

MONTessorINEWS

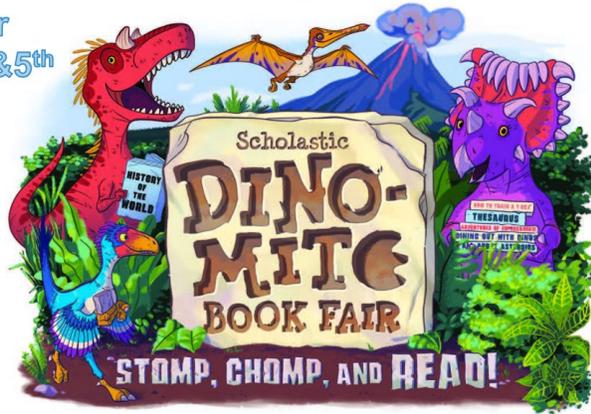
SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

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.

Book Fair - February 4th-8th

Open Before/After School on Feb. 4&5th & All Day During Conferences

Find the Book Fair in the SOEL Library



Events Calendar

2/1	50 Cent Friday
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)
3/1	50 Cent Friday
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

100th Day of School Fundraiser

The PTO is highlighting a 100th Day of School Fundraiser which will begin on Friday, February 1st, and will continue through February 8th. Students may bring in 100 pennies and deposit them in our collection jug in the office to celebrate the 100th day of school. Of course, other change is welcome. The funds raised will go toward supporting the Weekleys, one of our school families. A flyer providing details about this support is in today's folder.

Conferences—Sign Up Link At School Website

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.

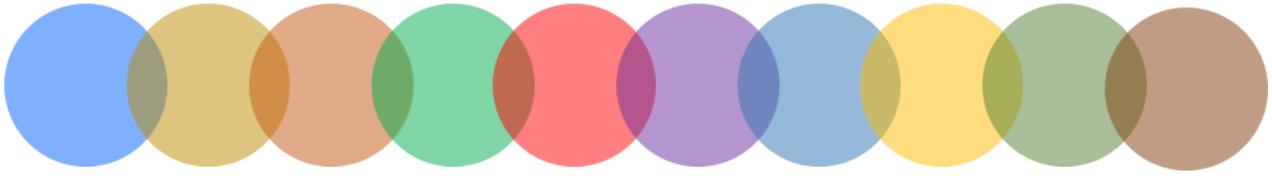
School Lottery Closes on February 22

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.

Book Fair Info

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.





Spelling Bee

Students in grades 3–6 are still able to participate in our school spelling bee, but they must return a participation permission slip which is available to pick up in the office. Students are still meeting once a week with Ms. Sanders for practice at lunch, and the school spelling bee will be held on February 22 @ 1:00 in the school library. The winner of our school bee will go to Anchorage to compete in the State Spelling Bee.

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.

Lost & Found

The Lost & Found area is quite full and likely will not handle a second semester. We encourage parents to stop in and claim items that may be missing. The items will remain in Lost & Found through conferences; after conferences, any remaining items will be donated to Salvation Army.

Montessori School Program Notes

Teachers educated in the Montessori Method bring distinctive skills to the task. Their quiet orchestrations lead to magical moments as young children exclaim “I learned it myself!”—and older students think it. Called a “directress” by Montessori Method founder Dr. Maria Montessori, and sometimes known as a “guide,” the Montessori teacher plays many roles as he or she directs, or guides, his or her students.

Through careful observation, the Montessori teacher comes to know each student’s interests, learning style, and temperament. The teacher understands the student’s developmental needs and is receptive to the “sensitive periods,” when the student is most ready to learn a new concept or skill.

With this information, the teacher chooses materials and lessons that will capture the student’s attention and entice them to learn. When it is observed that the student has mastered a concept or skill, the teacher introduces new lessons that become increasingly complex and abstract.

Text taken from amshq.org (American Montessori Society)

Mr. D.’s Thoughts

Recently legislation was introduced at the state level that would repeal a 2018-2019 appropriation of \$20 million to K-12 public education in Alaska. The proposal, if passed, will certainly affect the school district and our school budgets for the current school year.

While I cannot support any particular view on this matter, I do encourage our school community to participate in the budgeting discussions that are headed up by our district, and I also encourage you to express your opinion about this matter to our local and state leaders. As a charter school, we do enjoy a bit of freedom in the use of our funds in purchasing curricular materials and allocating funds to provide for our Montessori approach to instruction. However, we are affected by state and borough decisions regarding funding. We are also affected by district decisions on budgeting for supplies and materials, custodial coverage, and certified staffing decisions.

There are upcoming opportunities to gain information about how the state’s legislative proposal affects our district at a budget work session with the School Board on February 11 and also a budget forum in the Central Peninsula on Feb. 20 or Feb. 21.

