



# KIVA KIDS

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From the Desk of Ms. Susan

What an amazing week it was. Watching the students get excited to share their works with their families. Having them get excited over books at the Book Fair. What a great deal of fun we had this week.

As we head in to the final week before Fall Break, we have quite a few things going on. The PTO will be meeting Tuesday evening at Trinity Lutheran Church, and Stone Soup is Thursday evening. This is an event not to miss.

Our teachers participated in some amazing Professional Development the previous Friday. It was the third webinar in a three webinar series on Positive Discipline. This last one was probably the most interesting and the most immediately useful webinar. I am excited to see how these suggestions are integrated even more fully into the classrooms.

As always if you have questions or suggestions please feel free to call me on my cell at (970) 759-5869 or email me at [susan.likes@kivacharter.org](mailto:susan.likes@kivacharter.org).

## A Note From Your Board of Directors

Thursday evening, members of both the E/M S and the Children's House Boards met together for a productive, motivating friend-raising

## Kiva's Week at a Glance Five Day Week for Students

**Monday, November 13th - Children's House Board Meeting - 5:00 - Empire Campus**

**Tuesday, November 14th - Kiva Cafe' 7:30 - 7:45 - Beech Campus**  
**PTO Meeting - Trinity Lutheran Church - 5:30 pm**

**Wednesday, November 15th - Early Release - 1:15PM**

**Thursday, November 16th - Kiva Cafe' 7:30 - 7:45 - Beech Campus**  
**5:30 - Stone Soup - Montezuma County Annex**

**Friday, November 17th - Kiva Cafe' 7:30 to 7:45 - Beech Campus**

## Stone Soup

Stone Soup. An annual event

Families, please join us for *Stone Soup on Thursday, November 16th at 5:30pm at the County Annex Building*. This year, we are excited to share this event with the Elementary-Middle School Program's Fall Gallery, featuring Art, Peace Studies and



training. We discuss why people donate to charitable organizations and ways to share the great things happening at our schools. We talked about how our schools differ from others and shared anecdotes that illustrate our schools' positive impact in the lives of children.

As the training wrapped up, we wrote six-word-stories that capture the essence of education at the charter school and Children's House. Here are two: "Idea. Executed. Presented. Satisfied. Move on!" and "Co-operative, rigorous, self-directed wholistic education."

We invite you to join us in our friend-raising/fund-raising campaign to raise \$20,000 for the Children's Kiva Montessori School's arts department. As you consider your year-end donations to charitable organizations, think about how much of your contribution goes to support the cause versus how much goes to support the fund-raising machinery. Whether your family contributes \$10, \$25, or \$100, the entire amount stays in our school to benefit your children! Allow your extended family members to pitch in, as well! Thank you for the many ways you support our school.

## Book Fair Wrap Up

Thank you to all who helped make the Book Fair a huge success! Thank you for supporting the Lunch with a Loved One and visiting the Fair with your child. Thank you for providing good homes for over 250 books. Thank you for helping with the sales and for working behind the scenes. The school earns Scholastic Dollars to buy books, supplies and furnishings. So far, the school has earned about \$1,000 in Scholastic Dollars, 40% of sales. With \$10 more online sales that percentage will increase to 55%. If you didn't make it to the fair, or if you wanted more books, please shop the online book fair before Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Your efforts are truly appreciated, and we look forward eagerly to our next Fair!

## Montessori Tidbit

Montessori stresses discipline, which is not obedience but self-discipline. Self-discipline is an active discipline that children develop through repeated, intentional practice in an appropriately organized environment. This is especially true at the primary level (ages 3-6) where children are engaged in mastering their minds and bodies. Dr. Montessori said that normalization (self-discipline and better social behavior), "... comes about through 'concentration' on a piece of work. . . .The essential thing is for the task to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality." This is why teachers often create works that match the child's interest. Once the

more. PTO has a fabulous Silent Student Art Auction lined out that will occur during this event.

*We are counting on Family support to make this event successful. Please click [here](#) to sign up online.*

What is "STONE SOUP"? There are many different interpretations of the folktale "Stone Soup". We read a version written by Jon J Moth. In this story, three monks are traveling the countryside when they happen upon a village that has suffered from famine, war, and floods. The villagers are very wary of the strangers. A curious little girl approaches the monks and the story begins. In the end, the villagers and the monks enjoy a glorious feast together that they create when the villagers slowly emerge from their homes with one or two items to contribute to the pot. After every family adds just one item there is eventually a huge pot of food for all to share. As the monks leave, the villagers thank them and tell them "with the gifts you have given, we will always have plenty. You have shown us that sharing makes us all richer." This story is a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of the holiday season and the idea of giving. We have many conversations around giving, generosity and sharing; how it makes us feel, how it makes others feel, and what it brings to our lives. We will be asking the children to bring in an item, (i.e.: a few carrots, a bag of pea pods, a couple of potatoes, garlic, bouillon, meat etc.), for our soup. It's always an adventure to see what is created, and it's always a yummy lesson in community and the spirit of trust and cooperation. We do not organize what is brought in, we may end up with a broth potato soup, or a hearty vegetable stew! **PLEASE** Come join us to celebrate this special event!

Celebrating Stone Soup is a good time to introduce community giving on a larger scale to our young friends; we request that families bring a non-perishable food item in addition to Stone Soup items the evening of the event. We were able to collect several boxes of food that were donated to the Good Samaritan Food Bank in Cortez. We hope to exceed last year's giving.

## 1st Annual Children's Kiva Art Auction

Children's Kiva Montessori School 1st Annual Silent Art Auction. Featuring art from students and local artists! COME JOIN US! Auction will be conducted from 5:30 to 6:30pm during the Stone Soup Event. (Auction hosted by PTO. All proceeds benefit Children's Kiva.)

### A Peek Forward - Save these important Dates

- November 14th, PTO Meeting - 5:30pm - Trinity Lutheran Church
- November 16th, Stone Soup - 5:30pm - Montezuma County Annex Building
- November 20th to November 24th - Fall Break
- November 27th - Health and Wellness Committee Meeting - 10am Beech Campus
- December 1st - 10am - Fundraising Committee Meeting
- December 1st - 1:30pm - Nomination and Board Development Committee - Cortez Library
- December 2nd - 9am to 12 noon - Substitute Teacher Orientation
- December 5th - School Accountability Committee - 4:00pm - Beech Campus
- December 5th - Montessori Philosophy Night focusing on the Upper Elementary Classroom - 6:00pm - Beech Campus
- December 11th - Children's House Board Meeting - 5:00 - Empire Campus
- December 12th - PTO Meeting - 5:30pm - Trinity Lutheran Church
- December 14th - Winter Program - 6:00pm - MCHS Auditorium
- December 18th - CKMS Board Meeting - 5:30pm - Beech Campus
- December 21st - January 5th - Winter Break

## November Service Project

child has directed their focus to tasks they find riveting and concentration has become a habit of mind, they are then able to direct attention to things others want them to focus on (lessons and presentations in elementary school).

Along with regulating and focusing their minds, to become disciplined children in Montessori primary classes learn to control their bodies. This happens with and through purposeful activities and materials that help a child begin to control and refine their bodily movements. Placing the knobbed cylinders quietly and carefully on the table rather than dropping them or slamming them down, walking conscientiously around rugs and shelves rather than running, and scooping rice from one bowl to another are all ways the young child strengthens their command of their body.

Children who spend three years in the primary environment most often exhibit a graceful, effortless control of their bodies as well as a healthy attention span and a strong focus. After children can deliberately control their minds and bodies, we can expect them to act in harmony with our community rules and expectations. As a public Montessori school we have students who did not have the invaluable experience of three years in a primary Montessori class, and they continue in their basic development of control over mind and body. As they gain mastery of themselves, their understanding of and contribution to the learning community will grow. In the words of Dr. Montessori, "We claim that an individual is disciplined when he is the master of himself and when he can, as a consequence, control himself when he must follow a rule of life."

I hoped you all received your information about Heifer International and the Read-a-thon that we are participating in all month. If you have any questions, please call or email. I would be happy to answer them for you.

## The Importance of Math

- Give children opportunities to connect math concepts to prior experience and relevant situations. For example, reinforce measurement concepts by having students compare the height of siblings, or the weight of their book bags when empty and full. Have students first estimate measurements (e.g., how many books the bag can hold, how much taller John is than Matt); then solve exact measurements.)
- Identify topics that would be of interest to your children, such as building a skateboard ramp, or a birdhouse, , etc., and explore the mathematical relationships or concepts related to these topics. Have them help you figure out the measurements for a recipe if you want to make a double batch.