

June 12, 2017

Principal Update

I hope your first weeks of summer break have been filled with fun and relaxation!

- **Science AIMS** results are in and we are thrilled! 100% of our 8th grade students met or exceeded the State Standards in Science, and 100% of our 4th grade students met or exceeded the State Standards in Science. (Only 8th and 4th graders take the test) The Parent copy was given out on the last day of school. If you didn't receive it or need a copy, please come to the office.
- **Report Cards:** If your child was in one of the classrooms that had a glitch in their report card printing, the report cards are now available at the office. If you do not pick them up by the end of the month, we will mail them to you.
- **The AZMerit** – Arizona's 3rd-8th grade Standardized test results are in to the school, but are embargoed. We scored above the state in all grade levels but one, the Language Arts portion, and in three out of six grade levels in Math. There were some excellent scores, such as 100% of our Algebra students met or exceeded state standards, but there were some low scores that I frankly have never seen before. We do feel that taking the test, for the first time, on the computer had an impact. It was reported that quite a few students rushed through the test and did not use their scratch paper. With the computer test it is the student who can press the END button, whereas with the paper test, the teacher can at least see if the student completed every problem! We are taking some time to look at each individual test and adjust our program to make sure we are covering every standard. We will also be adding more computer time to our program, in order for our students to feel more comfortable with the testing format. We will let you know when the individual score reports are ready for pick up. 3rd grade results were available previously and were given out the last day of school. If you did not receive it or need a copy, come to the office.
- **Summer Homework** for K-8 has been posted on the website [HERE](#). It is **required** to be completed by the first day of school, August 9th, or if in Middle School, by the goal-setting meeting before school starts. **Special Note:** Senior Elementary students are encouraged to get a Scottsdale Public Library Card this summer.
- **Middle School Homework:** Our Middle School students, as part of their homework, are required to raise money toward their first Land Lab (\$180). If you have any job opportunities for them, please let us know and we will pass along the information. The teachers will be checking Moby Max online. They may also be calling the students, so be prepared!
- **Middle School Students** will be leaving on their **first Land Lab to Prescott on August 9th – THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. It is extremely important that they all attend. They participate in many community building activities, set their goals and commitments as a class, and start their Middle School Journey. Permission slips (3) and a packing list can be found on the website at lower right margin [HERE](#). Please either email me the completed forms or drop them off in the office by July 31st.
- The **Supply Lists** for all Program Levels are also on our website [HERE](#).

- The **Toddler Program** welcomes back the amazing Emilie Washington (previously Lundy) to assist during the day with Ms. Carrico, Ms. Watts, and Ms. Barbara. She will also run the afterschool program with Ms. Andrea. It is a fabulous team!
- The **Early Education Program** welcomes two new indoor teacher assistants. Ms. Taylor (from Toddlers) will join Ms. Wylie (Keesha) in room 2. They will make a dynamic duo. Mariah Modzelewski, parent of two Montessori Academy students, will join Ms. Maher in room 1. We have been asking for her to join us for a while now and are thrilled to have her! Ms. Saifer and Ms. Tiffany are also returning for another fantastic year. Ms. Lisa will continue in the Outdoor Environment and will be joined by Rachel Martinka. Ms. Pam and Ms. Abigail will continue to offer support within the Early Education program.
- **Junior Elementary** teachers and assistants will remain the same. Mr. Martinka and Ms. Ashley in room 6, Ms. B and Ms. Taylor in room 7, and Ms. Schleypen and Mr. Matthew in room 8.
- **Senior Elementary** welcomes two new teacher assistants. Mackenzie Sproul will join Ms. Mo in room 10. She will graduate from ASU in December, bringing a lot of energy and passion for teaching and learning along with her. She comes from a family of teachers! (So do I). JJ Williamson will join Ms. Corbin in room 9. He recently graduated from ASU and has been working with younger students at another Montessori school. He loves teaching! He will also coordinate the Upper Level After School program with Lisa Wenzel, a long time Montessori certified substitute. Ms. Berkey and Ms. Kaila will also teach in and support the Senior Elementary Program.
- The **Middle School** said goodbye to Ms. Winters. who has moved to Colorado. We are happy to announce that Amanda Boucher will be joining the Middle School team. Ms. Boucher holds a degree in Mathematics and has an extensive background in teaching Elementary, Middle School, and High School students. She is excited to be able to create new experiences for the students and is a great addition to the Middle School Team. Ms. Kaila LaCroix will extend her expertise in writing and literature from the Senior Elementary to the Middle School Students. Ms. Gartner and Mr. Abe will continue to teach in and support the program. Ms. Gartner is attending a Montessori Secondary Education Certification Program this summer! Mr. Abe will make the Heroic Journey come alive!
- **Art Program:** Ms. Emily and Mr. Abe will continue to do an outstanding job with the Art Masters program and the culture classes. Middle School culture class time will be adjusted to allow for some additional electives, such as Journalism (Yearbook/Newspaper) and Technology classes.
- We are still working on updating and improving our Spanish Program and Music Program.
- **The Advisory Council is meeting on Saturday, June 17th from 8:00am to noon at Ms. Newman's home to work on the Strategic Plan (5 yr plan).** **ANYONE** (parents, grandparents, etc.) who is interested in putting their ideas into practice is welcome and encouraged to come. We start off with our major categories and then brainstorm ideas for the school – of course following the vision and mission of the school. It is fun and important. If you are interested in coming, please call the office or email me for the address.
- Mark your calendar for the **MANDATORY** Parent Orientation, Tuesday, August 8th. It is for BOTH returning and new parents. There will be a one-hour meeting at the Town Hall and a one-hour meeting in the classrooms. More detailed information will be published in July. You will also be able to register your students for after school programs; such as Chess Club, Swimming, Archery, Dance, Gymnastics, Art, and more.

- **Sign up to be a Room Parent** now. Classroom lists will be available at the office on June 15. Let me know if you are interested in continuing to be the Room Parent, or are interested in becoming a Room Parent. Co-Room Parents have been popular. The Room Parents work closely with the Lead Teacher, the Principal, and our Community Liaison. We are having a Room Parent Breakfast Saturday, July 8th from 9:00am – 10:30 at Juli Newman’s home. Evites will be sent to all interested Room Parents.
- The **Uniform Store** will be open on June 19 – July 14 for Fall orders. If you order during this time there is no shipping cost; your items will be delivered to the school and available for pick-up on Parent Orientation, August 8th. **Note: We will have our new Mountain Lion spirit wear t-shirts available in the uniform store. Students can wear them during the first three days of school and every Friday.**
- **SMART CAMPERS** – We resurfaced the small pool a year and a half ago. Last summer we had no problems with the pool. This year we have a mystery. Quite a few of our students are getting little cuts on their toes (one on their back). Our staff has walked the pool, touched the pool, and gone over it with their feet and hands with no cuts. We are trying to figure out what is going on! In the meantime, we ask that your child wear water shoes for their own protection. When we find out and can fix the issue, we will let you know immediately!
- **More Information:** Look for more information about the upcoming year and teacher welcome letters around the middle of July. Until then, please review our online presence as follows:
 - Website <http://www.montessoriacademyaz.org>
 - Official School Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/MontessoriAcademyAZ/>
 - Parent’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/260872724349336/>

Thank you,
Juli Newman, Principal ([Email Juli](#))