

MONTESSORINEWS

SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Our mission is to prepare students to become citizens with a global perspective and to enrich their academics and social awareness within a Montessori environment.

! Parent Action Item

RE: Returning Completed Enrollment Forms

- We would like 100% participation in getting these forms returned to the school.
- The enrollment forms are critical for our school planning for next year.
- You can help us by returning your completed form to the school as soon as possible.



Events Calendar

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| 1/30 | Grade 3/4 Battle of the Books |
| 1/31 | Grade 5/6 Battle of the Books |
| 2/6 | Early Release Day (2:00) |
| 2/7-8 | Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| 2/11 | Montessori Orientation (5:30) |
| 2/15 | School Assembly (9:00) Mrs. Holt's Class Hosts |
| 2/22 | Lottery Application Deadline (3:00) |
| 3/7 | NAEP Testing—4th Graders |
| 3/8 | End of 3rd Quarter (No School) |
| 3/11-15 | Spring Break (No School) |
| 3/19 | APC Meeting (5:30) |
| 3/25-4/12 | PEAKS State Assessment Window |

2019-2020 School Enrollment

Today's Thursday folder contains another 2019-2020 Enrollment Questionnaire for families who have not turned one in yet. This questionnaire provides us with critical information for planning and preparing for next year. We are looking for every family to complete this form and send it back to us. The form seeks to understand if you intend to re-enroll your child in our school or plan to enroll siblings who do not currently attend.

School Lottery Closes on February 22

Please encourage friends and neighbors to enroll in our lottery if they have an interest in joining our fabulous Montessori school family next year. The deadline to apply is February 22 @ 3:00 p.m.

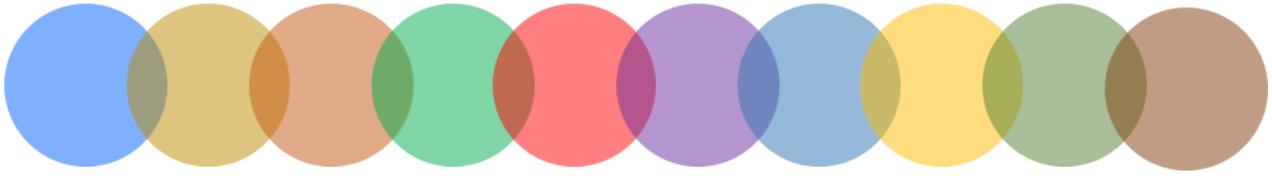
Conferences Are Just Around the Corner

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on February 7th & 8th. We always enjoy meeting with families and spending time discussing your student's progress. We look forward to your participation. We had positive feedback on our use of the online conference sign up and will be using this method again for scheduling conferences. The online sign up is now available.

Book Fair & SMCS PTO

SoEl is holding a book fair the week of conferences, February 4-8, and of course our school and students are encouraged to participate. Funds generate from the book fair are going to be applied to the ongoing effort to secure some new playground apparatuses. The PTO has sent home a sign up form for interested parents to help staff the book fair. Please contact the SoEl PTO representative named on that form for more information. It is nice when our schools are able to work together and develop connections; this is yet another opportunity to do so.





Spelling Bee

If your 3rd – 6th grade student would like to participate in our school spelling bee, please return the form that was sent in last week’s Thursday folder or pick up a new form in the office. The winner of our school bee will go to Anchorage to compete in the State Spelling Bee. Students who have returned a permission slip will be able to meet on Mondays, during lunch, for practice with Ms. Sanders, who will be visiting the school to help with the Spelling Bee.

Ice Rink Update

Last Friday was our first day on the ice rink at recess; it went very well. We will continue with our plan to open the rink for use, during lunch, on Wednesdays and Fridays for students in grades 1-6. Soldotna Elementary made the effort to get the ice rink up and going, but is asking for assistance with ice maintenance. SoEl has a list started of parents who are willing to volunteer their time to maintain the ice rink. Please contact the school if you are able and willing to help maintain the ice.

State Testing Notice

March 25-April 12 is the testing window for the PEAKS state assessments. It is very important that all students are able to participate, so please schedule absences and family trips around these dates. Data from all of our students is helpful in reviewing our school academic program.

Montessori School Program Notes

In Montessori education, there aren’t rewards and punishments. Maria Montessori believed in the child’s inner need to do productive work. Sensitive periods provide an internal urge and stronger reinforcement than any rewards or praise could do.

“The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one’s self. Adults work to finish a task, but the child works in order to grow, and is working to create the adult, the person that is to be.” Maria Montessori

Montessorians don’t give children lavish praise. The child’s work is highly valued in Montessori education, and praise that is given is typically specific praise emphasizing effort. “You really worked hard at that.” “You did that activity four times in a row!” In an article on Maria Montessori, Bobby and June George give the idea of saying simply, “You did it!”

Montessorians try to give encouragement, rather than praise. When praise is given, it is descriptive, rather than evaluative. Instead of saying, “You’re a good boy,” a Montessorian might say, “It really helped when you put away all the dishes.”

Text taken from livingmontessorinow.com

Mr. D.’s Thoughts

Have you ever noticed the welcoming environment of our school? As the administrator, I receive this sort of feedback fairly regularly from visitors to our school. The other day, we had a prospective family come to visit. While they were here, they visited 3-4 locations within the school. I noted our staff members greeted the family and engaged them in conversation. Often our aides are the ones who facilitate this welcoming environment, as they assist students in the hallway or complete prep work for their classroom in the office.

Mrs. Gibbons also provides an incredibly kind greeting to everyone at our school, which is a gift we receive from her everyday. Of note, we received a comment from our last survey that she provides “white glove” service to our families.

This year, I have had visitors from around the state comment specifically about the welcoming atmosphere of the school. It comes from the staff and also from our students; they too share in providing a friendly smile, wave, or greeting.

It is good to be a part of a school that receives positive comments and acknowledgement as being a friendly and kind school. At Soldotna Montessori Charter School, kindness IS cool!

