

# Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center

## Lower Elementary Newsletter

January 2015

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful break for the holiday.

Happy Birthday to Tyler who turns 7 on January 29<sup>th</sup>!

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in our holiday silent auction last month.

There is an open house scheduled for January 31, 2015. Dr. Arlene Taylor will be giving a lecture on "Parenting and The Brain". You won't want to miss it.

We will be starting cultural heritage in February. During this time we would like each family to participate by educating the class on where their family is from and perhaps a typical dish from your native land. There will be more to come as we refine this program.

---

### Month at a glance: January

We have started our 2015 Kindergarten Transition classes. We meet with our first group on Tuesdays and our second group on Wednesdays. We are having fun getting to know our new friends.

In addition to our Math and Language Arts individual lessons in the morning, our afternoons consist of a variety of activities. The month at a glance provides an overview of what we do in the afternoons, but is occasionally subject to change.

#### Science and Culture:

"The Eyes Have It!" We will be learning about our eyes through observations and hands-on activities. We will create our own optical illusions. We'll be answering questions such as: Who has the most amazing eyes in the world? How do our eyes even work? How have our eyes evolved?

The youngers will be learning about the Tree of Life as we continue along their geologic time-line.

The olders will be digging into The Renaissance time period as we continue along their civilization time-line.

During January we will study Martin Luther King Jr. and his message to the world.

From our living museum, we will learn some fun facts about our [blue Iguana, Azul](#).

### Art:

We are attempting our first self-portraits month during our “The Eyes Have It” month.

We’re going to learn how to draw different styles of eyes.

We will also try painting eyes with water color.

We will work with collage materials with a theme of eyes.

Fridays are mostly open art day.

Swiss chard is on the menu. We’ll be learning about this lovely vegetable, including tasting it raw and cooked.

### *AFTER-SCHOOL CORNER*

Science: We are covering geology and rock experiments. This will teach the children about rocks and the processes by which they change. Our geology experiments will create rocks and minerals with varying hardness. And who says that science doesn’t rock!

Art: We are working on our blue and red belts in our “Recorder Karate”, with new skills to assess. High-C through High-D and F# is to be covered as well as for the song “When the Saints Go Marching” and “Twinkle, Twinkle”.

Mandarin: The students will continue writing and speaking short conversations as well as learning Chinese arts and culture.

Culinary: Our budding culinary artists will be creating fun dishes, soups and desserts with winter veggies and fruits! Yum!

