

# *Hermosa Community Times*

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**Arizona Representative Frank Antenori** toured the Hermosa campus on Friday, October 2. He is the state representative of Arizona Legislative District 30, where Hermosa is located. Rep. Antenori is a strong supporter of excelling Arizona charter schools like Hermosa. He spent four hours observing all classrooms, guided by Hermosa's Founder-Superintendent, Sheila Stolov, who helped increase his understanding of charter schools, Montessori, and how Arizona's funding of \$6,000/student is unsustainable. One lower elementary student spontaneously gave the representative a tour of the classroom, complete with demonstrations and explanations. Several middle school students greeted the representative with a hardback copy of Rep. Antenori's book and requests for his autograph. Mr. Antenori said he was genuinely impressed by Hermosa and believed it to be an outstanding education model for Arizona and America. He offered insights into Arizona's state government challenges and emphasized the need for simplifying the education funding process and significantly increasing charter funding. He volunteered to invite influential Arizona legislators to visit Hermosa themselves so that they, too, could experience the excellence of Hermosa's honorable students, dedicated staff, and the integrity, peace, pride, and beauty he discovered here.

## **Arizona Tax Credit Donations for Hermosa**

Question: Who do you know that could benefit from an Arizona Tax Credit by donating to Hermosa? Answer: Anyone with Arizona tax liability. Hermosa needs your help. Please take the time to ask relatives, neighbors, and friends to support one of Arizona's best public schools and one of Arizona's Top 10 Charter Schools, Hermosa Montessori Public Charter School. They can donate up to \$400, if married filing jointly, or \$200, filing single, and receive up to that amount in Arizona Tax Credit. Hermosa invests this money exclusively in students' character development and extracurricular activities. Make checks payable to "Hermosa Montessori Charter School." In the memo note: "Arizona Tax Credit," and mail to 12051 E. Ft. Lowell, Tucson, 85749. Contributors will receive a receipt and a "thank you" letter.

**Middle School Carnival raised \$4200** to help pay for their annual end-of-year educational trip! Middle school students demonstrated their teamwork, executive skills, effective communication, management, marketing, and leadership. Congratulations to Hermosa middle school students, parents, teachers, and H.O.P.E. event coordinator Christine Bauserman! Thank you for a fun-filled evening!

**Upper Elementary fundraiser nets over \$1300!** Ever wonder where Randy Young gets his ultra-cool nature T-shirts? Upper Elementary finally found out: it's "Uncle Jerry's"! Students sold orders for these beautiful nature-inspired T-shirts and raised \$1300 for their projects. Congratulations Upper Elementary!

**Nina Adang** is welcomed as Hermosa's new assistant teacher in Sally's classroom. She succeeds Rebecca Shearer who has moved to Lower Elementary (please see below.) Nina was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Iran, where she attended a private American school and lived for twelve years. Her mother was a teacher and taught private elementary school in Iran. She attended community college while working as a makeup artist in New York, and later graduated with honors from California State University earning her degree in Business Management and Marketing. She moved to Tucson to work at National Computer Systems (NCS), the nation's largest processor of student assessment tests for K-12, where she evaluated national assessment tests and assisted with improving instruction methods and measuring school accountability. After a sabbatical to have children, she began substitute teaching at Hermosa. Her two children have enjoyed attending Hermosa since preschool. She has relatives in Germany, Iran, Switzerland, Bolivia, England, and Italy, and has enjoyed preparing and presenting lessons on international culture to Pre-K students. Nina says she loves working with young children and her students clearly enjoy and appreciate her. In her spare time, she likes traveling with her family throughout the Southwest and around America. Nina's bright energy, kindness, teamwork, and enthusiasm are a welcome addition and great benefit to Hermosa.

**Rebecca Shearer**, formerly Assistant Teacher in Sally's classroom, is welcomed as Hermosa's new teacher with Lower Elementary in Amy's classroom. Rebecca grew up in Montana and was home-schooled by her mother who had Montessori experience. Rebecca enrolled in the University of Arizona at age 17. She also studied at Pima College for two years and taught gymnastics to young children. At Hermosa, Rebecca assisted in Sally's classroom for five years. She is respected and appreciated by colleagues, students, and parents for being an organized, effective leader. During her service in Sally's classroom, Rebecca grew in her enjoyment of traditional Montessori philosophy and methods and decided to become a fully-trained, certified Montessori Teacher. Sponsored by Hermosa in 2008, Rebecca attended internationally acclaimed Houston Montessori Center to learn authentic Montessori philosophy, methods, and implementation from some of the world's best. She enthusiastically reports, "I loved my training! It was absolutely amazing!" A dedicated, disciplined student, Rebecca has completed the requirements for her AMS Montessori certification. One can see Rebecca works to refine her service to children each day. Like all Hermosa teachers, she creates a positive, professional, peaceful, and productive learning environment for Hermosa students. Congratulations, and thank you, to Rebecca, and all of Hermosa's great classroom leaders.

### **"Parental Guidance" is here: Montessori Educational Videos**

All Hermosa parents are encouraged to visit and research <http://www.edvid.com/>. This AMS-approved website offers practical, professional education about Montessori to help you and your child. Most of us were not educated in the unique Montessori environment, so it can be challenging to "think out of our educational box." Many questions can be answered by accessing this website as well as <http://www.amshq.org/>. [Http://www.edvid.com/](http://www.edvid.com/) offers free educational videos monthly, a video store, and 8-minute excerpts and complete transcripts from informative AMS DVDs such as: "The Practical Life Curriculum"; "Montessori for Elementary Age Children"; "Montessori Middle School for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", and many more. DVDs can be purchased but the valuable monthly videos and all video excerpts are free! Hermosa also maintains a small but growing library of Montessori and parenting books available to borrow from Hermosa's front office.

## **American Montessori Society Fall 2009 Conference Report**

Submitted by Randy Brauer, Development Director, Hermosa Montessori Charter School

Attending the American Montessori Society (AMS) Fall 2009 Conference, in Garden Grove, California was an inspiring educational experience. The conference included nearly a thousand Montessori administrators, trainers, teachers, university researchers, and media personnel from the USA and other countries. AMS executives, renowned AMS elders, and university professors presented informative reports and education research during the three-day conference. Most notably, news from AMS executives, observations shared by wise Montessori elders, and a growing body of academic research validated Hermosa, and schools like it, as leaders of Montessori authenticity, effectiveness, and success in America.

Numerous AMS presenters showed that few Montessori schools operate within the high standards and effectiveness of Hermosa Montessori. Several researchers were intrigued that an exemplary school such as Hermosa was a tuition-free charter school rather than a high-cost private academy and expressed genuine interest in Hermosa as a focus of their future research.

Current research presented at the conference attributed Hermosa's 30 years of success to an uncompromising, consistent implementation of "traditional Montessori" practices. University professors confirmed, without surprise, that leading schools like Hermosa are the result of the high standards and hard work of superior training, honorable ethics, professional management and persistence, combined with intelligence, dedication, and integrity throughout the staff. When these professional, ethical, and academic values are focused in daily service to students that is firm yet kind, balanced and fair, greatness is achieved.

The experience of this AMS conference made me feel fortunate that Hermosa is here for our children. True to Dr. Montessori's principles, Hermosa has never rested upon its laurels. Still, each of us, as parents, students, and staff in one of America's leading Montessori schools, truly have good cause to acknowledge and celebrate Hermosa's excellence as we work together to create a brighter future.

### **"Pennies for Peace" is back!** Written by Nick Gada (Upper Elementary)

Cayce Cavett (Amy's classroom), Grace Gada (Michael's classroom), and I want to say, "Thank you to everybody that brought in their pennies last year!" We hope we can raise another \$400 quickly so we can send a check for \$4,000.00! Pennies for Peace was started by Greg Mortensen. When he failed to reach the summit of K2 in northern Pakistan, he stumbled, sickly, into a small village with children, but no school. He came back to the U.S. and started raising pennies. There is now a school in the middle of that village. He has now built 76 schools. These schools help children get an education and keep them out of terrorism schools. These children are learning that Americans are good and kind and are not the enemy. We'd like to thank Cheryl, Catherine, and Mattie Snyder, Emma, Skyler, and Cody Fickett for helping count all the pennies. There are new jars in every classroom. Please start bringing your extra pennies to help other children in the world! Thank you!

### **Tucson Symphony Serenades Hermosa in October, Twice!**

As part of Hermosa's extracurricular curriculum, the Tucson Symphony visited Hermosa twice in October. The Brass Quartet performed popular classical compositions and movie themes for Lower Elementary. The TSO Harp Trio, featuring viola and flute, performed for Pre-K. Both visits featured instruction in effective listening, performance, the roles of specific instruments, successful teamwork, and the joy of appreciating beautiful music. This concert was paid for by your extracurricular dollars. Parents are invited to observe future performances!

## **Parents' Lawsuit Seeks Equitable Education Funding in AZ**

According to the 2007-2008 Superintendent's Report, per pupil funding for public school students varies dramatically throughout Arizona. Some public school students are valued at over \$6,000 less than other public school students.

In response to this disparity, the parents of 20 public school children from across Arizona have filed lawsuits seeking relief from Arizona's current system of K-12 school funding. The lawsuits, calling Arizona's education funding formula "inequitable" and "unconstitutional," name the State of Arizona, the State Board of Education and Tom Horne (in his official capacity as the Superintendent of Public Instruction) as defendants.

Grant Woods, former Arizona Attorney General and co-counsel for the Plaintiffs, explained, "Depending on where a child lives in Arizona, that student is provided a different level of school funding. Our Constitution prohibits these types of inequities. We are not talking a little unbalanced nuance here, we are saying that some kids in this state will receive \$7.5 billion *less* in education funding over their school career than other kids living in a different neighborhood. That is just plain wrong, and that is why we have a good Constitution that addresses these disparities." For more information please visit <http://studentequitynow.org>.

**"The Birthday Book Club"** is your opportunity as a parent to donate a favorite book to your children's classroom in honor of his/her birthday to enrich Hermosa's classroom libraries. Please participate any time of year. Thank you!

## **Don't miss the Hermosa Children's Chorus and Hermosa Singers' 2009-2010 Premier Performance!**

The Hermosa Children's Chorus (lower elementary students) and Hermosa Singers (upper elementary students) will be giving their first performance of the school year in a big public venue. Both choirs will be performing along with two community choirs: Heritage Singers, a youth choir, and "Seasons," a women's choir, on Saturday, December 12th at Christ Church United Methodist. The church is located at 655 N. Craycroft (5th and Craycroft) and there will be a large audience. The concert time is 7:00 p.m. and is free to the public, although we will "pass the hat" for donations to defray the costs of the concert.

Even if your children aren't in the Hermosa School choirs, be sure to attend. This winter concert will be a huge family event and will set the tone for your holiday season.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

Mon., Nov. 2	Don's lower elementary class Open House	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 3	Picture retakes	8:00 – 8:30 a.m.
Thurs., Nov. 5	Randy's class and new U.E. Open House	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 11	Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL	
November 25 – 27	Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL	