



## Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School

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### Dragonflies Weekly News Minute

**Mission:** "Our school will provide a peaceful, safe, and nurturing academic environment using Montessori principles to develop children who love to learn, contribute to their communities, and continually strive to achieve their full potential."

#### Upcoming Events

Nov. 7th. Last day for conferences

11th. TAPAS Meeting 5:30 pm

18th. Council Meeting 4 pm.

27 & 28—No School—

Thanksgiving Break

**Dec. 1-5—BOOK FAIR!!!!**

### News from Ms Bonnie Together We Support Student Progress

Every morning as I walk into classrooms I am grateful to be part of such an outstanding learning community. Having just finished our first quarter for the school year, students are "normalized" to their new classrooms, and are focused on their studies. Across the planes of development, students have really begun to understand one of the main cornerstones of the Montessori program - with development of responsibility-freedom is earned. Students are engaged in their morning and afternoon work cycles learning new skills and knowledge as well as developing better work habits.

This fluid work cycle doesn't just happen. Teachers' commitment to the prepared environment supports student progress. Teachers have been gaining a deeper understanding of the assessment data and what it means to their instructional practices.

Students, parents, and teachers have just completed the first quarter conferences. I'm sure you noticed that this conference was a change from previous years. We focused on the results of the assessments that were completed during the first six weeks, so everyone has a very good idea where each student is performing in relation to grade expectations. Now

with the support of the parents, students and teachers can zero in on areas needing support and more importantly on developing challenging lessons to "sow the seeds of curiosity."

I want to thank each of you for making the time to speak with your child's teacher and become informed of how you can support your child's academic progress both at home and in school. For those of you who have not had your conference, please take some time to set up a meeting as soon as possible, this is an expectation of all parents at our school.

Just a few additional reminders which will help support your child at school:

- Make sure your child is prepared for school with a nutritious breakfast and lunch. We are still having a bit of concern that students are including those "sports" drinks in their lunch. Please include water, 100% juice, or milk. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- Have your child to school on time. Classroom doors open at 8:15, classes start at 8:30.
- Return the communication folder with any homework that might have been given or notes to your child's teacher.
- Any concerns which you might

have about your child should be addressed immediately with the teacher either by phoning or e-mailing. If you do not believe the concern has been addressed, contact me so I can help.

- And lastly, check out the website for the newsletter and calendars so you can ask your child specific questions about what they are accomplishing at school.

### The Things That We Do!

Did you know that we are responsible for the care of our wetlands now? So, we requested some help from students in the aftercare program to help begin to cut down the reeds. And boy we did! The water was cold and the smell was organic!



(Joey, James, Justin, Austin and Daniel, and who?)

There is another group that has come to the rescue of the wetlands. Hallie Taylor-Wright, Alejandro's oldest sister, has taken on the responsibility to lead a group of students un-

Shoots.” Mr. Moss is the faculty sponsor of this group. Hallie has been leading the students in understanding the ecosystem of the wetlands and how important it is to keep the system healthy. The Taylor-Wright and Amendolagine families have taken responsibility for the care of the entire wetlands! In the future look for some pictures in the next newsletter of the wetlands and the other areas of the school grounds where families have taken responsibility for the care and beauty of the area. New signs are sprouting up to identify the families. Thank you for your engagement.



## Notes from the Coach—Miss Debbie

In this world of video and television, children are bombarded with snapshot moments, over and over again. What an opportunity it is for children to come into a Montessori environment that allows them an extended period for developing concentration and focus.

The environment is carefully prepared so that the development of concentration can take place through activity. The teacher observes, with patience, the movements and time periods children engage in during a three hour work cycle. It is this extended time period that allows the child to reach that stage of developed concentration. Maria Montessori says “Nothing matters while the children are still deviated, everything will correct itself after concentration has come. We know that this energy exists inside the children and urges them on to do exercises which are necessary for their development. It is nature which brings the children to the point of concentration, not you.” Maria Montessori, The Child, Society, and the World, p. 17.

Sometimes it is difficult to just watch your child unfold. You want so desperately to help a child, to show them that you (the adult) can do it, but we must not interrupt the child and their work. Once presented a lesson, with precision and clarity, we must step back and allow the child opportunities for growth and success. Maria states “Work is the cornerstone of his (the child) freedom...freedom does not mean doing what one wants, but being master of one’s self.” Maria Montessori, Basic Ideas of Montessori’s Educational Theory. This path you have chosen is a commitment to your child-to allow your child to blossom according to his or her own potential! The Montessori practice gives what no other educational practice does—full and complete trust in the child!

Kind Regards, Miss Debbie

## Before and After Care News from Ms. Viviana:

Students in the Spanish Club had some fun learning about “Dia de Muertos” with mask making, The Art Club with Ms. Jin has been creating puppets, drawings, and sculpture. The Gardening Club has finished harvesting foods for cooking, and are now busy preparing the grounds for some winter gardening and nourishing the soil for next year’s crop. The Math Tutoring Club is plugging away and learning new strategies to memorize all the steps in multiplication and division. But the favorite club of all is Fitness, which really means PLAY! Most students just want the opportunity to have some fun with friends at the end of the day and play on the equipment.

We continue to look for two more instructors for music and drama, so....if you know of anyone, send them our way.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **Please drive the 25 mph in our local neighborhood out of respect for our community.**
- **No electronic or other games, cell phones, ipods, etc.**
- **Put names on lunch boxes, outer wear, etc.**
- **Sign-in the office if you are visiting during the school day.**
- **As volunteers there is a new book to sign in so we can keep track of all the work that is taking place at MRGC.**

*Thank you very much*

## Friends of Montessori Foundation Update:

Thank you to Don Dudley, and company for the inspirational renderings which were unveiled at the big event—Bollywood—November 15th. There were over 200 people who attended this first annual event. We are grateful to all the families and community members who donated their items and/or time to make this a most exciting and fun time.

We will have an update as to how much money was raised to support the new facility as well as pictures from the even. Keep an eye on our web page at

[www.mrgcharter.org](http://www.mrgcharter.org)

