



Caurus Academy Newsletter

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Message from Mrs. Rides, Director

Rhonda Rides

I would like to take this chance to thank all of you that have helped to put on our first ever Scholastic Book Fair. Ms. Rayna Clark is leading this major undertaking, but has needed, and asked for many helpers along the way. I am so impressed to see all of the people (parents, teachers, and grandparents) that have volunteered their time to come and assist us in this event. We truly could not have done this without all of your support. This is a great example of our school community coming together for the benefit of our students. If you have not signed up to volunteer, and would like to do so, there is a sign-up sheet in the front office. If you would like to stop by the book fair as a shopper, you are more than welcome to do that too!

Book Fair March 22nd – 26th

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place the week of March 22nd – 26th following Spring Break. The hours will be:

Monday – Wednesday: 8AM – 4PM
Thursday: 8AM – 8PM
Friday: 8AM – 1PM

There are books, DVDs and games for all ages. Please stop by!

News from Suite C – Gr. K/1 Mr. Lance and Ms. Cynthia

Spring is just around the corner and we're looking forward to warming up and drying out. We hope everyone enjoys Spring Break and returns to school refreshed and ready!

We've recently been learning to write research papers, including finding facts about familiar desert animals. The children have also been introduced to Venn diagrams, discussing similar characteristics of items and using that information to categorize. We continue to work towards mastery of place value, focusing on the ones and tens place.

We'll see you soon for Parent/Teacher Conference. Please be sure to stop in at our Book Fair. The children are really excited about it!

Important Dates – March 2010/April 2010

Clubs

March 22nd – 26th – Book Fair

March 25th – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Half-Day – Early Release – 12PM

March 26th – Half-Day – Early Release – 12PM

April 2nd – Spring Holiday – No School

April 12th – 16th – AIMS testing – Grades 3 – 8

April 19th & 20th – Stanford 10 testing – Grade 2

April 21st – 23rd – Test make-up days

April 29th – Science Fair – 6–7PM

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News from Suite D – K/1

Ms. Debbie and Mr. Cadmus

Spring is just around the corner! Where has the year gone? We began the month of March by learning about the author, Dr. Seuss. Many of his books were read in class, followed by related activities. After we read, *Cat in the Hat*, the children made their own *Cat in the Hat* hats. Next, we read, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and afterwards we enjoyed a snack of pretend green eggs and ham.

In Math, the kindergarten students are learning how to add four digit numbers by using the golden bead materials, stamp game and addition strip board. The first graders are working on adding four digit numbers with exchanging, subtracting with exchanging using the Montessori materials. The children are learning how to tell time. It is amazing to see the children blossom and to see the Montessori works in action.

In Language, all the children are reading and writing sentences using the moveable alphabet. They are all practicing their writing skills in their journals daily and refining both manuscript and cursive skills.

Thank you to all parents who have volunteered in our class. The children love having their parents come into our class and help. If you would like to volunteer, we would love your help.

News from Suite E – K/1

Ms. Lara and Ms. Suzanne

We hope everyone is enjoying Spring Break and the extra time spent with their families. We are looking forward to Parent/Teacher Conferences and having the opportunity to talk with each of you regarding your wonderful children!

We've recently started our study of mammals. Not only will we learn nomenclature of the parts of the cat, cow, whale and dolphin, but we will study and allow the students to research and draw various types of land and sea mammals. There is a lot that goes into drawing animals. The students will need time and energy to master the botany or zoology lessons before they are allowed to extend the activity into the artistic realm.

In Geography, we will next focus on Asia. We will begin by reviewing the puzzle map of Asia and then we will explore the area more deeply by introducing the flags of the continent, as well as discussing its resources.

As a reminder, please be sure to have a spare change of clothing in your child's cubby at all times. The weather will be heating up soon so please help your child remember to bring a water bottle to school each day. We've had too many beautiful works ruined by spilled water in the cubbies so we've found that bottles work much better for us than cups. Thank you for your cooperation.
Happy Birthday to Matthew and Nate!

Dress Code Reminders

- Powder blue or white collared shirt (with sleeves)
- Solid navy bottom
- Close-toed shoes

Students must be in dress code while at school. If not, phone calls will be made to parents to either bring appropriate items – for the first offense – or to be sent home or in-school suspended for multiple offenses.

Clubs for March/April

The last month for our after school clubs will be April. The clubs will actually begin the last week of March. Be on the look-out for a flier on the club schedules.

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News from Suite G – Grade 2/3

Ms. Rayna and Ms. Carrie

Brielle Dotson (Fifth Grade) and Katherine Shewmaker (Fourth Grade) auditioned and were accepted into the Pro Musica Arizona Youth Choir. Congratulations to these talented musicians, and good luck in your performances!

In our Montessori environment, we are continually working towards being a self-sufficient entity. We have been using Classroom Community Service so that we can all see how each individual contribution affects the classroom. There have been days where the contributions have been great. There have been other days where contributions have been minimal. Either way, we have gotten a very good idea of the impact that each individual has on our controlled environment.

News from Suite H – Grade 2/3

Ms. Tracy and Ms. Caroline

It has been a wonderful month for our class. Students have been working hard preparing for spring tests. Third graders have been working with fractions including creating common denominators, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions. Second graders have been working on reading charts and graphs, money word problems, and multiplying.

As a class we have been reading the novel *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. We have also started a class auction. Students earn “class bucks” for good behavior and completed work. Each Friday students count the money they’ve earned and can bid on prizes (like cupcakes or small toys) and privileges (like pretzel breaks or extra free choice time). It has been successful in motivating students to work hard and they seem to be really enjoying the auction.

I would like to thank the parents who have donated items to the auction. We can only do the auctions with your support. Your generosity is really appreciated! I would also like to thank those parents who have donated supplies for the classroom.

Car Line Safety Reminder

Please use caution when driving through the parking lot and in the street in front of the school. As the weather turns warmer we tend to have more students walk or ride their bike so please remember to keep an eye out for their safety.

In an effort to further ensure your student’s safety, we ask that if you are using the walk-up gate, please park to the north of the coned off area and escort your child to the gate using the sidewalk. You are welcome to continue to use car line as well. Thank you for your cooperation!

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News from Suite I – Grade 2/3

Ms. Nicole , Ms. Julia, & Ms. Barrie

Happy March! There are a few changes taking place in room 110A this month. We have welcomed Ms. Barrie as a new helper to our classroom on Mondays and Fridays. Ms. Julia has been offered a great opportunity with a Phoenix based company and will only be able to stay with us part time. Although we are very sad to see her go, we are excited about her new adventure.

In spite of the changes taking place, we continue to thrive as a classroom and as individuals. We are working hard in all subject areas, and are excited to start our Science Fair projects after spring break. We look forward to meeting with you at conferences to share all of your child's many accomplishments..

Thank you to those who have sent in classroom and money market donations, and to our weekly classroom helpers. We appreciate everyone's support and the opportunity to work with your child.

News from Suite F – Grade 4

Ms. Lauren

Our fourth grade class has been working very hard in all of our subjects! Long division, fractions, interesting stories, and the Science Fair are some of the major undertakings we have going right now. I am very proud of the hard work and dedication all of the students have shown lately! Some students are running low on supplies such as loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils, and red grading pens. If you can donate a little extra, it would be much appreciated!!!

As I mentioned, the Science Fair is coming up soon (April 29th). I know that does not seem very soon, but if an experiment is going to take a couple weeks to complete, time is of the essence! I am incredibly excited to see how some of the wonderful ideas I have heard from students are going to turn out!! If you have any questions or need any help with the Science Fair experiments, please do not hesitate to call me at school or email me at: lwalkenhorst@azmontessori.org.

News from Suite A – Grade 5/6

Ms. Kelsall and Ms. Barrie

Ms. Kelsall's class is very excited about Spring Break after studying hard in this last quarter. We continued working on our daily Math drills and have started preparing for the AIMS testing that is coming up in April.

Our students are really growing as writers as we follow the Great Books curriculum and practice writing a reflective essay every week! Everybody has improved their spelling and punctuation skills. Our new vocabulary activity is the Vocabulary Volleyball game. In social studies, we have completed study of the Civil War – with a special test that the students enjoyed and all passed with high grades!

After Spring Break we will be organizing a parent-student night out at the Arizona Opera! The performance will be of the Barber of Seville on Friday, April 23. Save the date!

We hope everyone has a safe and fun Spring Break!

Six Pillars of Character

The Character Counts trait for March is **Respect**. All of our educators presented lessons and discussed with their students, the importance of **Respect** in becoming a good person. The Character Counts trait for April is: **Responsibility**. We hope that you will discuss with your children these important pillars of character at home.

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News from Suite B – Middle School Mr. Dotson

The Middle School students are sliding right into spring. Our seventh graders have completed their study of the Civil War and have created websites about Civil War inventions. They will now be moving on to the westward expansion of the U.S. The eighth graders are delving into the Cold War era if U.S. History.

In Science, we will be starting a joint Spanish project on heredity that will that will require the use of family pictures to create a map of how traits are passed on from generation to generation. We are also exited about the upcoming Science Fair.

We have upgraded to a new website thanks to our Caurus Chronicle team: <http://caurus.weebly.com>. The website has updated home work and links to some of the student's work.



Ms. Debbie's working on colors in Art class

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