

# 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.**

## Spelling Bee

If your 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesdays during lunch for practice with Mrs. Sanders, who will be visiting the school to help with the Spelling Bee.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Fundraiser

The PTO is highlighting a 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Fundraiser which will begin on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will continue through February 9th. Students may bring in 100 pennies and deposit them in our collection jug in the office to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Of course, other change is welcome, and the funds raised will go toward purchasing playground equipment, which will be placed in recognition of Mrs. Brewer who retired this year.

## 2018-2019 School Enrollment

Today's Thursday Folder contains a second notice Enrollment Questionnaire for families whom we have not received one yet regarding the 2018-2019 school year. This questionnaire provides us with critical information for planning and preparing for the next school year. We are looking for every family to complete this form and send it back to us, and thank you to the families who have provided this information to us already. 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 23

Please encourage friends or 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 23.

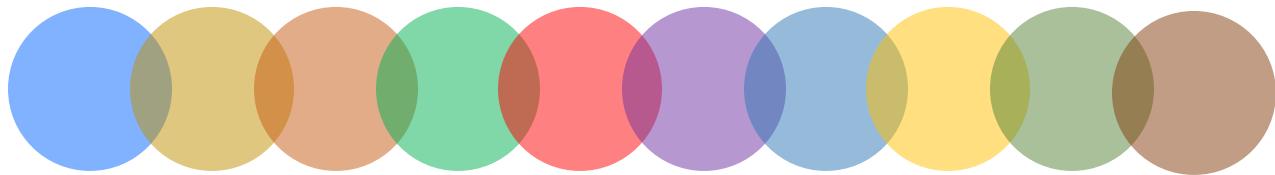
## Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. We always enjoy meeting with families and spending time discussing your student's progress. We look forward to your participation. Sign-up sheets are posted and available for sign up. Also, please look through the Lost & Found items when you visit; items will be removed after conferences.



## Events For Your Calendar

2/2	School Assembly (9:00) Mrs. Holt's Class Hosts
2/6	Grade 3/4 Battle of the Books
2/7	Early Release Day (2:00)
2/8-9	Parent/Teacher Conferences
2/13	Grade 5/6 Battle of the Books
2/20	APC Meeting (5:30)
2/23	School Lottery Closes
3/9	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – In-service Day – No School
3/12-16	Spring Break



### Mr. DeVold's Notes

The KPBSD has implemented a new direction in their instructional approach this year. You may have heard about it from friends with school-aged students. It is called Personalized Learning. The approach asks teachers to develop instructional practices that allow students the opportunity to learn and work at their own pace, path, and place to better meet their individual learning needs. The approach is a model that mimics the Montessori approach. Students in our school already enjoy the freedom of work choice within boundaries, and they are able to choose work from their work plan, and encounter instruction in a variety of contexts. I believe there are some inherent differences in the approaches, however. The Montessori approach moves from concrete materials to abstract, we incorporate instructional aides who assist in delivering instruction, and provide additional supports for the students. Our multi-age classes provide another level of personalization that gives students the chance to interact with peers of varying ages. Lastly, we incorporate community outreach and include a global perspective that it is a part of our instruction. Our students' instruction is not only personalized, it is also sharing and interdependent.

### District Info

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District requests input from staff, parents, and community members at the districtwide KPBSD budget development meeting, scheduled at the following Central Peninsula locations:

- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 5:30 pm. in the Soldotna High School Library
- Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Kenai Central High School Library

As new budget information becomes available it will be posted here:

<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/departments.aspx?id=38>

If you have questions, please call Natalie Bates at 714-8888.

### 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 and descriptive, rather than evaluative, praise. 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*

