

HERMOSA MONTESSORI *Community Times*

Art News: A Busy Season for Art

Thanks to a grant from a sixth grade parent, we were able to hire Carolyn King again to work with the sixth grade to design and paint the Hermosa Harvesters' garden beds.

One hundred fifty Lower and Upper Elementary children participated in the Hermosa Harvesters logo contest. The Harvesters logo committee chose Cameron Carver's logo design to represent the "Harvesters brand."

Lower Elementary students have been working on radial designs in the form of Georgia O'Keefe watercolors and Tibetan sand mandalas. In November they began work on their holiday ceramic ornaments, and the multi-stage process of creating dragon puppets for the Chinese New Year parade.

Fourth year students made pinwheels for peace and planted them in the flower gardens as memorials to Nicole Christine, originator of the Hermosa Harvesters project. They also learned about the Mexican tradition of Day of the Dead and created colorful skulls in the Mexican decorative tradition. In addition, they learned metal tooling in the tradition of the Aztecs and created their own metal Aztec god representations. Fifth year art-elective students are working on a five-week ceramic intensive in which three projects will be created, glazed and fired.

Many wonderful parents have stepped forward to help with the art classes, and we are grateful for their commitment and help.

Much beautiful art is being sent home. Carol and Sheila request that you create a portfolio for your child's art. A simple inexpensive way to do this is to take two pieces of tag board or thin cardboard and staple them together on three sides. Art can easily be slipped in, and it can be stored in a closet or in back of a bookcase.



Spotlight on Montessori: The Great Lessons

The Great Lessons are used in the Montessori classroom to entice the imagination and critical thinking skills of elementary-age children and motivate them to explore ideas about the universe. The Lessons are detailed in a series of stories that are designed to provide an understanding of the history of the universe, with a focus on humankind's place in that continuing story. The Lessons are divided into five unique parts: The Story of the Universe; Life Comes to Earth; The Coming of Humans; The Story of Writing (or Language); and, The Story of Numbers (Mathematics). Cosmic education in the Montessori curriculum sets the stage to develop more caring and peaceful citizens. Throughout all subjects, the Montessori teacher has the opportunity to instill in her/his students a sense of being connected to all things in the universe.

Clearly, these five stories encompass an enormous amount of information about the origins of the world around us. Classroom teachers share the stories with the students in a storytelling format, carefully preparing the scene to spark the students' imaginations and maximize their experience of the story. For example, they may dim the classroom lights or go outside so that students can observe and be part of the larger universe as its story is told. Teachers then leave the stories open to further study by the children. In this way, art projects and science experiments, as well as other areas of Hermosa's Elementary program, often reflect the Great Lesson that the teachers have recently shared. The story, then, becomes the springboard but not the focus. And, because of their breadth and power, the stories can be referred to throughout the year when new topics are introduced, as a way of providing unity and cohesion to such a wide variety of studies.

*Call a friend before December 31st
about the tax credit for Hermosa!*

Training Teachers for Hermosa's Future

Part 3: Pat DuMont

A 26-year Journey from Hermosa Volunteer to Lead Teacher

In 1982, Hermosa Montessori School was in humble beginnings, renting rooms from Regina Cleri church and seminary on Tucson's eastside. About that time, through a mutual friend, Pat DuMont met her neighbor, Hermosa's founder and head-of-school, Sheila Stolov. Soon, Pat's son, Andrew, was attending Hermosa. Pat had originally trained as a high school teacher, but did not enjoy teaching in public schools. She did, however, find volunteering in Hermosa's preschool to be an opportunity she liked a great deal. Later she volunteered in Hermosa's elementary class, when it was first grade through sixth grade, all in one classroom! Pat enjoyed volunteering at Hermosa for years until she adopted two children and became a stay-at-home mom.

In 1995, Hermosa needed a full-time, certified Montessori elementary teacher for the Lower Elementary. Pat and Sheila conferred and agreed. Over time, Pat traveled, trained, studied, and received her certification to teach Montessori lower elementary. She taught for a few years and then took a break to be with her children at home. The children soon came to Hermosa. When they were old enough, Pat returned to Hermosa as an assistant in the Upper Elementary.

During her many years assisting in Upper Elementary, Pat helped develop Hermosa's language, grammar, and English literature programs in cooperation with lead teachers Randy Young and Avon McCormick. These were areas of specialization Pat had previously trained for in public education.

Last year, the need arose at Hermosa for a new lead teacher in the Upper Elementary. The call went out, and again Pat said, "Yes!" Hermosa flew her to Texas and paid for her to spend her summer training at the world-class Houston Montessori Center. Pat expanded her foundation and her leadership, especially in the areas of math, geometry, and how and why Montessori lessons work in Upper Elementary. She is in a year-long process of completing her chosen Upper Elementary teaching focus of language, including integrating language into Hermosa's authentic Montessori curriculum. She has already returned to Houston this fall for more training. Later this school year, Pat will be observed and supported at Hermosa by her Montessori trainers three different times.

Pat reports that being an upper elementary Montessori lead teacher holds many joys for her. She loves presenting math, and

reading and discussing literature with students. She says it's fun to watch the students get along and learn to work together. She loves to see the students help and serve each other.

Hermosa lead teachers are responsible for a lot: getting and keeping each student "on track"; meeting Arizona state education standards; assuring competency in all areas of curriculum; fostering character development; as well as keeping a "big picture" of everyone in the room, the lessons, and the year. It requires a special person: each of Hermosa's lead teachers is a very special, deeply caring individual.

Pat says, "There's a special joy in being the lead teacher. You can have a closer relationship with each student and make key decisions to help them more. There is a joy in the bond of trust and the sense of extended family. The students know that I care about them and I know how much they care. The kids feel safe here; there's such a special 'peace' here at Hermosa. I want to be here; I really enjoy it! This is good for me. I'm so grateful to Sheila for making this possible!"

Hermosa and all your students, from 1982 to today, are grateful for you, too, Pat. You are a wonderful part of what makes Hermosa so special!

Upper Elementary Potluck

Wednesday, Dec. 17 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Matching Donations

When my husband's company was purchased a year or two ago, the new company changed many policies. One of the changes was in matching donations. The new policy was to double-match any donation, up to \$500, made by an employee to a tax-exempt organization such as a charity or school. The only caveat was that the donation must go to general funds and could not benefit the employee or the employee's family directly. In 2008, our family donated to Hermosa, the company donated double that amount, and everyone was happy! Our donation will serve as a tax deduction on both our federal and our state income taxes this year.

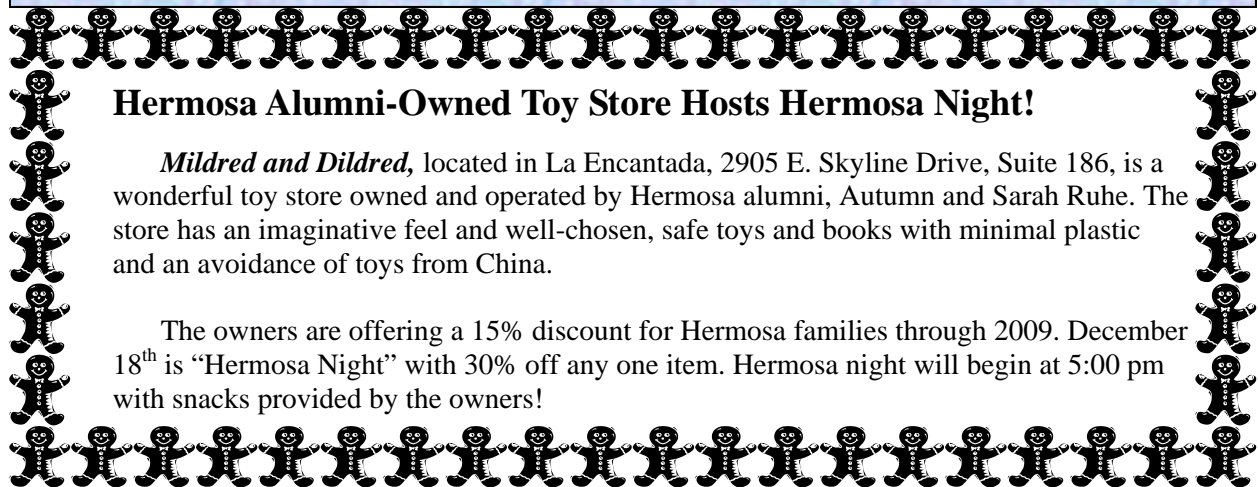
Your company may have a similar policy; I urge you to check it out. If your company permits it, you might even be able to apply your donation to your Hermosa student's extracurricular activity fee. Your contribution may well also be considered a tax credit on your Arizona income tax, directing some of your state taxes to Hermosa, only costing you a "loan" for a few months until your tax return is filed.

Company-matched donations are a great opportunity to attract additional money to Hermosa, with little effort and a substantial reward.

- Julie Jenkins

12 Great Riches of Life: Gratitude at the Holidays

<p>The following 12 "riches" are quoted from "The Laws of Success" by Dr. Napoleon Hill. They were compiled after a 20-year research project on 5,000 Americans who created successful lives from humble beginnings based on their desire, life-long learning, and persistence. This is the summary of how the majority of these hard-working, self-made individuals prioritized that for which they were grateful:</p> <p>◇ Positive attitudes about oneself, others, and life</p>	<p>◇ Sound physical health ◇ Harmony in human relations ◇ Freedom from fear ◇ The hope of future achievement ◇ The capacity for faith ◇ Willingness to share one's blessings ◇ Being involved in a labor of love ◇ An open mind on all subjects ◇ Self-discipline ◇ The capacity to understand people ◇ Economic security</p>
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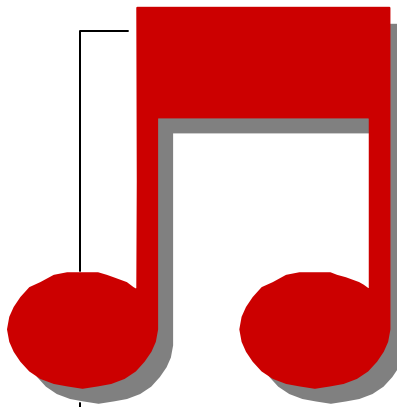


Hermosa Alumni-Owned Toy Store Hosts Hermosa Night!

Mildred and Dildred, located in La Encantada, 2905 E. Skyline Drive, Suite 186, is a wonderful toy store owned and operated by Hermosa alumni, Autumn and Sarah Ruhe. The store has an imaginative feel and well-chosen, safe toys and books with minimal plastic and an avoidance of toys from China.

The owners are offering a 15% discount for Hermosa families through 2009. December 18th is "Hermosa Night" with 30% off any one item. Hermosa night will begin at 5:00 pm with snacks provided by the owners!

*Come check the lost & found!!
 Anything left in the bin over winter break will
 be donated to charity.*



“Music with Mary Rudy” Teaches the Love of Learning

Mary Rudy, Hermosa’s music teacher, is a certified Montessori teacher who radiates a true love of children. She is trained in a uniquely effective and creative approach to music education called Orff, and also in Kindermusik, which nurtures the total development of the child by integrating music, creativity, and movement. In fact, Mary has attained the designation of “Kindermusik Maestro,” an honor earned by only the top instructors in the Kindermusik system, and she serves on the faculty of Kindermusik International as a mentor for new educators.

Mary has eighteen years of teaching experience, and she has taught music to students from preschool to seventh grade. She came to Hermosa from Montana at the suggestion of her friend and former student, Rebecca Duke, Hermosa’s Montessori intern in Sally’s Pre-K class. Mary has four children and is married to nationally-renowned children’s author, James Vollbracht.

Mary’s teaching experience, training, and love of children result in music lessons that inspire a focused, joyful response from her students. Music with Mary Rudy not only effectively teaches music fundamentals and movement, it inspires a love of learning, and supports students directly and indirectly in all areas of their Montessori curriculum.

In the classroom, Mary makes music interesting, fun, and easy for children to learn. Each child is engaged and respected as the students play instruments, sing, march, and dance. Students are given opportunities to assist Mary and the class, which they clearly love. Perhaps the best testimonial was recently overheard from an Hermosa student who said, “I can’t be sick! I don’t want to miss music with Mary!”



A Message from H.O.P.E.: *OneCause* and *eScrip*

Remember to use [OneCause](#) (formerly Schoolpop) and [eScrip](#) when you are on-line shopping this Christmas/Hanukkah season.

OneCause allows you to access Overstock.com, Old Navy, Victoria’s Secret, Lands’ End, Dell, Nordstrom, Avon, Delta Airlines, Lego, Target, F.A.O Schwartz, Discovery Store, Little Tykes, and Blockbuster among many, many others. You can buy anything through this web site and when you do, Hermosa receives a percentage of your purchase!

eScrip lets you register loyalty cards (such as Safeway cards), credit cards and debit/ATM cards, so that every time you use them Hermosa receives money.

If you are planning a cruise with Disney, Carnival, Princess, Royal Caribbean, Club or Celebrity please register your card at *eScrip* first.

When you use *OneCause* and *eScrip*, you get to shop and give money to Hermosa at the same time!

Happy shopping!



*Have a wonderful winter break!
Classes resume January 5.*

Class News

Jo's Class

Thank you to Lisa and David Li for the new play kitchen and assorted accoutrements, and for the new easel. They are a big hit.

Sally's Class

On Tuesday, November 4, we had a class discussion about the Presidential election, and then we held an election of our own. The "candidates" were the colors red, white, and blue. Blue and white tied, so we had to have a runoff vote. Blue prevailed!

We have harvested red and green peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, rosemary, and basil from our garden and are making fall leaf collages from leaves we collected on the playground.

In Spanish class we are focusing on the parts of the body and the names of the colors.

Thanks to Sarah Leuthold for her generous donation of story books for the library; to Shelley Bresler for the lending of "World Book" books; and to Diana Williams for being our volunteer Library Mom. And many thanks to everyone who has participated in our on-going support of the community food bank.

Please bring us your plastic grocery bags. We need them for sending home student work. Thank you!

Lower Elementary

The Lower Elementary is working hard and doing a great job. Most students are working on projects and trying to find as much information on the subject as possible. The Lower Elementary recently went on a field trip to the Tucson Convention Center. It was all about science stuff. They had really cool things to see and do there. Like one place had a real human brain that we got to touch with gloves and learn about the different areas of the brain. Other places we got to visit were a

place on how to make Silly Putty. Another was a hover chair, rocket launch, and a place that showed how electricity works. We also got to be a part of setting a world record for most kids attending a science fair. This month has been really fun. We can't wait until next month.

- by Julian Thies, 2nd year and Rachel Cain, 2nd year

Upper Elementary

Hello Parents, Guardians, Grandparents and Great-grandparents. I could go on, but I need to talk about the 4th grade. We use the Arizona Weekly, a newspaper that Pat gives us, to study Arizona history and geography. We read it, discuss it together, and then have a test. In the first issue, we read about the three regions of Arizona: the plateau region, the mountain region, and the desert region.

The week before Veterans Day almost everybody in the 4th year wrote a letter to a veteran by hand or on the computer. They were sent to the Veteran's Hospital in Tucson.

The 4th year has also been studying Australia and Oceania. This week we are researching imports and exports of Australia or New Zealand. Last week, Pat read a book called *Tuesday*. Hey, speaking

of Tuesday, that is my favorite day of the week, and... wait, I'm supposed to be talking about the 4th year; so *Tuesday* is a funny book about frogs that fly on their lily pads and freak out people. We are now writing our own "weird animal" story.

- by Bronson Grant, 4th year

Things have been going really well for the fifth graders. The students in art elective made clay animals and bowls. Our most recent math presentation was on adding fractions with unlike denominators. It was confusing at first, but it got easier with practice. We have also been creating skits and dances for the upcoming potluck which will be held on December 17, 2008.

In social studies/history we have been studying about the discovery of the New World, and all of the great explorers that discovered the New World.

- by Samantha Cardona, 5th year

Right now the sixth year students are watching a video on the Civil War. Before the Civil War video we watched a video on slavery in America. We also have to memorize the Gettysburg Address and know what it means.

- by Christian Mortensen, 6th year

