have learned for this

school year. A notice for this day's activity will be posted a week before the date.

The children in our class come to school excited everyday. They are reading books, learning sentence patterns, writing beautiful cursives and manuscript words and sentences with or without a lined paper. Most of our older children are having fun expressing their ideas and feelings in their journal booklets. Their topics are geared towards 3 reading boxes such as: reptiles, planets, and weather, mammals, living and non-living things. Math exercises and problems are being polished too every day. The younger children are busy with the dressing frame works, polishing a few sounds of phonics, and memorizing the continents in North and South America, to mention a few. Group works is popular among the children too; such as knob cylinders, fabrics, beads and decimal numbers. With these classroom activities, the children attain their independence and socialize with other children in a balanced manner. The value of offering help to one another is seen in class from the older children to the younger children and to their teachers as well. There is a give and



take going on in class; each child is having fun in their learning and progressing at their own pace.

We celebrated "Earth Day" by reading books that deal with caring for our environment and the planet earth. "Reuse, Reduce and Recycle" is one of the books that I read to the children. It explains how to put each recyclable material in the right bin. I read too about thinking "Green" about our environment. The children shared wonderful ideas and understood how necessary it is to maintain our earth unpolluted and breathable both for humans and animals. We have been recycling plastics in class and use only half our paper towels to dry our hands for this year. Their earth project went home this week in May.

A special thank you to Mrs. Suh and Ms. Bayon for the art, decorations, organization in our classroom. Their dedication and love for our children is priceless.

I'd like to end my newsletter with one of **Maria Montessori's quotes:**

**"The greatest sign of success for a teacher...is to be able to say,**

**'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'"**

Till next issue,  
Mrs. Rivera, Mrs. Suh, Ms. Bayon,  
Ms. Kulwicki and Ms. Ramirez



### Eggs with a twist




A few species of sharks have slightly different life cycles than the life cycle described on pages 12-15. Some species of female sharks, including horn sharks and swell sharks, do not carry their eggs inside their bodies. Instead, they lay their eggs on the ocean floor. Each female lays a group of about twenty eggs in a sheltered spot.

#### Anchored eggs


Shark eggs that are laid on the ocean floor often have casings, or covers, with spiral ribs or stiff arms called **tendrils**. These shapes help the eggs stay anchored to the ocean floor. If the eggs were not anchored, they could drift into the deeper, colder parts of the ocean. The cold temperatures could harm the embryos inside the eggs. It is also easier for hungry predators to spot drifting eggs.

*This horn shark egg case has spiral ribs that anchor the egg to the ocean floor.*

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### Who needs an egg?



#### Born live

Embryos grow inside the bodies of their mothers for about a year. When the embryos are finished growing, they are born. Animals that are born are not inside eggs when they leave the bodies of their mothers. Shark mothers do not feed their pups after they are born. The pups must survive on their own, just as other shark pups must.

A few shark species, such as hammerheads, bull sharks, and lemon sharks, do not hatch from eggs at all. The embryos of these sharks grow right inside the bodies of their mothers. Each embryo has a **yolk-sac placenta**, which is attached to the female's body by an umbilical cord. The yolk-sac placenta provides the growing embryo with all the nutrients it needs to grow.



The school year is almost over as we gear up for this merry month of May. The children already know the classroom routines and are busy working with the different materials in each area. One of the things the children enjoyed doing in our science shelf was the "Volcano". They watched and observed what happens when vinegar and baking soda are mixed together. They patiently waited to have a turn doing this experiment.

There are a number of activities scheduled so please mark these important dates in your calendar.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will already have celebrated our **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta** with lots of food, courtesy of our loving parents. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible by bringing food and helping out in the classroom.

Week of May 14th – May 18th

- The **Book Fair** will last the whole week. Come purchase books which your child might enjoy reading or one you can read together.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** – sign-up sheets were provided the first week of May. We will be discussing your child's progress in the classroom during your scheduled visit. Time slots

are in 20 minute segments. Please try to come on time for your scheduled appointment so everyone can be accommodated.

**May 23rd – Parent Open House (5:30 pm – 7:00 pm)**

This is an opportunity for your child to show you what materials he/she has been working on in the different areas of the classroom. Sign-up sheets are also available so you can choose a time slot (30 minutes).

**June 13th – Graduation**

There are six children graduating and moving on to Elementary this year:

- Jorge Alcala
- Julia Madera
- Jacob Beltran
- Azik Monterroza
- Claire Liu
- Paolo Ramirez

**Birthday Celebrants** - Diego Campa turned 4 years old on May 9, and Julian Diaz turned 4 years old on May 17. Happy Birthday to each!

**Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms!** You are so loved and cherished. Till next month!

Mrs. Roque, Ms. Alvarrado, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Kulwicki and Ms. Martinez



MRS. ROQUE'S CLASS



### Class News

This month our class is participating in Kid's Ocean Day, an annual beach clean-up and celebration of the world's oceans for students in Southern California, organized by The Malibu Foundation! This is our first year participating, and we have been invited to arrive early to be on live TV! We have parents driving us to Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey and also joining me on a Saturday preceding the event to partake in a chaperone training session at the beach. Activities like this would not be possible without parents, and we had many more families who couldn't come but wanted to offer help in other ways. We are so excited to be a part of Kid's Ocean Day so thank you for your help! Some families attended the Teacher and Parent Volunteer training with me on Saturday, May 12 from 10 am - 12:30 pm at the same beach where the clean-up is: the Lucero's and the Diaz's! They brought their families and we had a fun beach day (free parking!) and learned important logistics and made plans with the event coordinator about what to do at the actual clean-up. Thank you to those families for their time and energy! On that note, a special thanks to Juliet Diaz's family for taking care of our birds at their home over Spring Break, as well as Ezio Veneziano's family for caring for our bearded dragon at their home!

We had two special guests this month! Geanna's 8-year-old cousin, Samadhi, came to join our class for a day. She comes all the way from Japan and is homeschooled there, so she wanted to experience a classroom

environment. Our class was delighted to have her for 2 days sharing our school with her and learning a little bit about her background. She said she enjoys art, and with a show of hands our whole class also revealed to her their love of art! Secondly, a family friend of Rafaela came on Tuesday mornings in May to work on a paper mache craft with the class! Thank you to the families for sharing these guests with us.

We put together a Class Wish-List of items for special gardening and art projects, and we are so grateful and touched that parents offered to help with every single item immediately! Your support means so much to us!

### Curriculum News

A Montessori environment gives children ample opportunity to explore. Students are often taught short lessons on one concept or skill and then given as much time as they want to study it. It is inspiring to see this play out. For example, take the subject of geometry. One concept to study over the course of Elementary is the Pythagorean Theorem, the relationship among the three sides of a right triangle. I have a particular student who has many interests and skills but geometry wasn't something that excited her over the past couple of years. To spark the child's interest, I told her the story of the Greek mathematician Pythagoras, and the timing was right because she has been voluntarily studying Greek mythology almost daily with her friends in class. Instead of telling her exactly what the Pythagorean Theorem



is, I concluded the lesson by revealing a right triangle can be made with sides of lengths 3-4-5. Then she wondered aloud what other lengths would work to make a right triangle, and started to try every possible combination such as 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 4-5-6, and so on and she continued this day after day, working towards bigger and bigger triangles.

### Calendar News

We celebrated Cinco de Mayo on May 4 with a class party in the afternoon to discuss the history and culture of the day, and shared burritos and rice provided by some

of our parents. Thanks!! We will also have state testing and parent teacher conferences, along with a Parent Open House in May! The end of the year has been very, very busy and fun.

We had a guest that came to show us what a paper mache artist does. Our guest develops costumes and decorations for the Day of the Dead celebration at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, which is the largest celebration outside of Mexico!

He is also the head designer for Day of The Dead at the cemetery. He is Ricardo Soltero.





The past month has included a couple of incredible outdoor education trips for the Upper Elementary class. The fourth and fifth years, along with Ms. Tenold's third years, spent a week in San Diego at YMCA's Camp Surf. The sixth years spent a week with the Middle School in the Sierras at Camp Whitsett with Naturalist at Large.

Camp Surf was such a memorable experience for the children. They slept in a cabin all week, and were responsible for keeping their belongings organized and the cabin clean. Each day, they took classes like: studying the water cycle, rock climbing, natural habitats, learned how to surf, climbed the jetty, studied critter skull investigation, and walked to the estuary with YMCA Naturalists.

They also had some free time to play in the sand and enjoy group games like Ga-Ga. While we were there, two or three other schools also spent the week at camp, so it's also a great opportunity for our kids to be around other children and make friends. One of the highlights for many of the students was meal time. We all enjoyed sharing the delicious food family style at long tables,

and discussed funny and favorite moments from the day. The evenings were spent at an outdoor pavilion called Pirates Cove, big enough to fit all the campers. At Pirates Cove, the naturalists sang songs with the group, performed skits, and we even had a campfire and made s'mores.

It was such a fun week, one we will remember for a long time. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Anthony Alvarado, Frank Estrada, and Ms. Bayon for accompanying us on this trip. It would not have been possible without you as incredible chaperones. I am very grateful to all of you for all the support and guidance you provided to each of our campers during the week! Thank you!!

We have just a little over a month to go in the school year, and we still have a lot to fit in. Looking forward to all that's in store for the coming weeks.











Happy May, Meher Families! The last couple of weeks the students have journeyed to places near Monterey Park and way, way, beyond. However, before telling you about our spring expeditions, I want to give a quick round up of what we will be doing these last five weeks: reviewing math topics from rational numbers to exponential functions, composing essays, programming robots, creating a book (for our Design class), wow, I haven't even gotten to the activities in micro-economy, science and health. Needless to say, we aren't done yet!

### **Camp Whitsett**

The students just returned from one of their favorite Middle School activities - the annual spring trip. It's a time when students get to spend a few days and nights exploring a natural California habitat. This year's journey took the students 4 hours northeast to Camp Whitsett, which is nestled in the Sierra Mountains. At the camp they engaged in team building, scientific inquiry and discovery, and outdoor skill building.

### **Tide Pools, Sea Creatures, and the Beach!**

The Sierras weren't the only place that the students investigated. With the 6th graders, the Middle School caravanned down to the tide Pools at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park in Palos Verdes. While the students certainly frolicked in the sand and waded into the ocean, the main reason Mr. Chavez chose Abalone Cove was to observe the sea creatures in the tide pools and think about how they have adapted to the drastic shifts in water levels and the powerful currents wanting to pull them

out to sea. In their quest to observe, students hopped over small pools of water, slipped on slick, wet rocks, and navigated across uneven and sharp rocks, stopping when they spotted hermit crabs, or to place a finger in a sea anemone and watch it close around their digit. However, the day had a meditative tone too, as the students found a place to sit alone, with pen and paper and detail their observations.

### **Rosemont Nature Preserve**

Our last trip this spring was a docent led tour of the Rosemont Nature Preserve in La Crescenta. The preserve is the result of a number of Crescenta Valley residents and the Arroyo and Foothill Conservancy working together to keep almost 8 acres of undeveloped land a sanctuary for wildlife and native plants. Deer, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, and other animals freely roam the sanctuary, fulfilling natural predator-prey relationships, dispersion, and other symbiotic relationships that help to maintain wildlife biodiversity. The docents guided us around a small half-mile loop, where they stopped to tell us about various native plants - their food and medicinal values - and the Native Americans who inhabited much of the land previously.

### **Rosemont Nature Preserve's Edible Plants**

Written by: Damian Chugoya

During the last week of April, our science and health teacher, who is also my mom, organized a tour to Rosemont Nature Preserve. The Preserve came to be when La Crescenta

residents protested a plan to build a private school at the foot of the San Gabriel mountains, a 7 acre swath of uninhabited and undeveloped land that teemed with native plants and wildlife.

When we arrived at the Preserve, we split into two groups - the 6th graders and the Middle Schoolers. Our group was led by one of the Preserve's naturalists, Tim. He led us down trails pointing out plants that were edible, like Black Sage, that can be used as a spice for cooking, or Chickweed, that can go on salads. Even though the Preserve has a strict policy against taking or eating plants on the grounds, since Chickweed is an invasive plant, you can eat as much of it as you want. While we were walking, Tim pointed out cameras stuck in the ground and used to record wildlife passing by. So far, they've recorded mountain lions, bears, bobcats, foxes, and other critters. We also saw the Yerba Santa plant, whose leaves can be chewed for water, and the Mexican Elderberry, whose berries can be used for making jam: we also looked at Buckwheat, which can be used to make flour for bread, and the California Black Walnut, which, of course, produces walnuts! Even though the California Black Walnut produces walnuts, growers cross breed it with a European walnut tree to get bigger walnuts. When the tour was over, we said goodbye and headed back to the Middle School and had lunch.

### **The Winchester Mystery House**

Written by: Julia Hernandez

During the 3 days while the rest of my classmates were at camp, my family and I drove five hours north

to San Jose, passing cows and bright orange blooming poppies, to visit the Winchester Mystery House.

Sarah Winchester built the house in 1884 on the warning of a medium who had told her that in order to live forever and keep bad spirits away, she had to build and never stop. The house is a large Victorian mansion, built over a 100 years ago, with 160 rooms, 47 fireplaces, 40 stairways, 3 elevators, stairs that lead to ceilings and doors that open to walls. Although Sarah continued to build, she still died on September 5th, 1922 of heart failure.

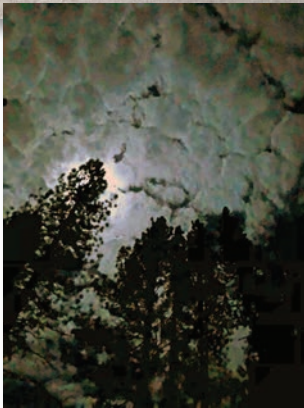


The Natural Agriculture Garden Project at the Middle School is definitely on its way! Our seedlings have sprouted and are growing strong. Our tomato seeds are taking a little longer to germinate so we will consult with our Natural Agriculture experts, Ron and Masayo. We will help these little seeds only in the most natural way, which usually means giving them their space and leaving them alone to do their thing. We believe in you, little guys! You can do it!

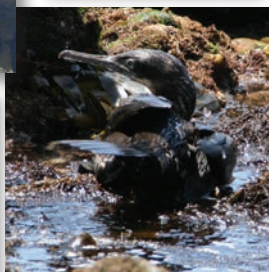
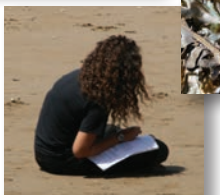
– Elizabeth Chagoya

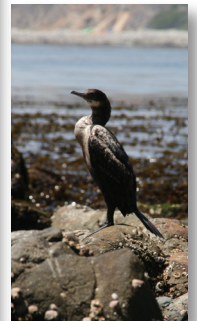














**Helen Grace** - Congratulations to us! We had over 80% participation in sales for the Helen Grace Fundraiser. Gabi Young was the top seller at our campus with six boxes sold overall. Thank you again to everyone who helped to raise money for our school.

**Open House** - Thursday, May 24 is Altadena's annual Parent Open House. It is from 6:00 -7:30 pm in your child's classroom. This is a time for your child to show you what they have been working on all year. As this time is set aside for your Meher Montessori child to shine, please leave younger siblings at home. Older siblings may come to watch, but please remind them not to handle any of the materials even if they are former Meher students themselves. Our Open House is different than that of other schools. Instead of putting up your child's work to decorate the classroom, the children here take out the materials in the classroom and show how they work with them.

**In The Classroom** - The children have really been inspired by the Mexican class decorations to honor Cinco de Mayo. The older children have been drawing the flag of Mexico as part of their geography work. On Friday, May 4th, we had our traditional Cinco de Mayo snack of pan dulce (Mexican sweet bread) and horchata (a Mexican rice drink).

Many of the sensorial materials in the classroom can be used with a blindfold. Materials that the child

has long since mastered, becomes interesting once again with the aspect of sight removed from the equation. The child's ability to discern shapes and sizes by touch alone slows the child down in his moments and encourages greater concentration. And once one child receives this new and exciting lesson, many clamor to be the next recipient!

May 14th-May 18th is our annual Scholastic Book Fair. Please make time to stop in the Founder's Room (right outside the glass entrance doors to the school) and purchase some books. There will be afternoon/evening times as well as a couple of morning times available to attend the Book Fair.

Book Fair week also lines up with Parent/Teacher conferences week. This term, conference sign-ups are online only through [ptcfast.com](http://ptcfast.com).

Alas, we did not achieve 100% participation for School Shirt Day last month. Therefore there will be no cooking activity for May. The last School Shirt Day of the school year is Friday, May 25th. Please help your child to remember to wear his or her school shirt on this day. If we get 100%, the last cooking activity of the school year will be to make your own sundaes!

Graduation - Our Graduation Program is on Thursday, June 14th at 10:30 am. All the children will perform. A potluck sign-up will be on the coat rack at the beginning of June.

**Public Open House  
Saturday, June 9, 2018  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Summer School begin June 18th  
and goes until July 27th.**

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





# TWO KIDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



<http://www.twokidscanmakeadifference.com/>

## ABOUT US

Our names are Frances and Rafaela. We attend 3rd Grade at Meher Montessori School in Monterey Park, California.

This year we have been studying about recycling and marine mammals and we got very interested in both. We went on a field trip to the **Marine Mammal Care Center** in San Pedro, California. We loved all we saw and learned in there. It was right after that visit that we decided we really wanted to help the Seals and Sea Lions at the Care Center and decided that even Two Kids Can Make a Difference.

We wanted to combine recycling and helping marine mammals and just like that our project was born!

With the help of our families we started to collect cans and plastic bottles. At this time we are inviting all students at Meher as well as school staff to help us collect as many recyclable cans and plastic bottles as possible by Tuesday, June 5th. Our goal is to reach the \$200 and donate it to The Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro. In order for us to reach the goal we need to collect an estimated of 4,000 cans and/or bottles.

We and our marine mammal friends really appreciate your help!

Frances and Rafaela