

The SFMS Chronicle

January 2010



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Nancy Sager, Founder
Walter Huebscher, Head of School

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday Jan. 14	Moving Up In Montessori 6—8:30 pm Elementary Building	Wednesday Jan. 27	Re-Enrollment mailing to all parents
Monday Jan. 18	Martin Luther King JR DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	Fri. & Mon. Feb. 12 & 15	President's Days Holidays SCHOOL CLOSED

SFMS 2010 Gala Committee Organizing Now!!

The countdown to May 15 has started, and our 2010 Gala Committee is organizing.

**Our first meeting of the New Year is
Wednesday, January 13, 8:30am, in the
Elementary Building Registrar's office.**

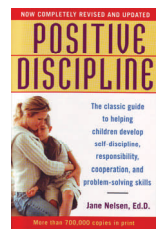
We're hoping for a large committee of talented SFMS parents, and we need you! We encourage you to come to this key session to sign up for your favorite fun gala job--invitations, decor, hospitality, auction displays and lots more. Join us for the challenge! We'll be finalizing our theme, team-building and setting our overall plans at this meeting.

Our gala is a great partnership of school and parents where we work together to create a fabulous event--fun for everybody, including our children. And along with the fun, we fundraise to make good things happen at Santa Fe Montessori School. What could be better? See you at the meeting--and bring a friend!!



Jane Nelsen

Our first Positive Discipline Family Education Center class will be held on Saturday, February 6th in the Elementary building from 10:00 am to noon.



Santa Fe Montessori Parents who register before January 31st will receive a 50% discount!

To register on-line and save 50%, go to this web address,

<http://www.familyeducationcenters.com/special.html>

MORE NEWS... Please see page 2 for the Parent's Association News, page 3 for the "Moving Up In Montessori" flyer, page 4 for cell phone drop off and the SFMS Middle School announcement and pages 5 and 6 for, "Discovering" Montessori.

SFMS-Parents' Association News

"Be Involved & Get Connected"

January 2010

Happy New Year to all and thanks to each of the parents who participated in so many ways in 2009.

*Special heartfelt thanks to those who made donations to the **Community Resource Center Holiday Baskets** program. Local families in need were able to choose toys, blankets, clothes and food that they could otherwise not afford and offer them as gifts to their children.

*A big thank you to Regina Buckley who ran the **Scholastic Book Fair**. The money raised will directly benefit the children and is much appreciated!

*Thank you to all who participated in the following PA fundraisers:

*Chevy's family night out raised \$214. (Plus it was a lot of fun for parents and kids alike!! Look for the next family dinner at Chevy's in March.)

*Gift Card sales earned \$366

*Box Tops collections raised \$85

This money will be used to honor our spectacular teachers during teacher appreciation week with massages, lunches, flowers, and gifts.

As we kick off 2010 the Parents' Association begins with a very special and important evening entitled "**Moving Up in Montessori**." This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to interact with teachers in the Elementary school and, most importantly, with SFMS graduates who share how their Montessori education prepared them for middle school, high school, and beyond. We encourage all parents, especially those of the Children's House to attend. Dinner and refreshments will be served starting at **6pm** and *child care is provided*. See the flyer attached for more details on this event happening **Thursday, January 14**.

Also, in 2010 the PA will sell new Santa Fe Montessori T-shirts which will help fund the Elementary playground improvements and give us all a chance to show our spirit in support of our school.

Important dates to remember to stay involved and connected:

January 13 8:30 am Parents' Association Meeting

January 14 6:00 - 8:30 pm Moving Up In Montessori
(Daycare provided at no charge.)

Moving Up in Montessori

Presented by

Santa Fe Montessori School Parents' Association
Working with Children's House & Elementary teachers

- Meet** alums invited by your very own SFMS teachers
- Come** and talk to Alumnae parents about their child's transition
- Listen** to SFMS Graduates about their Montessori experiences and the values that have enriched their lives
- Hear** reasons to continue your child's education at SFMS
- Tour** the Elementary classrooms & **See** what is involved in a day there
- See** what good things the Parents' Association has done this year
- Socialize** with SFMS Board Members & other parents

When:..... Thursday, January 14, 2010

Munch and Mingle starts at 6pm

Where:..... SFMS Elementary Building

Why:..... To learn the benefits of Montessori Elementary

Child Care will be provided

Food and beverages will be served

Please fill out form below if you plan to attend and indicate if you will need child care. Kindly return the portion below to the school by **January 11, 2010**.

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YES, I or we **will attend**.

Parent(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Classroom: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we will need Child Care for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Child(ren)

January 2010

Dear Santa Fe Montessori Parents,

First of all, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and a spectacular New Year!

To kick off some fundraising opportunities for 2010, I am pleased to announce the expansion of our cell phone fundraising program. Some of you may recall that last year I requested a few rooms donate any old or non working cell phones for a fundraising project. This year I would like to include the entire school!!! The fundraising collection program will benefit funding of various programs throughout our school community.

Therefore, I am reaching out to you to collect used cell phones (working or not!) from family, friends, employees, associates, and neighbors. Participating in this wonderful opportunity will provide emergency phones for those in need (military families and families living in shelters who could not afford a phone on their own) and in turn earn money for our school! With countless phones sitting idly throughout our community, the fundraising potential is limitless.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR CELL PHONES BETWEEN JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>.

I will provide collection boxes in each classroom, so all you have to do is send in the phones with your child. I will take care of the rest! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Brenda-hand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Brenda-hand@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Thank you very much for attention to this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Hand  
Santa Fe Montessori Parent

## IS SFMS READY TO BEGIN A MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM?

A few SFMS parents are interested in exploring the possibility of developing and implementing a Montessori Middle School Program here at SFMS.

There are two Montessori Schools in California I have worked at that have Montessori Middle School programs. The Montessori In Redlands Middle School program began in 1993 with just three girls enrolled and now regularly has over thirty children enrolled. They call their school The Grove School. The other Montessori Middle School program began 3 years ago at Marin Montessori School in Corte Madera.

Information on The Grove School program can be found at their website, [www.thegroveschool.org](http://www.thegroveschool.org).

Information on the Marin Montessori School program can be found at their website, [www.marinmontessori.org/programs/juniorhigh.aspx](http://www.marinmontessori.org/programs/juniorhigh.aspx).

If you are interested in helping to make a Middle School program a reality here at SFMS, please contact Walter. (858) 755-3232, XT 101 or [Walter@SantaFeMontessori.org](mailto:Walter@SantaFeMontessori.org).

# "DISCOVERING" MONTESSORI

While some parents are perplexed that others spend large sums of money to educate their 3 year olds, a study conducted by the Carnegie Corporation ten years ago, concluded that earlier schooling is more effective than our traditional schedule, aids the development of the child, and underscores the importance of the preschool years.

In summary the report stated, "Scientists now know that the brain learns easiest and best during the first years of life, when it is growing fastest and making essential and permanent interconnections". When these opportunities for learning are lost, it becomes more difficult for the child to learn.

The research confirmed that successful preschool programs connect with what parents teach toddlers and what kindergarten and elementary programs will try to accomplish.

The report continued to say "Academic self-image is shaped between the age of 3 and 10, and children who take an early dislike to schoolwork or have doubts about their academic worth, face disadvantage in all future learning."

The basic principles underlying the Montessori method are now proven to be in line with recent research in human development. The result of the Carnegie report exemplifies this fact.

The Carnegie report proposed adding two years of high quality pre-schooling to the traditional school program. The Montessori method has recognized birth to six as the formative period for years. Montessori believed that the lessons and values learned during this period were crucial to all subsequent learning and behavior. Montessori's belief in the educability of the pre-school mentality inspired her to develop a comprehensive program that nurtures this neglected age group.

Maria Montessori for years upheld that there are *sensitive periods* during a child's development at which it is easier for him to grasp certain fundamental concepts. The Montessori curriculum is carefully designed to utilize these periods in maximizing each child's potential.

The Montessori curriculum is sequential. There is a practical life component that helps children acquire skills necessary for life and continued learning. Academically it engages younger children in work and activities that sharpen observation skills, refine perception, increase powers of concentration and expose them to the fundamental concepts of reading, writing and arithmetic. These skills help them later to think abstractly and analytically as they tackle problem solving in the elementary years and later on in life. Studies show that young children develop a love of learning in an environment where they are free to choose activities and proceed at their natural pace. A Montessori environment fosters independence and responsibility in young children, cultivating a positive self image as the basis for achieving other aims.

continued on next page

The Carnegie Report enumerates politics, inadequate funding and educational experiments awaiting further evaluation as some of the obstacles to planning reform initiatives. The obstacles to reform, although understandable, leave present public school educational practices out of sync with what research tells us is most academically effective.

But responsible parents should not allow such obstacles to obstruct the development of their children.

The report concludes that funds should be reallocated immediately to programs that are time-tested. Three programs were cited as being particularly effective: High/Scope, Parents as First Partners, and Montessori.

In addition to research on the brain that demonstrates Montessori education to be neurologically appropriate, Montessori is one of the few educational options that maintains a sound educational philosophy, is premised upon proven principles, and has enjoyed worldwide success for over 100 years.

So, in the absence of government funding for such programs, enlightened parents are making the choice to allocate their own resources to prepare their children for the challenges of the 21st century.

Author, Wendy Calise