

# Hermosa Montessori

CommunityTimes

by Sheila



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Let me again invite you to follow your student's school activities on our Facebook page. Look for short photos and text which can give you a window into your student's day at school.

### Important Dates:

- Nov. 1: Don's class Open House 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Pat's class and new U.E. Open House 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 11 :Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 17: Land lab
- Nov 18: H.O.P.E. Meeting 3:15 in the middle school

## History at Hermosa

History, as it is taught at Hermosa, is not a boring endeavor fraught with rote memorization of dates, but an ever exciting experience that begins in lower elementary when students are in their first years, and continues throughout middle school, with each level building on the skills and information gained in the previous level. Unlike the more conventional district model, which is text book driven augmented by a lecture approach, Hermosa students first begin to learn history as elementary students when their teachers tell them about the "Story of Numbers." In this "great lesson" students learn the how and why humans developed "counting" and mathematics. We begin with questions. The lesson might begin like this, "Sometime, and we don't know exactly when, someone thought of a language for numbers. We don't know who it was. We can imagine that right from the beginning human beings had a need to speak of numbers, just like we do today. How many animals did the hunters see when they went out? How many

people will fit in this cave? How many caves will we need for our whole group?" The lesson goes on in a story telling format to reveal how people used their fingers and toes to count, then stones, sticks, pebbles, or notches on a stick. The lesson moves to introducing Mayan, Babylonian, Greek, Roman, and Chinese numeral charts. Rather than lecture, Montessori teachers **spark students' imagination, so they will want to learn more.**

Lower elementary students and teachers mark the passage of time in the classroom by days and months with a variety of techniques and objects. They use sticks that are bundled into groups of ten or shells and pebbles that they correlate to the calendar. (Look at a recent Facebook post to see a short video of students participating in one of these lessons.) When students arrive in upper elementary and are ready for more advanced history studies they have a wide array of

projects and activities. On the same day that lower elementary students were outside "walking through time" upper elementary students were surprised to see one of their classrooms turned into an early human cave dwelling. It was dark, and contained plants and artifacts of human development like stone knives and scraping tools. As they sat in the dark they were enthralled to learn about the passage of time on earth, and some of the events that shaped humanity. I was happy to be invited, so I could witness the gasps of awe when they saw their teacher Anne light a fire (safely with candles) to illustrate the introduction and impact of fire, and hear their spontaneous applause after the lesson was over!





## Important Information for all Parents Regarding School Pond

Please remember that it is currently snake season, from now until cold weather arrives. Rattlers and other snakes are attracted to the pond as well as to the rodents that come on campus when they smell student food. Hermosa teachers regularly talk to students about snake awareness and the proper response if they spot a snake. Randy Young walks the campus every morning to look for rattlesnakes; however all parents need to be *aware* and actively look for snakes, especially around the pond and rocky areas. **Do not allow your children to play on the rocks near the pond during snake season!** Please keep your young children within a few feet of you at all times as you wait to pick

up or drop off. Also, we have endangered fish in the pond and children should not put fingers, sticks or any other objects in the pond.

If you spot a rattlesnake, notify the front office immediately. If a rattlesnake is close to you, freeze and call for help. We are on a 10-acre campus in the desert and interaction with local wildlife is inevitable; however, education and awareness can prevent snake bites and injuries. In the 30 years of Hermosa's existence there has never been a student bitten by a snake while on campus!



## Many Thanks

Parent support greatly helps all Hermosa's students. We thank the following families for their recent generosity:

- ◆ **Esperson family** – \$400 donation for choir music
- ◆ **Flach family** – 15 IKEA stools for choir
- ◆ **Schwartz-Plotnick family** – books for our libraries and a rolling cart for Mary Rudy
- ◆ **Maas family** – microwave
- ◆ **Morgen Alexander** – microwave
- ◆ Former parent **Mike Coffey of Desert Streams & Waterfalls** for keeping our pond running.



## This Month's Virtue: Accountability

October's virtue is accountability. Accountability is the "state" of being accountable. When we are accountable, we willingly accept responsibility for our actions. "Accountability breeds responsibility."

Stephen R. Covey

You are practicing accountability when you:

- ◆ Honor your commitments
- ◆ Take agreements seriously
- ◆ Do your part
- ◆ Admit failures without excuses.

When accountable we say, "I didn't do

my math assignment (no excuses)," or "I was responsible for not making the deadline, I failed to complete my part." We don't say "it's not my fault," or "they made me do it," "it's not my job," or "no one told me," or the teacher's favorite, "The dog ate my math assignment!"

## Page to Stage

Middle school teacher Moriah Flagler has launched an exciting all community collaborative project called "Page to Stage." The mission of "Page to Stage" is to promote written expression by bringing student writing to life through performance, while enhancing the pre-school through middle school community.

In "Page to Stage" the students at all levels are invited to write stories. The middle school students

collect these stories and "unpack" them using creative drama practices (which teach creative thinking, problem solving, and teamwork). Through the collaborative process of play development, the middle school students will compose a performance made up of several stories - bringing them back to their authors in a live form! In "Page to Stage" the only limit is the imagination... the performance may include dance, music, beat-boxing, eight people combined being

an octopus... you name it-you might see it!

Moriah brings her expertise, previous performance and academic experience to this Hermosa project. Moriah received her Bachelors in Fine Arts in Theatre Arts Education at the University of Arizona and worked previously with "Stories that Soar!" in this type of collaborative process. She was also a member of the local improvisation troupe, "Not Burnt Out Just Unscrewed."

## New Hermosa Cheer!

### Cross Country Cheer

by Kendra Pinegar

Hermosa's our name and running's our game.

We have a great team because confidence is our theme.

We might not win, but we're not going to lose,

because we're going to cross the country in our tennis shoes.

Go Hermosa!!



## Middle School Updates

### CYCLE 1 ENDS

Middle School students just finished Cycle 1, which focused on **Forces**. In Social World, students were asked to research and theorize about what **forces** brought about the American Revolution; what **forces** can bring about a revolution; and which revolutions have impacted the world. With their teachers as their guides, students spent a day creating a project based "middle school revolution" that took an unexpected turn when the students

revolted against the expected outcome and determined their own outcome: a peaceful resolution. In Natural World, students explored laws that govern gravitational, motion, and electromagnetic **forces**. Their lessons were coupled with a lab project based assignment that asked them to build a Goldberg Device. Their projects were very creative. The cycle focus was further developed in Personal World, where students pondered how the **forces** of stress, mass media, and peer pressure impact their lives, and how

they can be positive **forces** in their classroom. P.E. classes included swimming and sport skills.

Immersion week helped students synthesize their cycle's work, and they participated in community-building activities in the classroom and during their first Land Lab visit of the year. Immersion week culminated in a class school sleepover.



### HAUNTED HOUSE-BEWARE!

Watch out for the return of the Middle School Haunted House! Its return is due in large part to students using their powers of persuasion to **force** a positive event for the entire school, family, and friends to enjoy!

**Ask a Middle School student what a Goldberg Device is. Did they teach you something new?**

**ALL THIS AND FUNDRAISERS TOO!**

## Upper Elementary Updates

### GOSSIP FREE ZONE

by: *Katie and Jennifer*

We have all been affected by gossip at some time in our lives. Realizing the dire consequences of gossip, we began the "Gossip-free Club," in which every member has made a pledge to themselves that they will try as hard as they can to put an end to this terrible cycle. We started our campaign right away! We received the "fight against gossip" bracelets,

and students are now signing their no gossip contracts. We hope that with our efforts we can end gossip eventually, but it is a hard habit to break and requires a change in attitude, not just a sudden thought. Gossip is not going to change overnight, it is part of us as human beings, but with much support from each other and a firm decision within ourselves, we can stop this epidemic from growing.

You too can join the No-Gossip Club! Make the pledge yourselves and have your friends do the same. Make the world a better place, stop gossip.

**Fight Against Gossip!  
Join the Club!**

## Upper Elementary Updates (continued)

### DESERT ECOLOGY: THE WEB

by: Kendra Pinegar

Every Thursday, the 4th and 5th years have Desert Ecology. On October 6, Anne showed us how all the plants and animals need each other and everything else in the desert. The sun gives energy to the plants, we or animals eat those plants and later bigger animals could come

around and eat the small animals. Those are the producers and the consumers. Later, if an animal dies, a scavenger like a turkey vulture or a raven will eat it. To show us that, Anne passed around papers that had names of plants, animals, dirt, water, air and one sun. Pat was chosen to be the sun. The web was made by how plants need the sun, water, air, dirt and then an animal needed that plant for food and needed water, sun

and air. That went on until everyone was holding a piece of the web. But if one animal became extinct or there was no water, the web would break apart. We learned that the cycle in our desert is important. I talked to Pat and she told me "It was exciting to see how everything came back to the sun".



### 4TH AND 5TH GRADE SCIENCE

by: Kelly, Olivia and Elara

The 4th and 5th have been studying atoms and elements. We also learned how far away an electron would be from a proton, if the proton was the size of a ping pong ball. In one of the other lessons we got to grow crystal trees. They were fragile

and soft. It was really fun! We also had fun doing a soda experiment, we used Mentos and soda. We put the Mentos in the bottle and BOOM! In another lesson Randy put something (unidentified) in a test-tube, then he put some liquid in it, and they both reacted, then Randy lit the gas on fire and again BOOM!



### THE COOPER'S HAWK

by: Anna Kruse

There on the table, scanning and watching its environment was the lovely Cooper's Hawk. As the tree swayed the hawk's eyes glittered intelligently, his face showed bravery

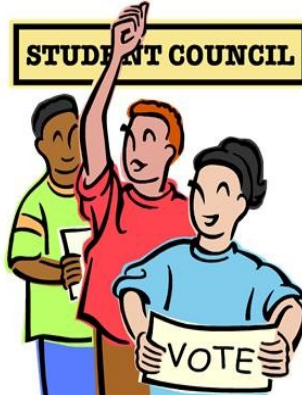
and keenness. His brilliant wings flared in the wind and his feather glistened on his golden underside, as he gave an unutterable glance of pure beauty.



## Lower Elementary Updates

### STUDENT ELECTIONS

Lower elementary students had their first experience this year with class elections. Students campaigned, gave great speeches, and had experience with both winning and losing. Elected officers will have many leadership opportunities during their term of office. Students serve until January, when all have another opportunity to campaign, present speeches, and elect new officers.



*The following students were elected by their peers:*

President	Cayce Cavett
Vice President	Blake Maas
Treasurer	Justus Williams
Secretary	Riley Reynolds
Sergeant at Arms:	Emma Curtis
	Max Smith
	Claire Curtis
	Samantha Katz
	Teddy Finley
	Meagan Montañó

### HOT DOGS

by: Torie

My Dad makes very good hot dogs. He uses mustard, onions, and pickles. You cannot snuggle with a hot-dog. Hot dogs can not talk. Hot dogs are not good without a bun. Lily has hotdog earrings. Hot dogs do not tell good jokes. Hot dogs are not made out of dogs!



## Dates to Remember

Oct. 28	U.E. & L.E. Halloween Parties
Oct. 31	International Day for Preschool/Kindergarten
Nov. 1	Don's class Open House 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	Pat's class and new U.E. Open House 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	Middle School Cycle 2 Assessments begin
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL
Nov. 15	Middle School Cycle 2 Immersion week
Nov. 15-16	Bake Sale and Pie orders taken
	On campus fundraising event for Middle School trip
Nov. 17-18	Land lab and sleepover for M.S.
Nov. 18	H.O.P.E. Meeting 3:15 in the middle school