

# 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.**



## Events Calendar

3/21	2019-20 Kindergarten Open House @ 5:30
3/23	SMCS/SOEL Super Carnival Fund-raiser@ SOEL Gym (11:00-3:00)
3/26	APC Meeting (5:30)
3/28	PTO Meeting (4:00)
3/25-4/12	PEAKS State Assessment Window
4/1	SMCS Art Night (5:30-7:00)
4/3	Early Release
4/5	50 Cent Friday
4/9	Spring Pictures
4/11	Kindergarten Music Concert (6:00)
4/19	No School—Vacation Day

### Spring Carnival

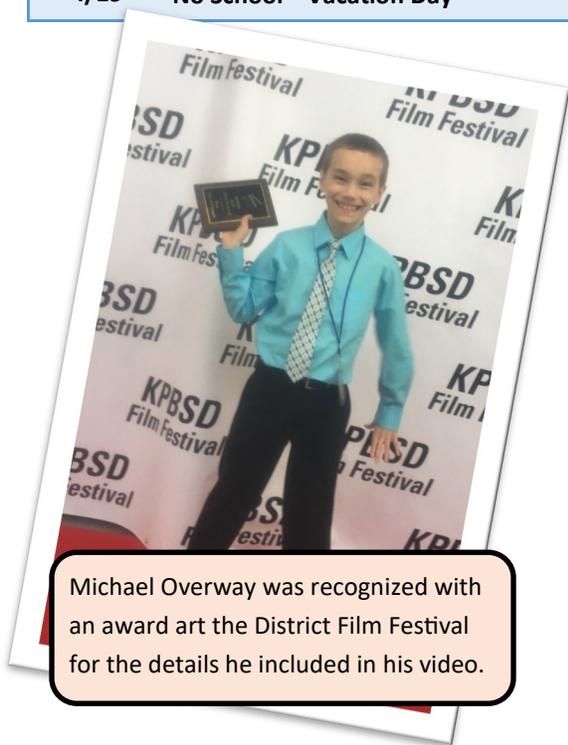
DON'T MISS THE SOEL/SMCS SPRING CARNIVAL ON SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD FROM 11:00-3:00! Everyone is welcome to come and have some fun together playing games and winning prizes. This is our second joint effort event with SOEL, so come, have fun, and make this event a success. Last year's carnival was a great time with lots of students and parents decked out in super hero gear having fun.

### State Testing Next Week

Next week marks the beginning of state testing. The intermediate classes will be testing each day from March 25-March 29th. The 3rd graders will be testing on April 1st & 2nd. Please ensure your students are well-rested for these testing days and have a great breakfast to get the day going with fuel. Please do not schedule appointments on these days, and contact the school if there is a conflict with these testing days.

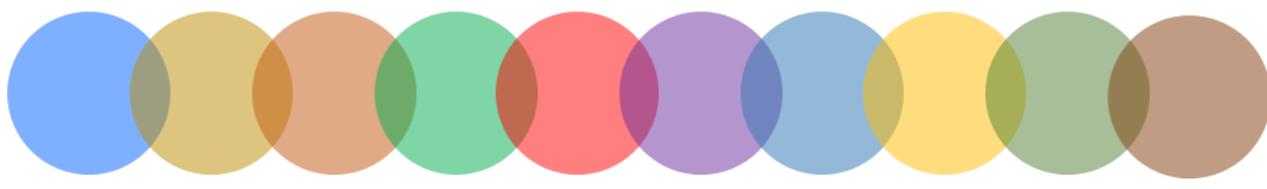
### SMCS Talent Show Date Change

Due to low student numbers, we made a late decision to postpone the SMCS Talent Show until April 1st. In the past, our talent show was held in May, but due to scheduling conflicts within the field-trip-heavy month of May, we moved the date earlier in the year. Unfortunately, students and families were busier during this time of the year yielding a lower turn out. However, we are trying something new. We will be having the students who wanted to share their talent present during our Art Night, giving them a nice sized audience and providing another form of art for our Art Night. We hope that the new plan will be a nice addition to the evening on April 1st. We look forward to seeing you at our Art Night in two weeks.



Michael Overway was recognized with an award at the District Film Festival for the details he included in his video.

- Lottery results are now posted in the hallway.
- Yearbooks will now be on sale until April 10 (Extended Date).
- Look for class placement requests in next week's Thursday folder.



## Montessori & School Program Notes

Maria Montessori was an Italian physician, educator, and innovator, acclaimed for her educational method that builds on the way children naturally learn.

She opened the first Montessori school—the Casa dei Bambini, or Children’s House—in Rome on January 6, 1907. Subsequently, she traveled the world and wrote extensively about her approach to education, attracting many devotees. There are now more than 22,000 Montessori schools in at least 110 countries worldwide.

Maria Montessori was born on August 31, 1870, in the provincial town of Chiaravalle, Italy. Her father was a financial manager for a state-run industry. Her mother was raised in a family that prized education. She was well-schooled and an avid reader—unusual for Italian women of that time. The same thirst for knowledge took root in young Maria, and she immersed herself in many fields of study before creating the educational method that bears her name.

*Taken from [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org)*



Laurel Matson representing Soldotna Montessori at the state Spelling Bee. Way to go Laurel!

## Mr. D.'s Thoughts

Hello All,

Each week I seek to provide thoughtful perspectives in this section of the newsletter. This week’s rendition will be a bit more straight forward and a bit gloomy. As you likely know, the governor has proposed budget cuts that will affect education. I have been provided with some numbers from the district about how the cuts will affect charter schools. If the budget proposed by the governor is passed, our school will be needing to adjust quite drastically in our effort to work within the budgeted amount for 2019-2020.

I have not yet looked at detailed options for addressing the reduced funds, but a preliminary look indicates that we would likely need to consider staff reductions to maintain the budget. I received the preliminary numbers the week before spring break, so the information is quite new.

I have shared our current budget information with the staff at our in-service, and I am planning on sharing the updated budget information at our upcoming APC meeting, as well as providing some scenarios that would allow us to meet the governor’s cost reduction proposals, if they pass.

As of now, there is no indicator of how the legislature will respond or choose to fund schools. For now we will only be preparing for possible options should the proposed cuts occur. If schools maintain current level funding, we will be able to continue with our current staffing levels intact.

I know this is gloomy, but based on the data I have been provided regarding the proposed cuts, it is something that needs discussed and considered in the weeks and months to come.

Certainly, our school is quite phenomenal and will continue to be phenomenal, but we are good because of the people who are engaged in the school. Students, parents, teachers, and support staff: all help us to be a great school. It is unfortunate we are having to look at adjusting how we function to meet potential budget changes.

