

NEWS LETTER



**Pathfinder Ranch
Outdoor Education Camp**

THANKFUL!



► Winter Break

This year the Winter Break will be from Dec. 23rd – Jan. 3rd. The school will resume classes on Jan. 6th. Happy Holidays!



FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

To all Meher parents and caregivers - take a moment after drop-off for coffee, tea, snacks and conversation. Meet other parents and staff members.

Friday, December 6th
7:00 - 8:30 am

In The Church Multi-Purpose Room
Parents and Caregivers only please

► Food & Toy Drive

We will have our annual Food & Toy Drive from December 2 - 13.



► Parent Conferences

Our first round of Parent Conferences begins on Monday, December 2nd. Each class will have their own sign-ups. Look out for them on the sign-in books.

► Happy Thanksgiving

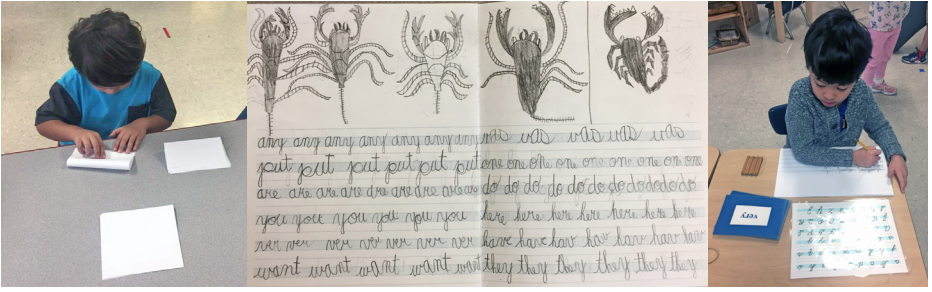
Wishing all of our Meher families a happy Thanksgiving filled with love, joy, family, friends and lots of delicious food. I am thankful for the wonderful people I work with and to be of service to your children.

Remember to follow us on instagram. [meher_montessori_schools](https://www.instagram.com/meher_montessori_schools).

Peace,
Adela Muñoz

► 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.



In a blink of our eyes it is now November! This month is the perfect balance of fall and winter. The cold begins to set in, and it's the last month of autumn.

The children's Halloween parade came and all were excited to see the costumes and characters depicted! The majority came early to school to be in line for their parade. The children smiled and waved their hands to the crowd with gusto as they walked out in the School's parking lot. The flash of lights clicked here and there as parents cheered and took pictures of their children. After posing for a Halloween class picture, I led the children back to class to change out of their costumes to their regular school clothes. I'd like to thank the parents for helping during this special event. It made the occasion flow smoothly. For lunch the children feasted on delicious pizza, along with veggie dip, fruit and water. This was our first pizza lunch for having a 100% School Shirt Day! After a short afternoon work period, there was a snack party. Their big brown paper bags were filled with goody bags, fall and Halloween projects, and an envelope of good

work learned and done in class. I'd like to give a special "Thank you!" to the Hessing brothers, led by their mom, Christina, who was there to volunteer by helping Ms. Bayon with the snack food. After their snack party, all the children went out to play. Hayden was bonding with his brother and at the same time reminiscing about his work done in class. It was a great feeling to see my former student visit and help in the classroom. The children went home happy and contented.

Every year our school participates in the "Great California Shake out Drill," which is a statewide earthquake preparedness activity. Before the drill we briefed and practiced with our children on what to do. No one cried or got scared; even our youngest children in class (2.10 years old) knew what to do. Another event was the "Red Ribbon Week." It went smoothly and the children wore their ribbons proudly every day. The children raised some questions about living a healthy lifestyle; they gave interesting answers to the questions asked too. This is another blessing we all have working, learning and living in a free and clean environment. Lastly, we

made for the 2nd time; 100% School Shirt Day last October 25th! Please remember again for this November 22nd to wear your School Shirt. A flyer for this purpose will be posted soon.

We had a Montessori Institute of San Diego student observing with us for two weeks, from October 28th to November 8th. The children went about their daily actions in the classroom. The older children were busy reading at least three to four letter story books, phonograms and puzzle words. Writing cursive letters and words into their journal notebook and spelling simple words with the use of an object, flags and their names, short and long chains (from numbers 3 to 6 for now) are the interest of the children in this month. Recognizing and understanding the sequence of each number, most of them can now add and subtract by memory. The younger children are settled now and busy with strengthening their psychomotor, practical life, and sensorial areas. They love to punch within the lines, polish brass, silver and wood, cut and fold papers on the line and always help in keeping our prepared environment clean. Lastly, we welcomed a new child in our class and her name is Isobel Reyes. She is three years old. We are happy and blessed to have her in our class and at Meher.

Again I would like to thank Ms. Bayon for always caring, helping and inspiring the children to do their best in class. She prepares great projects and tasks that our children can accomplish with joy. Thank you always.

Reminders: The Thanksgiving Party in our classroom will be on November 27th. School Shirt Day is Nov. 22nd! Have your child's School Shirt ready in their bedroom the night before. Thank you once again.

Have a blessed celebration of Thanksgiving Day to all.

Love always,
Mrs. Rivera and Ms. Bayon

"Growth is not merely a harmonious increase in size, but a transformation."

—Maria Montessori



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!"**



Happy November everyone, and welcome to the cooler weather of this season.

The Halloween parade was a success; the children enjoyed it very much. After parading around for the parents and getting their pictures taken, the children went back to class to a regular class schedule. It was great to see the children quickly return to their normal routine. At lunch time, we had a pizza party and some snacks that were brought by the parents. Thank you everyone who brought something!

In the month of October, we also celebrated Red Ribbon Week. The children learned about building healthy habits. They came up with great ways of being healthy such as eating fruits and vegetables, staying hydrated, and getting lots of play time.

It's great to say that we got 100% participation on School Shirt Day again in October. This month, School Shirt Day is on Friday, November 22. Parents, please set a reminder for yourself to bring your child with their School Shirt on that day.

Parents, we will be having a harvest table in the classroom. If any of you would like to bring something for the children to admire, it will be greatly appreciated.

The children are doing great and keeping busy. One of my goals this year is to normalize the classroom. Maria Montessori considered a classroom normalized when the children were working peacefully, independently, and with concentration. It's safe to say that we are on the road to normalization. I'd like to give Mrs. Suh a great thank you for that. She really pushes the children to pick their work and helps them stay focused. My focus in the classroom is to give the children a few lessons a week so they have many things to work with.

One of the obsessions in the classroom currently is the clock. The children have been fascinated by time. A group lesson came up one day because the children kept asking what time lunch was. I showed them what 11:15 looks like with our classroom clock. This led to the children getting themselves ready for



lunch, instead of me telling them it was time.

Birthdays this month are:

Kelsey Luk who turns 5 on the 20th
Connor Tran who turns 5 on the 23rd
and Adrian Cheung who turns 4 on the 24th

Happy Birthday to them!

On November 27th we will be having a Thanksgiving celebration with the children and parents are more than welcomed to join. A list will soon go out for foods and desserts you can sign up to bring. Please keep an eye out for that.

Thank you everyone and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Lopez and Mrs. Suh

GROUP ACTIVITIES MS. TENOLD'S CLASS



► Ms. Tenold's Class

Class News

Birthdays!

Eleanor turned 8 on November 1, Arin turned 7 on November 12, Cylis turned 7 on November 15 and Zoe will turn 6 on November 27.

We had a very fun-filled day on Halloween with a costume parade, a lunch party put on by the parents, and a haunted hallway arranged by the Upper Elementary. Students also gave some treats to each other and Mrs. Gonzalez set up some fall themed crafts for them like bats and leaves for this season.

Curriculum News

A huge thanks to Mrs. Gonzalez for all she does to make the students have an enriching, fun, and loving environment here. Our 3rd years were gone one week at Pathfinder for an awesome outdoor education camp, but I also want to highlight how much work Mrs. Gonzalez and the 3rd years do with things like maintaining our class pets and class garden. Both are a hugely successful part of class and it's all thanks to them and Mrs. Gonzalez's know-how and caring.

Garden Harvest:

The focus this month was on leaves: plants in which we can safely eat the leaves, for example kale and lettuce, and the function of a leaf for the entire plant. Our 3rd years learned facts about kale and lettuce and shared them with the class, and passed samples around for everyone to try outside, along with

CLASSROOM NEWS

pulling enough of the leaves to make a big salad for the class at lunchtime. Students also drew one of the leaves while observing the garden and made a short report on the role of a leaf.

learning and finishing up what they've started before we go into the holidays.

Art:

The element this month is space: the types of space (negative and positive) and shapes in nature and architecture.

Calendar News

Veteran's Day holiday was observed Monday, November 11.

Pathfinder Outdoor Education Camp was November 12 – 15 and included my 3rd years.

Read aloud:

"Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change"

by Garth Sundem

This is a collection of biographies which give snapshots of what children have done around the world for environmental and social change. It is a big hit, with our students wanting to research more ideas.

Thanksgiving celebration and holiday! We will have a big lunch party the day before Thanksgiving, provided by the parents. Thank you in advance!

Have a wonderful celebration with your families!

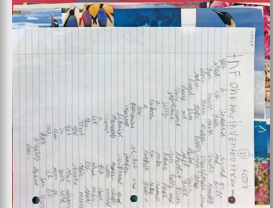
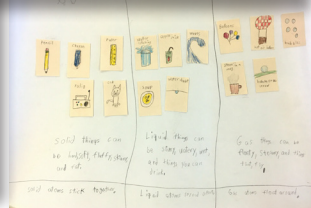
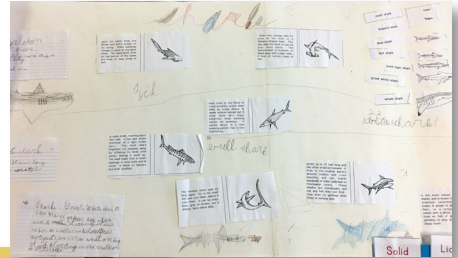
Poem of the month:

"The Rainbow"

by Thomas Campbell

In addition to this, children are following up on the lessons they've gotten in areas which are tailored to their individual interests and abilities. They are also doing some projects to showcase their

PROJECTS IN THE CLASSROOM





FIRE ECOLOGY



ENERGY AND GEOLOGY



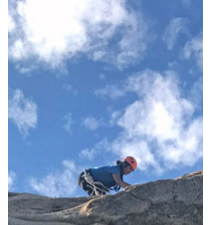
CANOING



HORSEBACK RIDING



ROCK CLIMBING



ARCHERY



November! A month to lay aside concerns for a second and appreciate things like being the teacher of a Montessori Upper Elementary class! The energy, creativity, and just plain joy that the students bring every morning is inspiring. That's not to say everything always runs smoothly, or as planned, but as the founder of Meher Montessori, John Page, told me many years ago about his teaching experience, "The students' energy kept me young," to which I will happily add - if not sometimes tired and crazy, but in a good way!

Upper Elementary Halloween Party!

I have to admit I was a little surprised at how well the Upper Elementary Halloween extravaganza went. I remember wondering on October 30, having seen very little prepared, how the students would have time to set up a haunted hallway, produce a short ("scary") sketch, organize games, and offer the Lower Elementary students face painting. Then, on top of all that, bake desserts, and decorate the classroom for their own party. Well, as Ms. Munoz replied when I told her my concerns, "The students some how step up and get it done." And so they did, so they did!

A change of plans

Adaptability is an important skill Montessori teachers hope to convey to their students, and we need to adapt a little now. The starting dates proposed for Ms. Espinoza's micro-economy class and Magdalena

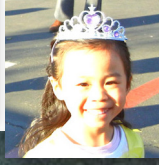
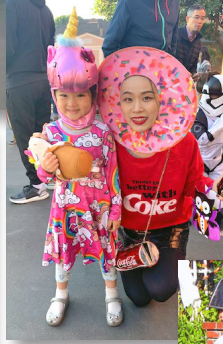
Cordoba's Spanish class have been pushed ahead due to scheduling conflicts and the class field trip to Pathfinder. Also, we are putting out a call for a parent-volunteer to help manage the Upper Elementary garden. We are also looking for other parent-volunteers to teach woodworking, music, sewing, health, etc., etc., etc!

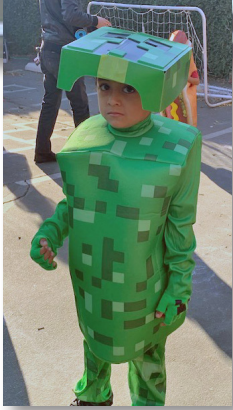
Class Notes

This month we have ventured into history, following the general format that Maria Montessori laid out for the study of history. Her plan starts with covering the creation of the earth, followed by study of the coming of life, and culminating with the timeline of human beings - which investigates the various migration experiences of human beings and the building of human cultures and civilizations. Along with that, we will also begin to look at the United States' system of government, having recently read that only 26% of U.S. citizens can name our three branches of government.

While there's an excellent chance I will see most of you before the start of our Thanksgiving break, just in case, have a happy holiday!











Happy November!

Halloween

The costume parade was a big hit this year!! With so many little ones, I thought for sure there would be tears. There wasn't! The kiddos all did a great job of looping around Upper Heicher Hall two times before posing for pictures. I always love to see all the creativity and originality amongst the costumes. Thank you to all the parents who stayed to help the children change out of their costumes. It was possibly the easiest transition we have had after a costume parade. The children settled back into the class for an abbreviated work period beautifully. As usual, the afternoon snack party was a big hit. Fruit, chips, and cookies always seem to taste better when served on festive plates.

School Shirt Day

Alas, we did not reach 100% participation for October's School Shirt Day. The children were disappointed they did not earn a baking activity for the month of November. Hopefully, they can earn it for December. November's School Shirt Day will be on Friday the 22nd. If all the children participate, we will

bake apple muffins in December. Please help your child to remember to wear their school shirt on this day.

Multicultural Potluck

This is a reminder that our multicultural potluck luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 26th at 11:00. All families are invited to join us as Meher Montessori celebrates how thankful we are to be a part of such a diverse community.

School Closed

The School will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the Classroom

This month we have been focusing on what it means to be thankful. We are working on a tree of thanks in the small room. The goal is for each child to share one thing that they are thankful for. For the younger children, this can be a difficult concept to grasp. By asking leading questions such as "What makes you happy" or "What do you love" I have been able to get responses from most of the younger children. We have also been reading a lot of books about kindness and

caring for the environment, as well as books about being thankful. I feel that all three themes go together when it comes to love and appreciation for what we have.

Next Month

Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place the week of December 2nd. Conference sign-up times are located on the coat rack. Conferences are 20 minutes each. If you have more than one child enrolled at Meher, please make sure to pick a time slot for each child.

Altadena Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Saturday, December 14th, Meher will have an information table set up at the Altadena Tree lighting Ceremony Winter Arts & Crafts Festival. A sign-up sheet for parent volunteers will go out at the beginning of December. If you cannot volunteer, we encourage all of our Meher families to come by and show their support in their Meher Montessori School t-shirts and hoodies.

Toy Drive and Field Trip

We will once again collect toys for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Toys must be new and unwrapped. The Toy Drive will run from December 2nd-December 16th. We will then plan for a walking field trip to the Altadena Fire Station, the week of the 16th, to drop off the toys. More information on that will go out in early December, once the details with the Fire Department have been ironed out. The more chaperones the better!

Winter Program

On Friday, December 20th, we will have a short Winter Program, followed by a refreshment party. The Program will begin promptly at 1:00. Families are invited for both the program and the party to follow. More details on that will go out at the beginning of December. Additionally, if you plan on being out of town on the 20th, please let Mrs. Wildhaber know as soon as possible, as it will affect the seating arrangements for the performance.

Also, since December is a month filled with celebrations, please feel free to bring in books about any holidays or celebrations your family participates in. The more the children are exposed to celebrations that differ from their own, the more understanding they become of differences within families.

This year winter break will be from December 23rd to January 3rd. The school will be closed during that time.

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







► Red Ribbon Week Altadena

RED RIBBON PICS

Our Red Ribbon week focuses on healthy bodies. We had several activities the week of the 21st to support that theme. On Monday we did an overview of what it means to keep our bodies healthy. The children contributed suggestions such as hand-washing, protein, good food, exercise, and drinking water. I was very impressed at how much the returning children remembered from last year's Red Ribbon Week. We ended Monday with a little song about how to brush our teeth and hair, and wash our faces.



shelters and refugee camps, was very grateful for all the donations. This was our first year participating, but it will become an annual event. Thank you to those who participated.

Tuesday, we brainstormed about different vegetables we like to eat. I explained to the children that vegetables have no seeds and fruits do have seeds. So we saved tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers for fruit day. On Wednesday when we talked about fruits, I shared surprising information with the class: strawberries are not really a berry but bananas are! They found that to be very funny.



On Thursday, we talked about different ways to exercise. To keep things simple, I told children that exercise involves moving the body. They came up with several great answers. I think the sports cards we have in the classroom may have helped because this is the first year tennis and baseball made the list of answers. To cap off our exercise theme on Thursday, Lou's mom, Miss Allison, came to do a 30-minute yoga lesson with the kiddos. It was amazing! They did a great job trying out yoga poses.



Friday, was the last day for Red Ribbon Week. We spent this day recapping everything we learned for the week. We also took a good look at the items children donated for the hygiene drive. The children found my explanation of deodorant to be funny. I also stressed to them how important flossing was for healthy gums. Gum disease leads to an increased risk of heart disease. So I let the kiddos know that they need to make sure their grown-ups keep their gums healthy to keep their heart healthy.



On a side note, Pastor Kelli, the person responsible for making the hygiene bundles for the homeless



Pathfinder Ranch Outdoor Education Camp





MARIA MONTESSORI 150 YEARS

Maria Montessori, The Pioneer

Maria Montessori was born on the 31st August 1870, in Chiaravalle, Italy. From an early age she broke through the traditional barriers for women, attending a technical school with initial ambitions to be an engineer, to go on to choose a career in medicine. In 1896 Montessori became one of the first Italian women ever to obtain a medical degree. In her early career as a doctor, she was asked to represent Italy at the International Congress for women's rights in Berlin, where she called for equal pay for women.

As a doctor her interests led her to join a research programme at the Psychiatric Clinic of the University of Rome, where she came to work with mentally ill children. Through her in depth research, observation and analysis, Montessori developed a pedagogical approach which resulted in incredible outcomes for these children. At just 28 she addressed medical and pedagogical congresses, advocating for greater support for children with such difficulties and putting forward the controversial notion of education for social reform. While her work in this area received

a great deal of acclaim, Maria Montessori discovered her techniques were applicable for use with all children, with extremely successful outcomes. She established the first of her "Casa dei Bambini" (children's house) in Rome in 1907 and delivered her first training course in 1909. The success of the Montessori method spread throughout the world and Montessori travelled and lectured extensively on her unique, child centred approach, establishing schools and a loyal following of educators and researchers.

In her career she came up against opposition from fascist regimes, witnessed some of her work being destroyed during the war, and was forced to reside in India for 7 years until she was able to return to a war free Europe. An advocate of education for peace, Maria Montessori spoke in Geneva on the topic of peace in 1932 at the Bureau de l'Education (forerunner of UNESCO). She believed strongly in the power of education to bring about social reform and was nominated three times for a Nobel Peace Prize. Her son, Mario Montessori, worked with her across the world and continued her work following her death in 1952.

Today Montessori education is present in more than 25,000 schools across the world and in more than 140 countries. Montessori left the world a legacy of a truly universal approach to the education of not just the child, but the whole human being, with a global impact which continues to be felt today. ■