

Monday Montessori Moments



Monday May 16, 2016

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A Message from the Jr. High

A culminating experience for our Jr. High is the Freshman Field Trip. This field trip is a time of transformation, inspiration, reawakening and emergence of oneself. It is also a time to make new friends and to re-connect with old ones. The week is full of having fun, participating in experiential learning- hands on field work outside of the classroom, challenges, facing fears and accepting fears- a time of the adolescent to become aware of their developmental transformation and their new journey to come. This last week our 9th grade class had the opportunity to spend the week in the Redwoods and San Francisco.

Moments from our Freshman Trip to San Francisco included:

- Stretched with courage as we ventured on a seven zip line canopy tour, 200 feet from the forest floor.
- Shared stories over a crackling fire in the Redwood Forest.
- Appreciated the composting process used at Alliance after each delicious meal.
- Enjoyed some solo reflection time at the beautiful Japanese Tea Gardens. (See photo)
- Supported each other as we kayaked the Russian River.
- Learned to budget as we travelled around China Town to find treasures from the orient.
- Served others by pulling an invasive species of bamboo from Steelhead Beach.
- Team building at Pier 39.
- After researching Alcatraz for a capstone inquiry project, we saw the very places we had read about on an Alcatraz night tour.
- Got to know ourselves and others as we giggled, sang, swam, worked, hiked, & bused around San Francisco.

Next year we are excited to announce that our students will be going to Crow Canyon Archeological Center in Cortez, Colorado. Students will be able to go on archeological digs and experience history. As a part of these experiences, we ask that students be part of the fundraising efforts. Currently, we are participating in a "Fatboy Ice Cream" fundraiser running from May 10th - 19th. We appreciate the continued support given to the Jr. High from our parents and students. With your help, we are able to make these trips possible.

May 9th-13th

Freshman Field Trip

May 16th

Dress as your favorite book character

May 17th

~Crazy Sock Day
~6th grade Dance 5:30-7:00

May 18th

Crazy Hair/Hat Day

May 19th

~Pajama Day
~Spring Choir Concert
6:00-8:00

May 20th

~Field Day
~Half Day for 9th Grade Only
~9th Grade Graduation
4:30

May 21st

9th Grade Prom

May 23rd

Kindergarten Bridging Ceremony 11:00-12:30

May 24th

3rd Grade Bridging Ceremony 10:30-11:30

May 25th

6th Grade Bridging Ceremony 10:30-11:30

May 24th-26th

Early Out, PTC

May 26th

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Do you know anyone with a child who will be entering the 5th or 6th grade? MMA has a few openings for our 2016-2017 school year in our 5th and 6th grade levels only. If interested visit mariamontessoriacademy.org and select the [enroll now](#) button.

What's New at MMA?

Pick-up Drop-off Reminders

- Please be patient and courteous toward MMA volunteers, staff, students, and other drivers.
- Stay in your vehicle at all times.
- Refrain from mobile phone usage while driving on school grounds.
- Students will exit and enter from the RIGHT SIDE of the vehicle ONLY and at the CURB ONLY.
- Students must be picked up at dismissal or immediately following an after school program.
- Be Aware: By law, all vehicle occupants must be secured in a seat belt. Children UNDER 8 must be in a car seat or booster BEFORE VEHICLE IS IN MOTION.
- When crossing the street, you must use a crosswalk.
- If you choose to pick up your child at North Shore, you must park in a parking stall.
- Do not park in the pull through area. This area is reserved for cars exiting the North Shore parking lot.
- When crossing the street to MMA, you must use a crosswalk.

Are You A Registered Nurse?

MMA is looking for an R.N. who would be willing to volunteer an hour each month to help us manage our medical records. If you are interested in helping our community please contact Melanie Singleton at msingleton@mariamontessoriacademy.org



National Parks Passes for 4th Graders!

Follow the link below to get a free National Parks Pass for all 4th graders! It allows fourth graders to go to the park with the children with him/her for free and up to 3 adults. it expires on August 31st 2016 .For those students who are in 3rd grade, they can ask for it starting September 1st 2016 and it is good for the whole school year

<https://everykidinapark.gov/>



Fatboy Ice Cream Sandwiches Fundraiser

Proceeds will benefit the 9th Grade Field Trip Fund

We will be selling Fatboy Ice Cream Sandwiches and Fatboy Nut Sundaes for \$25.00 a box. Each box contains 30 delicious Ice Cream treats.

This is a pre-sale fundraiser; money must be paid up front.

All checks should be made payable to: **MMA Jr. High**

All order forms and money will need to be returned to the school no later than May 19th. We will have a table set up in the North Shore Parking lot before and after school on May 19th for parents or Students to turn their order sheets in at.

Orders will be ready for pick up May 26th the last day of school in the North Shore Parking lot beginning at 12:45 p.m. Once you pick up your order it will need to be delivered or placed in a freezer within 45 minutes. If you have a cooler to bring to help keep your ice cream cold it will extend your delivery time.

What: Fatboy Ice Cream Sandwiches and Fatboy Nut Sundaes.

How much: \$25.00 for a box of 30

Selling Period: May 10th thru May 19th.

Who should I sell to: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Parents Co-workers, Church group members.

Delivery Date: May 26th at 12:45 p.m. North Shore Parking Lot.

Field Day



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Field day is this Friday, May 20th! It's an Olympic event! Each class will be represented by a class flag. Field day will start with an opening ceremony. During the opening ceremonies every class will have the opportunity to run around the track, showing off their flags to the rest of their peers. Then, let the games begin! We are in need of a few more volunteers to help with these games. Please take a look at the wejoinin to see where you can help. [Volunteer Wejoinin](#)

Redwood Field Trip Chaperone Reflection Amber Allen Parent/Chaperone May 9, 2016

As I begin this reflection page, I have to begin by expressing my gratitude for having been chosen to be a chaperone for this trip. It was truly an honor to have been entrusted with the care of these sweet 6th graders at such a transitional point in their lives. It was truly amazing to watch these children take these first independent steps as they begin to cross the bridge into their own personal journey of growth and teen-hood.

This trip was filled with a few firsts for myself, and many firsts for the majority of the students involved in the journey. For most it was a first time being away from family for that length of time and distance. It was a first train ride, first large bus ride, first time to the Redwood Forrest, first time seeing the ocean, and first time flying. I must say that the staff and leads teachers assigned to the task of coordinating a trip of this magnitude paid special attention to each detail that was necessary for the trip to run as smoothly as possible. They paid special attention to the needs of each student as they formulated cabin and combined education groups so that they could maximize the ability for each child to experience all of the aspects of the trip in a positive, independent light. Chaperones were required to attend meetings ahead to discuss expectations, work on team building and problem solve possible needs and concerns of students that we may need to address and offer support for.

I was so impressed with the camp that was selected, The Alliance Conference Group in the Redwood Forrest. The camp itself was clean, well organized, and well equipped to facilitate all of the needs of each group and individual student that may arise. A personal favorite camp time of mine was enjoying well-balanced, delicious, nutrition meals with food a plenty! What truly impressed me the most about the camp itself aside from the breathtaking views, was the curriculum and well trained encouraging and engaging naturalist staff members. I watch each of the naturalists work on team building with the kids, working to identify them as individuals and learn their personalities, all the while leading the kids in an opportunity to learn more about the others in group they were in and how they could work to help strengthen each other. They gave very engaging lessons and made the outdoors their classroom. I could see the kids listening and eager to participate in the lessons that were being taught and loving the opportunity after the lessons to explore and apply the information they had been taught in a hands on application. What better way to teach and learn for a student than to hear it, see it, touch it, smell it, and yes in some cases even taste it!

The Challenge Courses were challenging in different ways to different people. It was such a great opportunity to see how each person handled themselves under the pressure of doing hard things. I loved how the naturalists taught about each of the different challenges and the safety that was taken into consideration and needed to be respected. They also taught about the different levels of comfort zone, goal setting and how to use encourage words to strengthen each other. Some of the courses were more physically challenging and others were more mentally challenging. Some children rose to the challenge and pushed themselves to do things that were hard for them and learned that they could do hard things, others committed to at least try and that was worthy of positive support and admiration for pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. At the end of the day we were all winners. We learned more about ourselves, and how to support others through challenges. I also saw the kids recognize the importance of kind words and not minimizing the challenge someone is facing just because it may come more natural to one person than another. Watching the kindness expressed and bonding occurring as they learned to strengthen one another with kindness was so heartwarming. What a fantastic life skill to learn and get to practice!

The trip to the ocean was fantastic. The kids were a little disappointed that for safety reasons they were not going to be able to take their shoes off, swim, or bring home beach souvenirs. I can understand that disappointment, although I for one have to side with the caution of safety first also. As we got to the beach and the kids were able to go to the tide pools, all I saw were faces full of excitement and discovery. I'm pretty sure that any disappointment they may have originally had, had dissolved as they were moving from tide pool to tide pool collecting treasures of ocean discovery. They were so excited to see the grandeur of the ocean, find and touch sea animals most of them had only seen in pictures and experience what they feel like, where and how they live. What a fantastic opportunity!

The end of the trip was once again filled with many mixed emotions! Most of the kids were so sad to realize that the trip was quickly coming to an end. They were sad that they were out of time, and eager at the same time to get home to family and their own beds and pets. I think that they all felt a little older, a little wiser, a little stronger, and a little more ready for the new changes that are not far off for them. I believe that this trip has provided them such a great opportunity for growth at such a pivotal time, as they are quickly approaching the end of elementary years and will be moving on to their teen and junior high years which will be filled with new faces, and more challenging expectations educationally, mentally, emotionally and physically. I believe each of them has discovered that they can do hard things; they can face a challenge and come out a better, stronger person as they stretch themselves out of their comfort zone and conquer their fears. What a wonderful program of education and self discover for these kids to have been a part of! What a fantastic opportunity for myself to be in a position to have been able to help facilitate that opportunity. I'm also grateful for the personal growth and experience I got to take home myself from this trip. I am truly grateful!