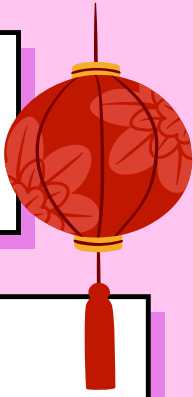


# ALL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2024



## A Message From the Head of School

Dear Families-

Welcome to February!

As a Montessori school, we don't send a lot of "work" home. The work and learning your child does, happens in the moments that happen on any given day. Please trust that the children are learning their letters, numbers, decision making skills, sensory work, memory work, puzzles, etc. They are read to twice a day or more often, and they enjoy listening to music during lunch and at nap time as well. One of the biggest things children learn in a Montessori environment is how to collaborate. They learn to listen, ask for what is needed, proceed with a plan....all are so important in any person's life. And it starts early. Collaboration leads to tolerance which leads to understanding. The world needs more of this. This school is changing. Slowly, yes, but changing for the better. And we are once again becoming a Montessori inspired school. We are well aware that the past several months have been difficult for the school and families—with all of the turnover, and the challenges that can cause. Savannah, Citlalli, and Mr.B are committed to remaining at NVM, because they are already seeing the benefits of doing what needs to be done for these children—and doing it "right". And because we are making the effort to change—things are actually falling into place. It is wonderful to see.

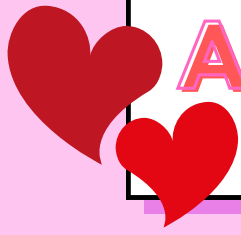
Children in our primary school can range in age from 2.5 to age 6. In fact our primary is licensed for these ages. We are prepared to work with these mixed ages, because that IS Montessori. Children who are able to be here until age 6 will thrive in an environment of mixed ages—where they are taught what they need to learn—with the guidance of the teachers they are with. The older children do help with the younger children and this teaches them kindness, caring, and empathy. And the younger children always know they have someone who will be there for them.

There have been changes—and will be more— in Mr. B's room, and we are working to make the room and the teaching— Montessori inspired. Currently, we are doing what we can to make this happen and we are sharing our curriculum throughout the rooms. My expectation is that the primary and elementary will be doing the same curriculum going forward. We are doing what is necessary in order to remain a Montessori inspired school. We are working toward making long-lasting changes in order to benefit the children—and the staff as well. We hope to have an Open House in March or April —and at that time have you sign up for summer school 2024 and school year 2024–2025. I will keep you posted in regard to the date and time. And.... we want to welcome Dr. Wen! Wendy Mustain has a Ph.D in Curriculum and Instruction—and is a long time educator. She has taught kindergarten through college (as an associate professor). She is a grandmother of two, an animal lover (with a dog named Maxx) and an all around caring human being. She also has a sense of humor that will get her through even the toughest of days. We are so lucky to have her here! Again, change is a good thing, and I do hope you will see and note the differences as we go along.



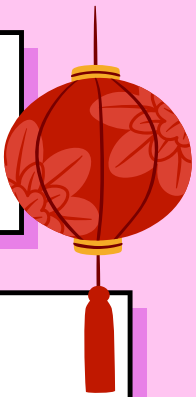
Dr. Theresa  
Head of School





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## Monthly Themes & Lesson Goals

This month our lesson goals will center around several important themes and holidays during the month of February: **Lunar New Year, Black History, Valentine's Day and Dental Health Awareness.** We are excited for the various projects that our students will create and knowledge to take home this month.

February 14th is Valentines Day, and we will be celebrating by having our students decorate bags and gift each other "Valentine's" to go home at the end of the day. **We have 30 students in class for our Valentine sharing.**

**Practical Life:** Cleaning up

**Math:** Identify and form numbers

Counting by 10's

**Language:** Identify and form letters Ff,

Gg, Hh, Ii, Letter sounds for A-Z, Sand

Paper Letters

**Motor Skills:** Playdough, scissors, pasting, tweezing, sorting, yoga



## 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 daily weather conditions, and check their cubby for extra clothes and replace them if new clothing is needed.
- **Shoes:** Open-toes shoes and shoes with laces are **not permitted** due to the potential trip hazard.

## Important Dates

**Feb. 14** - Valentine's Day

**Feb. 19** - Presidents' Day

**(School Closed)**

**Feb. 29** - Picture Day

## Birthdays

**Feb. 10** - Edwin turns 3