

HERMOSA MONTESSORI *Community Times*

Hooray for Teacher Appreciation Week!

Many parents contributed to making teacher appreciation week a wonderful success. Thank you to everyone who baked, photographed, hosted breakfast, made phone calls, or helped with the week in a variety of other ways.

A very special thank you to **Anne Fulton-Cavett** for creating the gorgeous keepsake albums for the teachers. The teachers have expressed how much they treasure these beautiful books. These are truly spectacular gifts.

A special thank you also to **Bronwyn Danielski** for organizing delicious food for the teachers each day!

Hermosa Middle School Wins Recognition

Hermosa Montessori School was once again awarded the Certificate of Recognition by Johns Hopkins University.

This award from the Center for Talented Youth International Mathematics and Verbal Talent Search recognizes Hermosa's support of students. Middle school through high school students

are recognized for their outstanding achievement and talent on merit-based tests administered nationally.

One Hermosa seventh-grade student received the high honors award in reading for high academic potential. Congratulations to these outstanding students and their teachers.

Did You Know:

- ⇒ Hermosa is now ranked as one of Arizona's top ten charter schools?
- ⇒ Hermosa teachers "go the extra mile" every day?
- ⇒ 100% of Hermosa's teachers & staff have contributed to Hermosa's current fundraising campaign?
- ⇒ The state of Arizona funds salaries for Hermosa's world-class teachers at approximately 22% less than public school district teacher salary allocations?
- ⇒ Teacher lay-offs are occurring at public and charter schools throughout Arizona?

Please support Hermosa's outstanding teachers by contributing to the campaign today!

All-School Performance

When: Saturday, May 30, 2009, 1:00 p.m. dress rehearsal—doors open at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Christ Community Church, 7801 E. Kenyon (south on Pantano from Broadway)

This year-end celebration for all students and parents features Preschool through Middle School student performances—choral, instrumental, dance, and drama. All students have a part in this production. Don't miss it!!

Without a performance venue on our campus, we must rent space for our performances. Our only opportunity to rehearse students in the performance space is the day of the show. Students need to arrive promptly at 1:00. Parents may stay on campus (not in auditorium) or you may drop your students off at 1:00 p.m. and return for the 2:00 p.m. show.

Free Admission.

Reflections on the School Year

As this school year comes to a close for students and teachers, I find it a perfect time for reflection. This has been an unprecedented year for our country, posing some of the most difficult challenges we have faced in many years. We still face a threat to our way of life and beliefs by some in other lands who consider us the enemy. Our major institutions are in serious decline, with unprecedented weakening in banking, housing, manufacturing, and education. **Our state legislators who are struggling to deal with a huge budget deficit have proposed a large cut to education funding. The most current legislative updates indicate that based on the current proposals, for FY2010, schools will need to subtract \$130 to \$185 per pupil from the current amount (that means the amount we are currently getting with the FY2009 cut). This could mean a \$43,000 reduction in state revenue which is our only source of funding. I will continue to work throughout the summer to ensure that Hermosa's quality of service is not compromised, and appreciate any innovative ideas to increase revenue.**

It is easy to become disheartened when faced with these difficulties, and I would be if I did not have the opportunity to be surrounded each and every day by some of the most outstanding individuals on the planet: Hermosa's staff and children. As I walk around the campus our children provide me with a tremendous sense of hope for our future. I see students building a sculpture with cans of food to be donated to the food bank, others are gathering items for the babies of teen parents, some are collecting "pennies for peace," others are joyfully practicing a dance number for their performance, and then, of course, there are always students completely and actively engaged in their academic pursuits.

Parents of Hermosa graduates continue to tell me of the honors, awards, and special program acceptances their students receive in high school and college, awards for both leadership and scholarship. In the last few weeks I was informed that current and former Hermosa students received: a Johns Hopkins award, a high school English department award, first place in the Rotary Club's four-way speech contest for southern Arizona, acceptance to Naval Academy seminars, public service academies, and recognition at college graduation as *summa cum laude*, and Phi Beta Kappa graduates. It is an honor to watch these students develop as leaders with strength in scholarship and character.

Ben Brysacz, Hermosa graduate, and recent college graduate, is an advocate for personal responsibility and public service, as are other former Hermosa students. Ben was chosen to attend the "Public Service Academy," in Washington D.C. "I've been given a great deal by society, and now I have the capacity to give back; it seems right and fair that I would return those skills to society through service," he said. "I think it's hard for my generation to get excited about mundane tasks that need to be done. We're romantic about changing the world, but we need to recapture the humility and self-sacrifice required to do the hard work that needs doing." Ben's commitment to personal integrity and service is manifested in other Hermosa graduates. These wonderful young people are our hope for the future.

-Sheila

Fast and Easy Fundraising

Did you know there are easy ways to raise additional funds for Hermosa doing the things you already do? Does your family use Ziploc bags, eat Cheerios, or drink Juicy Juice? Hermosa collects Box Tops, which can be found on General Mills products. You can visit www.boxtops4education.com to find a complete list of products. Each Box Top is worth a dime and the money is sent directly to the school to be spent wherever it is needed.

Do you shop at Basha's? If so, just stop by the customer service desk the next time you're there and give them your Basha's card and the following

number: 26163. Your card is now registered to give 1% of what you spend back to Hermosa.

If you do any shopping online there is a good chance many of the stores are part of eScrip.com. This shopping portal allows you to register your credit and debit cards and every time they are used at participating online retailers 1-5% of what you spend is donated to Hermosa. There are even local restaurants that participate in this program. When you visit www.escrip.com you can also register your Safeway card to have up to 3% of your spending donated to Hermosa. These simple steps can help Hermosa earn much-needed cash.

Art-to-Wear

Thank you to all who participated in the Original Art Works Fundraiser. Our children are very talented, and it was amazing to see all their wonderful designs. Overall, this program raised \$1,445.66 for Hermosa. Thank you to all who helped to make this fundraiser stress-free and fun: Mollie Bryson, Tineke Hamden, Carol Lipton, Kent Maas, Megan Rodgers and Becky Thies. A special thank you to Theresa Garrone and the Hermosa teachers for their support in this fundraiser. *-Sherri Maas*

Read All About It (in the front office)

The front office has hard copies of all Hermosa emails. If you do not receive or cannot open an email, please come to the front office and look through the email binder.

In addition, the front office has a variety of books that you can borrow on topics ranging from Montessori philosophy to sibling rivalry to proper grammar. Come by and check it out!

Newsletter Coordinator Needed

Thanks to Alicia Saposnik for her work publishing the monthly Hermosa newsletter. Alicia will retire from this position after completing our May newsletter.

If you are an experienced writer interested in this important volunteer position for the next school year, please submit your resume or letter of intent indicating your experience to the front office.

End-of-Year Events

- ◆ 8th grade graduation, Thursday, May 28, Noon
- ◆ Kindergarten graduation, Sally's class, Friday, May 29, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Water day for Sally's class, Friday, May 29
- ◆ 3rd grade graduation, Friday, May 29, 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ 6th grade graduation, Friday, May 29, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Year-end performance and art show, Saturday, May 30, Christ Community Church, 1:00 p.m. dress rehearsal, doors open 2:00 p.m.

Key Dates for Start of Next School Year

- ◆ Registration, Friday, July 31, 9:00 a.m. – noon & 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Pre-school/Kindergarten orientation August 10 & 11, 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Lower Elementary orientation/pizza party August 10, 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Upper Elementary orientation/pizza party August 11, 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ First day of school, Wednesday, August 12
- ◆ Preschool and Kindergarten phase-in schedule, August 12, 13 & 14.

For a complete academic calendar for the 2009-2010 school year, please see the Hermosa website or stop by the front office.

Class News

Sally and Rebecca's Class

Students have been harvesting fava beans, using some for botany experiments and the rest for steaming and eating! We also harvested tomatoes and basil when we studied peninsulas (Italy) and made Italian "caprese" salads for a special snack. Thanks to Nina Adang for her presentation on the Iranian New Year celebration and customs, and to Craig Cannizzaro for his presentation on water and the water experiments he shared with us. Also thank you to Craig and Niyah for sharing their butterfly garden with the class. Also, many thanks to Janet Powers for her lovely presentation on the Phillipines.

Lower Elementary

School is going well but we are working to improve on talking quietly during class time. We are also being very careful to wash our hands a lot. This month the third-year students are having lunch with the Upper Elementary students. We are all very excited to be moving to Upper Elementary next year. It is really cool. The whole Lower Elementary class went on a field trip to listen to the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

- by Matteo Mele, third grade

There are a lot of events happening at school. For example the Pennies for Peace project is being organized at Hermosa by Cayce Cavett (kindergarten), Grace Gada (first grade) and Nick Gada (third grade). We are collecting pennies

for the poor kids in Pakistan, Afghanistan and parts of India. The pennies help a man named Greg Mortenson build schools in these remote places. So we encourage you to keep bringing pennies! Also, Upper Elementary students are working on publishing a magazine and if you would like to make comics or jokes you can submit them! They also will take poetry. The Upper Elementary school supplies shop is now closed for the rest of the year. After the last day of school, we are having a student concert. If you are not going to be there, please email Mary Rudy, or write a note to your child's teacher saying that you won't be there. Next year the third graders will be going to the Upper Elementary.

- by Nick Gada, third grade

Upper Elementary

The Upper Elementary is having a science fair on 5/28/09. We get into groups of two or three, choose a topic, gather information about it, and then we do an experiment. We have to have a hypothesis, an experiment to prove it, and a conclusion. Some topics that students are investigating are stalagmites and stalactites, solar power, and air pressure. Friends and parents are invited to attend from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to see what we have done.

During the last month of school, some fourth-year students will get to choose their own due dates for class assignments. We

have to choose the due dates wisely, because the last two weeks of school are not full weeks. Overall, it is very doable, and it is a great way to end the school year - with more freedom!

- by Ryan Alexander, fourth grade

The school year is winding down, and it is the last school month. This month everybody is trying to finish up assignments so we can all have a great summer. On May 4, 2009, the 5th and 4th grades went on a field trip to Kartchner Caverns State Park. Everybody got a wonderful tour where we all saw stalagmites, stalactites, helictites, bacon (the caves' vessels), and soda-pop straws. Thanks to our science teacher, Rebecca, we were prepared to answer any questions about the cave. All students had a chance to visit the gift shop, and we all had a great lunch on the picnic grounds in the park. All 5th grade students are sad due to Avon not returning next school year. I will miss Avon next year. "I'll miss the hard and challenging work that Avon has given us," says student Cameron Hodge. "I'll miss the kindness and caring Avon has for us," says student Anthony Scalese. "I will miss Avon's teaching methods, because even though she gave us a large amount of work, I could finish it by Wednesday every week," says student Taylor Nelson. "I liked that Avon was encouraging," says student Culin Li.

- by Sergio Jones, fifth grade

Third-Grader Wins Reading Rainbow Award

Katie Soler, a student in Rusti's class, won first place in the third-grade division of the Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Competition sponsored by KUAT - Arizona Public Media. Katie's story, "The Gentle Tornado" is now entered in Reading Rainbow's national competition.

Have a Wonderful Summer!