

# HERMOSA MONTESSORI *Community Times*

## An Event-Filled Spring Awaits!

As we look forward to the coming months of this school year, there are numerous exciting community events being planned:

- April 17 Middle School Spaghetti Dinner, 5:00 p.m. Fundraising for the Middle School trip.
- April 28 H.O.P.E. meeting at Hermosa, 7:00 p.m. Film viewing, "Follow the Child."
- May 2 Fabulous Indian Fete, "Evening in Chennai," at Hermosa. Jewelry show and sale, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.; evening activities begin at 6:00 p.m.
- May 9 Premier Performance of Hermosa Choirs with Heritage Choirs at Christ Church United Methodist, 7:30 p.m.
- May 23 El Camino Royales at Hermosa—all-ages concert and dance party, 5:30 p.m.
- May 30 Hermosa Talent Showcase—all-school performance at Christ Community Church, 2:00 p.m.

The jewelry show and sale prior to the "Evening in Chennai" is a no-cost opportunity to view and purchase designer-inspired pieces from jewelry designers from Quality Elegance. These are not Indian pieces, but are a variety of beautiful designs at very reasonable costs. Sheila will be wearing some of these pieces during May: just in time for Mother's Day and graduation gifts. A portion of the sales will be donated to Hermosa's general fund. You are also welcome to invite friends and co-workers to the Evening in Chennai; just make sure to meet the RSVP deadline of April 17.

On May 9 the Hermosa Choirs will perform its premier concert with members of the Heritage Choirs, Margie Kersey's other community choirs. The singers have been working hard and already sound great!

El Camino Royales will be playing an all-ages show at Hermosa on May 23 to help us celebrate the Memorial Day weekend. The band plays a fun combination of rock, rockabilly, and surf rock music in local venues. The evening will begin with a potluck. Dust off your dancing shoes, and enjoy the evening with your family. This will be a perfect opportunity for parents of pre-teens and teens to embarrass their students by dancing in public!! Don't miss it.

On May 30, Hermosa students will showcase their talents and delight you with their singing, dancing, acting, and instrumentals. Classes will perform selections they are preparing with Mary Rudy, the choirs will sing, and some students will perform in a short play. Mark your calendars and save the date for a wonderful afternoon show at Christ Community Church.

## Hermosa Chess Team News

Congratulations to the kindergarten-first grade chess team for finishing in first place at the regional championships. Davis Mullins placed second and earned an individual trophy. Jaden Allen placed sixth, and Bradley Richards received the tenth-place trophy. Also helping the best team in the region were Carter Mann, Andrew Bliss, and Logan Richards.

The second-third grade team placed ninth, and Daniel J. Morris placed sixth and earned an individual trophy. Daniel will represent the school at the upcoming state tournament. Jennifer Espersen and William Becker both helped the team place in the top ten in the region.

The fourth-sixth grade team placed 16<sup>th</sup>. Joshua Mayer and Cherish Richards played in the toughest section and played their best.

Great Job!  
Coach Steve



## **Notes From Sheila**

Frequently I am asked to mention what the most challenging task of being a charter school principal is. This requires no reflection or time to consider; I always answer that the most challenging aspect of my job is to complete each school year within our budget limits. Hermosa receives \$6,785.00 per student. This amount could be enough to run a quality program if our facilities were subsidized as are other public schools, or even some private schools that are affiliated with a particular faith-based group. But this is not our case. Hermosa does not receive county, local, or federal funding. We do not have the “safety net” of local property taxes, bonds, and overrides that school districts have.

I am also frequently asked if I regret the decision to convert from a private to a public school, and again I need no processing time to answer, definitively no! I believe that a public education is an essential component of a free and democratic society, and parents and students deserve the choices provided by an open market in education, which is what Arizona is in the process of creating. “Arizona is home to 475 charter schools that enroll more than 100,000 students. Fully 25 percent of the state’s public schools are charter schools, with 10 percent of the public school students—the highest percentage for any state in the nation.” (Arizona Charter Schools Association)

Of the 12 schools statewide in which 100% of students passed eighth grade reading, eight are charters, and **Hermosa is one of the eight**. Of the ten schools statewide in which 100% of students passed eighth grade math, six are charters, and, yes, **Hermosa is one of the six**.

I am proud to be the principal of a wonderful charter Montessori school in which children are free to grow optimally. Each day I am greeted by happy children who enjoy their education, children who sing, dance, act, paint, draw, create and learn. One day last week I walked into the upper elementary classroom to pose a question to my sixth-year writers. They all were focused, on task, and behaving appropriately. I then noticed that their teacher, Randy was not in the building. Students assembled very quickly when I asked to speak to them, quietly and respectfully leaving their tasks. It was then that I commended them on their stellar behavior in the absence of their teacher. They actually looked at me with puzzled faces, as they would not consider other behavior! I then communicated that at most schools students would not behave in this manner if the teacher was not present. My students remind me that the world is full of wonder, opportunities, miracles, and, yes, people of outstanding character, and I am fortunate to be surrounded by them each day.

- Sheila

## **Announcements**

### **Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4-8**

The Teacher Appreciation Committee has several “surprises” for the teachers and staff this year. One of the best ways to demonstrate appreciation for your student’s teacher is to contribute to Hermosa’s fundraising campaign which seeks secure funds for teacher’s salaries. For more information contact Randy Brauer at 749-5518 x218.

### **Missing Snack**

Preschool and Kindergarten Parents:

Please remember to check the snack schedule on the Hermosa web site before the first of each month. The Pre-K classes are frequently missing snack. Thank you!

### **Kindermusik Summer Camps**

Hermosa’s music teacher, Mary Rudy, will be offering Kindermusik classes and camps this summer for children 0-8 years of age at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, 8625 E Tanque Verde Rd. Mary is offering five-week summer sessions for babies, toddlers and preschoolers May 18- June 30, and one-week long camps for 3 1/2 -5 and 5-8 year-olds in June, July and August. For more information, call Mary at 885-3362, or visit her web site at [www.KindermusikwithMary.com](http://www.KindermusikwithMary.com)

## Evening in Chennai

Please join us for a Fabulous Fete May 2 at Hermosa.

Jewelry show and sale 2:00-6:00 p.m.

No admittance fee

Transport to Chennai 6:00-10:00 p.m.

\$15.00 donation per person

\$25.00 donation per couple

Adults only

Proceeds to benefit Hermosa Montessori Charter School

Friends and family welcome.

RSVP by April 17th: 749-5518 x200



**\*Kolam (Rangoli)**

See decorative Indian sand painting

**\*Indian Music**

View classical Indian concert footage

View a Bollywood classic film

**\*See your name in Tamil**

**\*Indian food**

Traditional Appetizers and Dinner

**\*Aromas of India display**

Smell and experience the “spices of Indian life”

**+Traditional**

**Indian Attire**

Enjoy the beauty of Indian clothes for the evening

Sari

Jewelry

Salwar Kameez

**+Bindi** (forehead adornment)

Kurta (men’s suit)

**+Commemorative Photos**

**+Mehendi**

\*Activity included in donation      +Additional fee required

## Game Designer Lauds Montessori Education

Will Wright, creator of the expansive video game Spore, credits his Montessori education with his far-reaching creative abilities and also with his desire to make games that are exciting discovery opportunities for the gamer. Wright, widely considered one of the top three game designers in the world, was interviewed for the gaming web site Kotaku.

He explained, “The structure of Montessori toys is that the kid will discover things while playing with a toy,” Wright said. “Having the kid discover these principles is so much more powerful than a teacher coming up and saying, ‘We’re going to learn about this.’ The way we approached Spore was a lot like that. What are the components I want a gamer to discover when playing with this?”

Wright describes Spore as a “toy universe” that encourages critical thinking and problem solving on the part of the gamer, both central aspects to the Montessori education. In addition, he stresses the importance of failure when gaming, explaining that Montessori children are given the freedom to make mistakes and to learn from these mistakes and that this component too, translates readily to game design. He says, “One of the counter intuitive things I needed to learn as a designer was that players enjoy failures more than success,” he said. “As long as it’s diverse, they like to explore the failure space of a game.”

Spore can be played on Mac, PC or iPhone. To read the complete article, see the following link: <http://kotaku.com/5164248/maria-montessori-the-138+year+old-inspiration-behind-spore?skyline=true&s=x>

## Class News

### Jo's Class

Our kindergarten children (plus two preschoolers who insisted they could do it, and could) won the Bookman's Reading Challenge for the month of February. They got to go to Bookman's where they took a tour and each child got to spend a \$10 gift certificate. Thank you once again to the Li family for their generous donation of many wonderful books for our classroom.

### Upper Elementary

In science we recently talked about adaptations of plants to survive in the desert. One adaptation is succulence. We went outside to our porch and looked for plants with those adaptations and made drawings of them.

We are doing projects on European countries. We find information on our countries from books, encyclopedias and the computer. Then, we put the information on note cards. From those note cards we write paragraphs. We also need to make a product that could be a diorama, song, skit, or something that contains information about our country.

- by Joseph Sanchez, fourth grade

Currently, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is presenting their projects; there was no assigned topic, so people chose subjects like Japan, Clockwork, the Titanic, Colombia, Bangladesh, Michael Vick, The Red Baron, Piranhas, and World War II. Everyone did really great so far. Some people brought food in for their products. Someone even brought in ice cream! I think that was everyone's favorite part. Also, during the week of March 31, the fifth graders took AIMS. Some fifth graders took a mega spelling test, and the ones that got an 80% or higher skipped up to sixth grade spelling! So that is what the fifth graders have been doing.  
- by Monahsetah Blake, fifth grade

Sixth year has been doing creative writing with Sheila, and we have been enjoying it. We also decided to publish a school literary magazine call the *Montessori Times*. The magazine will include student writing, a science fiction section, comics, jokes, non-fiction, poetry, essays, and art just to name a few. Your work goes into the magazine and art from preschoolers is accepted, too. The entire sixth grade is so excited and is organizing everything a little better. The submission date is April 17 and the first edition will come out in May.

- by Ethan Gummere, sixth grade





### Hermosa Dance Party & Celebration

Saturday, May 23, 2009

Hermosa Montessori School  
12051 E. Fort Lowell

**Featuring Live Dance Music**  
by Tucson's Fun & Fabulous

**“ El Camino Royales”**  
Playing Your Favorite Goodtime Rock & Roll,  
Rockabilly, and Surf-Rock Dance Tunes

Dancing, Refreshments, & Fun for Everyone!

**Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm**  
Last names "A-M" entrée  
"N-U" salad-veggies  
"V-Z" dessert

Music following dinner

Advance purchase tickets only available in school office- all-ages show  
Family and friends welcome \$5 per person or \$12 per family

Proceeds to benefit Hermosa Montessori School an excelling public K-8 charter school  
[www.Hermosaschool.org](http://www.Hermosaschool.org) 520-749-5518