

# Napa Valley Montessori November Newsletter

## Important Dates

Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

School closed for the Observance of Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Thankful-giving potluck for the primary classroom. Party will begin at 10:00AM

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Family heritage project and potluck gathering for the elementary class.

Party will begin at 10:00 AM

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Minimum day, noon dismissal.

No Childcare

November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

School closed for Thanksgiving



If your child has a persistent cough, fever and other flu like symptoms please keep your child home. Kindly remind your child to cough in their elbow and to frequently wash their hand with warm water and soap to prevent the spread of germs.

## Extra Clothes



Please check to make sure that your child has a full set of clothing in their cubby.

- 1 pair of socks
- underwear
- pants
- long sleeve shirt
- Jacket

## Thank You

We want to thank all of our parents for bringing in pumpkins and other supplies to class. The children had a great time with their pumpkin science experiments. From pumpkin volcanos, estimating how many seeds were in a pumpkin, tasting pumpkin seeds, cleaning pumpkins out and using descriptive words to describe a pumpkin the students all had a blast.

## SHOW & TELL

The Elementary class will be doing sharing day starting Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Every Friday, elementary students can bring in one special item that they would like to share with the class.

- Pictures
- Toys
- Art
- Etc.



## Heritage Project



Elementary students will be coming home with a heritage project to work on with their family Tuesday, November 12, 2019. This gives students the opportunity to learn about their family and their heritage. Students will put together a poster board sharing their family's heritage. The project is due November, 27<sup>th</sup> and the students will be presenting their projects to the class. Parents are welcome to see the presentations. After all of the presentation's students will then enjoy a thanksgiving pot luck feast with one another. We are asking all families to make a dish that represents their heritage.

## Thankful- Giving

The primary classroom will be doing a thanksgiving potluck. We are asking that each family bring in a favorite dish to share with the class. The pot luck is Friday, November, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The feast will begin at 10:00AM.

## Fire & Earthquake Drill



Fire & earthquake drill will take place the fourth week of each month. We will do fire drills, lock down drills and or earth quake drills monthly with the students.

## Reading

Please be sure that you are spending everyday reading to your child. Reading increases your child's vocabulary, develops comprehension and critical thinking skills, and it helps your child become a stronger reader. Spend at least 15 minutes reading books that your child loves!



## Elementary Homework

Although homework is optional, it is still great practice for the child. Homework consists of vocabulary and sight word practice, life skills, reading and meditation. Have your child practice homework every night, it should take no longer than 30 minutes.

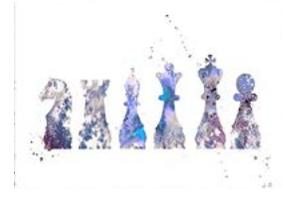


## Piano Lessons

We are now offering piano lessons. Piano lessons will start at 3:15 PM. 30-minute Piano lessons are offered Monday through Friday. Each lesson cost's 25 dollars for NVM student and 30 dollars for non NVM students. If your child is interest in piano lessons, please contact Lis for availability.

[Lis@napavalleymontessori.com](mailto:Lis@napavalleymontessori.com)

## Chess Club



We are in the process of putting a chess club together. We plan to launch the club in December. If you are interested please connect with Mr. Alvin. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

[Alvin@napavalleymontessori.com](mailto:Alvin@napavalleymontessori.com)



Just a friendly reminder to please write your child's name on the tags of their jackets, water bottles, Tupperware, and lunch bags. Many of our student's are coming to school with similar clothing and food items and we want to make sure that we keep all of their belongings together.



## Power Shut off & Fires

NVM family, we understand that many of you were impacted with the power outages and fires. It was not an easy decision to close the school for four days. However, if we ever feel that your child's health and or safety could be compromised we will take the extra steps necessary to close. We understand that this was a hardship for many of you, but we thank you for your patience, flexibility, understanding and support.

# Welcome

## Mr. Alvin I. Bautista Elementary Head Teacher & Community Outreach Coordinator

I was born and raised in Manila, the Philippines, where I studied in the oldest private boys' school, the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, founded in 1621 by the Dominican Province, Order of Preachers. I was an Academic Scholar, a student leader, peer counselor, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science, major in Psychology with Latin Honors, Summa Cum Laude, with the Highest Award for Excellence.



I served in the same institution as a faculty member in the Arts and Sciences Department, teaching Basic and Higher Psychology subjects, as well as Physiological Sciences. I was also prevailed upon to serve as Guidance Counselor for the entire collegiate department, eventually becoming the Chairman, National Capital Region, of the College Guidance Committee, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP).



With my wife, Jocelyn Sarreal, from the province of Cavite, we founded the pioneer individualized instruction and values integrated school in the Division of Cavite, offering preschool, grade School and high school (regular and the pioneer adult night high school). As a School Director and Chief Operating Officer, I was responsible for the over-all administration, management of the school, including curriculum planning, human resources development, training and counseling, marketing and promotions, as well as classroom teaching.

Migrating to the United States of America, our family settled in Vallejo, California. We brought our only daughter Agnes, who started Middle School in the county, eventually graduating as High School Salutatorian, and gaining admission to the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) as a full scholar. Agnes has won recognition for her art work and creative writing, winning the First Prize, and Honorable Mention in the Asia Pacific Fund's prestigious Art and Essay Competitions, the only local "Vallejoan" to accomplish the feat. She has also garnered successive Vallejo Unified School District Earth Day Art first prizes, eventually honored by the District for the distinction. Our two sons,

Jonathan Allen and John Andrew, remained in the Philippines to pursue their respective professional careers and vocation. Allen is a lawyer, former Student Debater and Orator, who as a mere high school freshman, reached the National Oratorical Competitions for the Water District; Andrei is completing his graduate studies at the University of Santo Tomas, and has earned his professional licensure as a teacher, and is a professed Dominican Brother of the Order of Preachers. His ultimate goal is to become an ordained priest of the same congregation.



Having loved teaching, the arts and literature, I continued this passion and joined Starting Gate School in Vallejo, a private K-12 educational institution. I was engaged as a classroom teacher, and eventually promoted as Head Teacher, until the year 2019, when the school ceased operations. Within those seven years, I was coordinator for the teacher resource center and library, developed curriculum and training programs, and crafted innovative enrichment programs beyond the regular academic offerings. Among the students I have mentored, a fifth grader, from a family of immigrants notched an outstanding first prize win in the Asia Pacific

Fund Essay competitions. Another middle schooler garnered the Second Prize for his art work for Vallejo's Earth Day last year. Several have received scholarships and recognition for their community participation and outreach endeavors.



I also set up a Chess education program, dubbed as Team Wesley, in honor of Grand Master Wesley So, the US Open National Champion, and just recently the newly crowned World Champion of FISHCER Random Chess, resoundingly defeating the formidable No. 1, Magnus. Wesley So has graciously acknowledged our support and we were privileged to receive his profuse thanks.



The opportunities presented that I have been fortunate enough to avail has deepened my passion for the arts, for writing and for literature. My poetry, Viandante, has been selected by the World Poetry Movement and published in its commemorative collection book. I have also been featured in the online magazines American Chronicle, World Sentinel and Riverside Chronicle for several nonfiction features and historical articles. One article, is prominently featured in the McCune Collection website, a biographical piece on its progenitor, Dr. Donovan McCune. Within the

same JFK Library, Solano Library in Vallejo, my art work, a tribute to my comic book heroes, the Avengers, is now featured in the Teen Section of the Library.

I continue to accept the challenge of renewing myself, nurtured by a lifelong interest in reading, drawing, poetry and the game of kings, chess. I have shared this passion with many talented boys and girls, encouraging them to read novels, fiction and nonfiction, study world history, play chess, express themselves in poetry and creative writing, drawing, composing and vlogging. At the same time, I still enjoy theatre, cinema and binge watch science fiction, drama, documentaries and anime, even the Broadway musicals on HBO, Netflix, Vudu and You Tube. I am an unabashed comic book fan, both of the Marvel and DC Universe, Avengers and Justice League alike, and enjoy sharing my passion with children Pokemon adventures, Miyazaki masterpieces and Japanese anime.



The greatest reward is receiving personal accolades, or even the widest smile, from having my art work to color and collect, or insights learned in my classrooms. Thanks to Facebook, I have touched base with many former students, their families from all over the world, a great number have become educators, professionals and parents themselves. Their tributes are as endearing and heartwarming

for a teacher like myself as they acknowledged my having inspired them, and as such I feel humbled, am truly thankful and enriched.

Picking up on what my favorite author, illustrator and major life influence Antoine de St. Exupery, from *The Little Prince*, about one's own rose, Sidney Jourard shared this gem I carry in my heart, "The fragrance of the rose always stays in the hand that gave the rose." I have given such roses, in the form of the wisdom I have been blessed to impart as teacher, mentor, coach, and to this day, I bask in the fragrance, in the uplifting spirit of a life well lived, priceless and unequalled. I still wish to give out roses, and like the Little Prince and his fox, be responsible for what you have tamed, in a manner of speaking.



In this new challenge working for a dynamic and committed leader, Josie Gerber, and a creative team at the Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center in American Canyon, sharing learning experiences with a vibrant batch of students, as well as with committed, supportive families, I look forward to fun, adventure and high spirits, a whole new world of learning, discovered and powers unleashed.

**Carpe Diem!**



## Elisabeth Steinfeld

Head Primary Teacher  
&  
Enrichment Coordinator.

I was born in the midwest, but grew up in Norway where I spent most of my life up until the age of 5. I only spoke Norwegian until preschool where I learned to speak English (Admittedly with a little help from Sesame Street) so I have a strong Norwegian background. My own preschool experience of having to adjust and acclimate to a new language and new culture helped ignite an already budding natural love of learning, teaching, and curiosity.



I continued my studies receiving my bachelor's degree at Lesley University in Cambridge Mass. studying English, Writing, and Education. After school, I continued studies abroad in London and throughout Europe. This afforded me the opportunity to teach English as a second language to children and adults as well as implementing various techniques for teaching and translating English literature. I have been working with children for close to 20 years now and have the joy and honor of being a mother to my 4-year-old daughter. Starting as a Day Camp Counselor in High School

and eventually taking over as Site Director, I taught pre-school age children as well as adults in both the academic and professional settings internationally. I have worked with Houghton Mifflin educational publishing instructional textbooks and curriculum, and most recently taught local at-risk youth and children in need.



Through my academic, professional, and personal lives communicating across unusual boundaries has always been a strength of mine and working with children has always been a part of that.

# Goodbye

It is with Great sadness to inform you that I will no longer be with Napa Valley Montessori. I have to continue my educational and career journey in Social Work. It has been an amazing journey and wonderful experience at NVM. I have learned a lot from the students! I am incredibly honored to be your child's teacher. It has been very rewarding to see their smiles and receive so much love from them. I loved watching how much they learn and grow every day. I have grown to love and appreciate every single one of my students. I also want to thank all of my parents for entrusting me with your child. In the most important years of their lives. I will cherish and remember all the great moments that we have had together. I wish nothing but the best to all of my students, parents, and the rest of the NVM family. Although it's a goodbye for now I will still come by to say hello during special events.

Ms. Reina

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

A.A Milne



We will have a special Good-Bye Circle for Ms.  
Reina Friday, November 15, 2019.



