

# Monday Montessori Moments



Tuesday September 6, 2016

## *A Letter from the Director: Stephanie Speicher*

Each fall, the release of SAGE (Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence) scores provides education professionals' opportunities to regroup, reflect, and refine ideas to help improve our practice. The state of Utah also issues every public school a letter grade. The criterion for the School Grading System incorporates academic achievement, both content mastery and growth only on the SAGE tests for Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. It does not include school-based assessments or literacy gains in our K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades. This is important to note, because not all critical data has been used to assess school grades.

Often, when I reflect about testing, I realize that it is important to be held accountable, but when one measurement tool given on one particular day is the basis of a grade that is meant to define us in the eyes of the state legislature, we need to be cautious. I equate this complex situation to my garden. There are great gifts in the planting of seeds and watching them grow to their fullest potential. The "seeds" that we use to grow and nourish young hearts and minds are the ideas, values, and initiatives that are planted in our community. Educators, like gardeners, are under increased pressure to use "seeds" that promise great outcomes but result in loss. Here are a few ideas that seem to have taken root in schools today that potentially need to be weeded out – relying on standardized tests as the ultimate indicator of student performance, increasing achievement by threatening teachers with sanctions, ignoring the arts, and trusting textbook companies more than teachers to design meaningful curriculum.

I feel that Maria Montessori Academy is a different kind of school. Our job is to preserve the seeds that are growing here and give them the room to thrive. Our ultimate goal is to help every student become a critical, reflective thinker, courageous problem-solver, and engaged, compassionate community builder. It is crucial to believe in the expertise and insight of our teachers to design appropriate curriculum, assess student progress, and guide the learning process. Every student has tremendous knowledge, skill, and potential, it is the job of the teacher to facilitate, not dictate, the learning process. Most importantly, we need to remember that students should be able to demonstrate their learning in meaningful ways and should have opportunities to apply their learning in the world they live in. As I think about our school, and I think about all the students, parents, and teachers who make up our community, I am assured that our school is a wonderful place to be learning.

After taking the time to do an in-depth analysis of the variety of testing data on local MMA level, Weber School District level and on State level, I am confident that there are amazing teachers who have high standards and consistently work towards success for all students. If you have any questions regarding our state assigned school grade or the specifics of your individual child's test scores, please call or email to schedule an appointment to discuss the data. Thank you again for your commitment to our school, your children, and to a desire to be the change we wish to see in the world.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Stephanie



September 8<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Redwood Parent  
Meeting

September 15<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm

Freshman Field  
Trip Parent  
Meeting

September 17<sup>th</sup>

MMA 5K @

8:00AM and

Pancake Breakfast  
@ 9:00 AM

September 21<sup>st</sup>

International Day  
of Peace

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Early Out,

AM Kinder: 8:30-10:30

PM Kinder: 11:00-1:00

1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

8:30-1:00

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

~Normalization  
Ends

~Jr. High Fees  
are Due

# What's New at MMA?

## Compost Bin Donations:

We are in need of wiring and wood to complete our compost bins. We have a volunteer who will help build the lids and doors once we obtain the materials!

### Materials Needed:

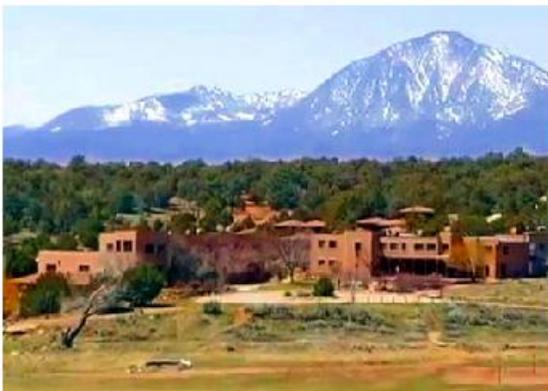
- 2x4 pieces of wood
- Chicken Wire or Wire Mesh

Please email [Ms Leigh](#) if you are going to bring any of these items. That way we will be sure to have the items and make sure we won't have too many. All donations are greatly appreciated!



We are looking forward to our first Box Tops Store on **Tuesday, September 20th**. The Box Tops Store will be in the **North Kiva**.

**Only students who show cut/non expired Box Tops or MMA Box Top Tickets will have permission to visit the store. They must show the teacher or assistant their "proof" before being permitted to visit the store.**



THE MISSION OF THE CROW CANYON ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER IS TO ADVANCE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH AMERICAN INDIANS.



## 9/15/2016 6:30 PM 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENT/STUDENT INFO NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in the Yurt at MMA JH to discuss your child's 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. We will be sharing information about the 9<sup>th</sup> grade capstone field experience, high school credits, and answering your questions.

MARIA MONTESSORI  
ACADEMY  
Jr. High



*education for a better world*

## Howdy!

My name is Ms. Connie Starks and I am the music specialist for MMA elementary. I am so excited to begin a before school program at MMA! I am inviting your 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to join the MMA Honor Choir. We will be learning more challenging music and applying technique and musical knowledge in our performances. The practices are usually on Wednesdays at 7:40 am in the Library or gym. You can choose to do half of a year for \$30 or the full year for \$60. There is a fall practice schedule and a spring practice schedule. If you choose to do the half year and your child wants to continue for the rest of the year, you can pay and re-register before the first spring practice schedule in January. Registration forms can be found at the front office. Look over the registration form and let me know if there are any other questions! I am looking forward to teaching your children some fun music and seeing them learn and grow!  
\*Please fill out the registration form and pay before Sept 9th .

Sincerely,  
Ms. Connie Starks

Dear MMA Families,

We are thrilled to be offering a fantastic learning opportunity for MMA parents/caregivers. On September 24th we will be hosting "Positive Discipline For Developing Young Capable People" presented by Mary Tamborski. Participants will be engaged in experiential activities and role-plays to get into their child's world and deepen their understanding of non punitive methods for teaching children valuable social and life skills. The workshop cost is \$95 for one or \$150 for the couple. The workshop will run from 9:00-5:00 pm at the school, and you can register

at [www.marytamborski.com](http://www.marytamborski.com) or <http://www.marytamborski.com/classes.html>.

Thank you and I hope many of you take advantage of this fantastic learning opportunity,

Ms. Stephanie

MARIA MONTESSORI  
A C A D E M Y *education for a better world.*



Presents  
**Positive Discipline**  
For Developing Capable Young People



With Mary Nelsen Tamborski

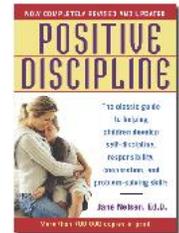
Free Public Lecture  
Thursday, September 22, 2016 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Parent Workshop - \$95 or \$150 per couple  
Saturday, September 24, 2016 9:00am - 5:00pm  
To register visit [www.marytamborski.com](http://www.marytamborski.com)

Participants will be engaged in experiential activities and role-plays to get into their child's world and deepen their understanding of non-punitive methods for teaching children valuable social and life skills.

### Learn to Teach Children

Self-Discipline  
Responsibility  
Cooperation  
Problem-Solving Skills  
Respect for Self & Others  
Belief in Personal Capability  
And Much More!



2505 North 200 East • Ogden, Utah 84114  
[www.mariamontessoriacademy.org](http://www.mariamontessoriacademy.org)

Mary Nelsen Tamborski received her BA from San Diego State University and her MA in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of Phoenix. She is now a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Intern and is being supervised by Aisha Pope at Roots and Wings Counseling and Consulting in La Mesa. Mary completed her practicum at the Alvarado Parkway Institute in San Diego working with people suffering from severe mental illness and substance abuse. However, her specialty is helping couples and individuals (including adolescents) discover the blocks that keep them from living their inner joy. Mary's formal training is secondary to the life training she received from her mother, Dr. Jane Nelsen, a Marriage and Family Therapist and author of the Positive Discipline books and Serenity: Simple Steps for Recovering Peace of Mind, Real Happiness, and Great Relationships. From the earliest time she can remember her mother and father had her involved in respectful communication, encouragement, and focusing on solutions. Mary loves being a wife to husband Mark and a mother to her son's Greyson and Reid. Since Mary's first love is being the mother of two young boys, it was a natural for her to become a Certified Positive Discipline Parent Educator and to share with others all she has learned (and is still learning) in parenting classes and workshops. She is also available for individual parent coaching. Mary is a therapist whose own life is an example of the joy in living that can be found by living the principles and skills she teaches. What Others Say About Mary:

"I started seeing Mary over a year ago. I was nervous to see a therapist at first but during my first session I realized how valuable therapy can be. Mary was professional and non judgmental. I felt safe and comfortable with Mary from the beginning. She always made my thoughts and emotions feel normal. My sessions with Mary felt like I was talking to a friend that was leading me through a conversation to come up with my own conclusions and answers. After just a few sessions I felt myself begin to heal and become more confident. I still use techniques she taught me to this day. I have recommended her to many friends and acquaintances over the past year. I truly believe Mary can help anyone who needs help start to heal their emotions and lives."

Sincerely, Ericka Olson

"Mary Tamborski generates great interest and inspiration among parents-younger or more experienced parents can utilize her gems. Her energy is contagious and her humble honesty and real-life experiences capture the audience's attention. Her humor and sincere appreciation for parenting, the highs and the lows, keeps the audience engaged and wanting more."

Temple Zander, Ph.D