

HERMOSA MONTESSORI *Community Times*

Hermosa Montessori School Newsletter Fall 2009

From now on make sure to keep up-to-date with Hermosa by accessing the Hermosa website, as well as following Hermosa on Facebook and Twitter. If you do not have computer access, you may check new Hermosa updates and events by using one of Hermosa's computer labs, Monday-Friday, 3-4 p.m. Please check-in at the Front Office. Hermosa's Facebook page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/hermosa.montessori>

HERMOSA: "EXCELLING" SINCE THE LABEL WAS INVENTED! Since the beginning the Arizona Department of Education (AZDOE) has consistently recognized Hermosa as "EXCELLING". Hermosa has again been awarded the "Excelling" designation for 2009. Welcome back to one of Arizona's best public charter schools!

HERMOSA WELCOMES TERRIFIC NEW TEACHERS & STAFF!

Hermosa enthusiastically welcomes five outstanding new members to the staff:

CRISTINA GRECCHI ("Tina") is Assistant Teacher to Lead Teacher Mary Eiland in the Pre-K community, fulfilling her dream of using her "skills and energy to nurture young minds...in the Montessori classroom." She comes to Hermosa after completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Savannah College and teaching experience in Georgia and Washington. Tina's kindness, positive attitude, love of learning, and sensitivity to young children make her an ideal and valuable addition to the Hermosa community.

AMY BRAUER is Hermosa's new Lead Teacher in Lower Elementary, continuing her 10-year career in Elementary Education. Amy graduated from Moorhead State University in Minnesota with a degree in Elementary Education. After college, she taught elementary school in Europe and served in the Peace Corps for two years as a reading teacher for children in third-world communities. After the Peace Corps she moved to Tucson and taught elementary school at St. Joseph's School and in TUSD. She took a sabbatical to have her two children, both of whom now attend Hermosa, then joined the Hermosa staff to serve as Assistant in Mary Eiland's class. Amy is in certification process as an AMS Elementary Teacher and is a Member of the American Montessori Society. Being raised in a family of musicians, singers, and actors led Amy to performing professionally in musical theater as an elementary and middle school student. She later performed as an instrumentalist, led her award-winning university marching band, and sang as a professional vocalist. Now Montessori, music, and theater arts harmoniously blend into her students' daily lessons and activities. Amy's patience, love of children, and her dedication to effectively guide her students with authentic Montessori methods are beautiful to see in her room, known to her students as "Our Peaceful Classroom".

ALISON IASO ISENBERG began her orientation with Hermosa last winter, is in certification process as an AMS teacher, and now serves as a member of Hermosa's Upper Elementary Teaching Team. Alison grew up in a Montessori family where her mother was a Montessori teacher for thirty years. Alison and her three siblings attended Montessori schools and Alison assisted in her mother's classroom. She holds a B.A. in geography, a Masters of Education in Environmental Education, and is in AMS certification process as an upper elementary teacher. Alison has previously taught children in educational gardens, camping-based science programs, and writing and arts camps. She has also served as a National Park ranger-naturalist, wilderness field instructor with at-risk youth, storyteller and group facilitator. In addition to her work as an educator, she brings valuable experience in event coordination, technical writing, and non-profit leadership. Alison states, "My passion is inspiring and supporting people in creating a more peaceful and sustainable world, and so I have long dedicated myself to the fields of alternative and environmental education. I have benefited greatly from the teachings of Maria Montessori, and I am tremendously inspired by this opportunity to join the Hermosa community. My experience of teaching here is one of joyfully coming home again."

MORIAH FLAGLER is welcomed as a new teacher in Hermosa Middle School. Moriah knows Hermosa very well; she grew up as a student here and graduated from Hermosa Middle School. She holds a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts Education, Arizona Teacher Certification, Arizona Secondary Certification, and is in AMS certification process as a middle school teacher. Moriah's experience includes teaching, performing, and serving in numerous technical and theatrical capacities. She has been the choreographer at Live Theatre Workshop since 2005, and has been teaching musical theater, improvisation, and acting since 2000. She also taught at the Seattle Children's Theatre. She is the current president of Marine Awareness and Conservation Society, and an Outreach Education Leader and curriculum developer at Biosphere II.

ROBERT ENCILA is also welcomed as a new teacher in Middle School. He started singing and dancing at age five and performed professionally in his youth. He moved from his native Philippines to Arizona at age nineteen, accepting a music and theater scholarship at the University of Arizona and achieved his B.F.A. He earned Arizona Teacher Certification with emphasis on Secondary Drama and Music, and he is in certification process as an AMS middle school teacher. In the past twenty years, Robert has taught at St. Gregory's, Catalina Foothills, and Green Fields Country Day School. He founded the theatre arts program at Cienega High School before starting his own fine arts center, Studio Connections. Under the leadership of Robert and his wife Ginny, a highly regarded teacher in her own right, Studio Connections has become a vibrant resident theatre arts company offering critically acclaimed productions. In the classroom, Robert's teaching is respected for his passion and ability to empower individual students to achieve their full potential as creative leaders and productive citizens of the community. He guides teens to examine their lives and issues with a focus on creating positive, peaceful solutions. Robert is also an accomplished singer, actor, songwriter, and director of nearly 70 theatrical productions. His second original CD, *Second Wind*, is selling internationally through i-Tunes and www.cdbaby.com. Robert appears annually at the world famous *Birdland* jazz club in New York City and is a member of the Actors Equity Association.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FEES FOR 2009-2010 ARE DUE The 2009-2010 Extracurricular Activity Fees were due at Registration. If you have not paid this essential fee, \$400/student/year, please do so ASAP. This helps fund your child's great extracurricular education. You can get up to a \$400 AZ Tax Credit, too!

HERMOSA NEEDS ARIZONA TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTIONS Arizona Tax Credit contributions are essential for Hermosa. Please invite these contributions from your relatives and friends. They can receive up to \$400 in tax credit on their Arizona taxes. For info call 749-5518, ext. 218.

FINANCIAL REPORT: HERMOSA ASKS YOUR HELP After nine months, the Arizona Education Budget is still being negotiated. Currently, as a result of historic budget cuts, it appears clear that Hermosa's per pupil allowance will be approximately \$6,200. This is an unsustainable budget figure, one of the lowest in the USA! Hermosa is left with over \$20,000 in deficits from 2009 funding cuts alone. Due to excellent management and fiscal conservatism, Hermosa will survive and thrive this year. The school needs financial support now. **Please Help! Large and small donations are needed now to sustain this great school! All donations are tax-deductible, including office/classroom supplies.**

HERMOSA PARKING LOT: 5 MPH + SAFETY FIRST = ☺☺☺☺ A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute reports **nearly 80 percent of traffic accidents could be prevented if drivers were not distracted.** Distractions in the study included talking on cell phones, eating, caring for children and adjusting the radio. When driving in Hermosa's parking lot, please drive 5 MPH, do not use your cell phone, and drive carefully. Thanks!

HEALTH The Hermosa staff intends to stay well and wants good health for all students. Therefore, please, **never bring your child to school with a fever or symptoms of any illness.** Children must be free from fever and these symptoms for **24 hours** prior to returning to school. If you are sick and need to pick up your child: please call ahead to the Front Office; stay in your car and Hermosa staff will sign out your child. If you pick up a sick child: please sign the child out first; then pick up your child and go directly to your car. This helps minimize spread of illness. **The #1 solution to stop the spread of illness is regular hand-washing. If you or your child are sick, please stay home! Thank you!**

OPEN HOUSE FOR HERMOSA CLASSROOMS Classroom open houses are the ideal opportunity to see your student's classroom through his or her eyes. After attending your student's open house you will have a much better understanding of your student's day at school. Come early to see it all! **The schedule is as follows:**

Sept. 17, Mary's Class	Sept. 22, Amy's Class	Sept. 23, Sally's Class
Oct. 2, Jo's Class	Oct. 14, Michael's Class	Nov. 2, Don's Class
Nov. 5, Upper Elementary	OPEN HOUSE TIMES:	6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

SEPTEMBER 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m. PARENT PHOTOS for campus security & identification. Parents: Check-in at the office if you missed your photo at Registration

OCTOBER 5 CLASSROOM GROUP PHOTOS

OCTOBER 6 LOWER & UPPER ELEMENTARY PHOTOS

OCTOBER 6 MIDDLE SCHOOL ROPES COURSE

OCTOBER 7 PRE-K & MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOS

OCTOBER 9, 5:30-8:30 P.M. HERMOSA CARNIVAL Plan now for one of the most popular school events of the year: The Hermosa Carnival! Each year Hermosa Middle School students plan, organize, manage and present a fun and fabulous variety of games, exhibits, dunk-tank, cake walk, and food. Proceeds help pay for Middle School's end-of-year educational trip. Donations of cakes are welcomed!

OCTOBER 15-16 PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCES
Please make your appointment. No school for Preschool and Kindergarten only.

OCTOBER 15 SKATE NIGHT, SKATE COUNTRY, 22nd St., 6-8 p.m.

**OCTOBER 30 UPPER & LOWER EL HALLOWEEN PARTIES;
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PRE-K**

HERMOSA POLICIES, FLYERS, and TEACHER RESUMES You can read Hermosa policies and handouts, as well as review staff resumes in the Front Office. Stop by any time during office hours. Front Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The office is unavailable during late care hours.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE Under provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents or legal guardians having custody of students shall be informed of their rights regarding student records and shall be permitted to inspect and review education records as appropriate under the law. Personally identifiable information shall not be disclosed without written consent. A record of disclosures shall be maintained. Parents, legal guardians, and eligible students shall be provided an opportunity to seek the correction of education records where appropriate. The district superintendent shall develop and maintain such procedures as are necessary to assure compliance with the provisions of the statute as well as ensure that school staff receives periodic instruction and training regarding the privacy rights of students and parents and the confidential handling of student records. Copies of the district policy and procedures concerning the inspection and review of student records shall be on file in the office. Complaints regarding alleged failures of the district to comply with the FERPA requirements may be filed in the office.