

**Parent Work Day**  
**Saturday, November 12th**  
**8:00am to 11:00am**

All parents are needed for fall trimming and general yard work to help "spruce up" your Montessori Children's House.

**How Does Our Garden Grow?**

Working with nature, both in and out of the classroom helps our Montessori students integrate scientific concepts with practical skills. In the classroom, children learn botany. In the garden they experience it in a very real hands on way. For many children this may be their only opportunity to share in the excitement of tending to and watching their own seedlings develop into beautiful flowers or vegetables.



When we learn about the parts of plants and their functions, children want to "see it happen". Just as observing something occurring in the garden or yard often stimulates the desire to understand what happened, why and how. We use math concepts to plan and plot our gardens and we use language and art to describe them.

Just as important, research is showing what the wise adult has always known - working and playing outdoors in nature is essential for the healthy growth of our children. It is also important for the "health" of our planet. Gardening is one of the best ways to instill in children a sense of love, respect and responsibility for nature's beauty, power and vulnerability.



**From the Elementary Side**

As we begin the new school year, we start our studies with the scientific theories of the beginning and early history of our Universe. We travel very quickly and are already at the times of the giant fern forests and the beginnings of the flowering plants. Most exciting for the students, we venture into the "Age of the Dinosaurs" before entering the Cenozoic and the Age of Mammals. Not neglecting human history- older students have begun a year long study of U.S. History and all students participate in a Living Timeline on Halloween portraying people who have impacted our history. Each child enjoys telling about "who they are"!

This year we study the human body. Starting with the cells which make up each tissue and organ and then the systems (e.g. circulatory, respiratory, digestive, urinary, muscular-skeletal, nervous, skin sense, etc.) and finally how they all work together. We learn about nutrition and the importance of a balanced diet in time to help us plan and prepare for our Thanksgiving Feast. We discuss the importance of physical exercise and adequate rest.

Our responsibility to take care of our bodies and our world are emphasized. Field trips or "going out" into our community supplement students' classroom lessons. In September we visited the Heard Museum; in October we spent a day at the Desert Botanical Garden; in December we plan a morning exploring the Mesa Museum of Natural History and after a picnic lunch we will visit the Mesa Museum for Youth. The last field trip of 2011 will be to the Cerreta Candy Factory in Glendale!!

Stay tuned to this space for further information on "our learning journey" in elementary.....



NOVEMBER '11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy B-Day Mia R.	2	3	4 Staff Workday	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Elementary Library Day	19
20	21	22 Happy B-Day An	23 Thanksgiving Break	24 Happy B-Day Abe Thanksgiving Break	25 Thanksgiving Break	26
27	28	29	30 Happy B-Day Seth			



DECEMBER '11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Elementary Field Trip Az Museum of Natural History Az Museum for Youth  All Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Elementary Library Day	10
11	12	13	14	15 Happy B-Day Mia W.	16 Elementary Field Trip Cerreta Candy Factory  1-3 pm	17
18	19 Christmas Break	20 Christmas Break	21 Christmas Break	22 Happy B-Day Madison Christmas Break	23 Christmas Break	24 Christmas Break
25 Christmas Break	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29 Christmas Break	30 Christmas Break	31