



ALL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2024

A Message From the Head of School

Happy New Year!

I am happy to be joining the Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center family. Please feel free to stop by the office, and say "hello"--and if you would like to schedule a phone appointment with me, I would be so happy to speak with you--just ask.

I have many years experience working in the field of early childhood education--from teacher's aide to school director, to non-profit founder. As a former member of the San Jose City Council's Early Care and Education Commission, I was able to help create and implement policies that would help children from birth to age eight in the city of San Jose. I am now happy to work in ECE in my new community. I have also been trained in the Montessori philosophy and will enjoy getting back to it on a regular basis. Also, as the holder of a clinical psychology doctorate, I have worked with patients of all ages, including children and youth in all types of settings.

Here at Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center, we will be seeing a lot of happy changes-- such as adding to our primary school programming, creating a high quality "all school" after-school program, and adding a lot more amazing Montessori inspiration to our elementary school --all of this will be happening here during the next few months. We are so excited to get started! Let me know what you would like to see happen!

Please note the new monthly lesson plans that will be sent to everyone (and posted on our parent board). We will be using these plans as guides and we'd love to see our families participate by bringing in books or materials to use as we go along. Thank you Ms. Savannah for the hard work that you put into the lesson planning. And thank you Ms.C for finishing your course to become a "fully qualified" teacher! We will be doing an "all school" project at the end of every month--taken right from the lesson plans-- with the elementary group coming on over so that we can bring more of a cohesive feeling to our primary/elementary groups. We're looking forward to having Mr. B join us then...and possibly even join us in the after-school program we hope to implement in the primary area very soon! We're a team with a lot of plans!

When you meet me the mask is obvious (lol)--and no, I'm not ill--just the opposite. I will continue to mask--especially during the months of November through April-- and in congregate settings, because I really do care about keeping others safe. We have also added new air purifiers (a big thank you to Josie and Kevin!) to our classrooms because of the RSV, Flu and Covid 19 challenges all schools are facing right now. Keeping everyone safe from these illnesses just makes sense. I wish you the best of health in the new year.

Again, I am happy to be here--and my door is always open. I am looking forward to a wonderful 2024!

Ms. Theresa
Head of School

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Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful and safe Winter Break! We are so happy to have all of our students back at school and look forward to learning all about the biome Antarctica in the month of January.

You will see this month's curriculum posted in our Primary and Elementary classrooms. We have some great activities planned, so be sure to ask your student questions about what they have learned in school and discuss your own knowledge to help foster their learning.

Please be sure to introduce yourselves to our new Head of School, Dr. Theresa, who you may see throughout the week during drop-off and pick-up. Take a moment to read her message and ask her any questions you may have. We are excited to have her join our NVM community!

Finally, please check your mailbox and the Lost & Found bucket at the entrance and take home any items belonging to your child.

Ms. Savannah
Assistant Head of School



Reminders

- **Sick:** COVID, Flu & RSV are high in numbers right now, so please help us keep our school community safe by keeping your student home if they are sick. **They must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.** However, fevers are not the only indicator of illness, so if students are noticeably tired & unproductive in school you may receive a call for them to go home. **(Masks are encouraged)**
- **Clothing:** Please dress your student appropriately for the weather conditions, check their extra clothes if new clothing is needed, and check the Lost & Found for any clothing belonging to your student.
- **Shoes:** Open-toes shoes and shoes with laces are **not permitted** due to the potential trip hazard.
- **Donations:** We are currently seeking book donations! Books can be new or used in good condition & related to our monthly theme: Antarctica & Arctic Animals. Some examples are Winter, Snow, Penguins, Polar Bears, Arctic Fox, Arctic Seals, Walrus, etc. and must be age appropriate 2-6 years old. Thank you in advance for your contributions to our school!

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Monthly Themes

Math: Identify and form numbers

Counting by 10's

Language: Identify and form letters

Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee

Geography: Antarctica

Motor Skills: Playdough, scissors, tweezing, sorting, yoga, body movements

School Project: At the end of this month, all of our students from Primary and Elementary will come together during class to make an Antarctica Mosaic that will be displayed for parents to see. We are excited for our students of mixed ages to come together, learn from each other and create something based on their learning that they can be proud of.

Important Dates

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 - Winter Break
(School Closed)

Jan. 3 - School Resumes

Jan. 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (School Closed)

Birthdays

Jan. 9 - Lucio turns 4

Jan. 14 - Elijah turns 5

Jan. 24 - Ava turns 4

Jan. 28 - Nikolas turns 3



Curriculum

This month all of our students will be learning about the biome Antarctica.

Please view the attached Lesson Plans to see all of our exciting learning activities. They are also posted in the Primary and Elementary classrooms.

If you would like to help contribute to our lessons by providing books and/or materials, feel free to reach out to your student's teacher.

