

# Hermosa Montessori

Volume 10, Issue 1

## Special Stories In This Issue

Parents: "Silent Journey and Discovery"

"Science Report"  
by Taylor Nations

Pre-K: Indigenous Art

Choir Delights All in  
Holiday Concert

Middle School: from  
Newton to Nuclear

Upper Elementary  
Dinner & Show

Foundations of  
Science in Lower El

### Dates to Remember

Feb. 5 Chinese 10:30  
New Year Parade

Feb. 8, K to 1 4pm  
Silent Journey

Feb. 9, grade 3-4 4pm  
Silent Journey

Feb. 10, grade 6-7 4pm  
Silent Journey

Feb. 11, Dr. Coe 7pm  
Middle School

Feb. 12 Pre & K  
Open Enrollment

Feb. 25-26  
Rodeo Vacation

## Hermosa Proactive in AZ Education Funding Crisis

2009 was the most challenging year in Arizona's legislative history regarding state funding of public education. Hermosa's principal and all school leaders statewide were forced to "wait in the dark" as legislative deadlines repeatedly passed before finally receiving their lowest funding in history for fiscal year 2009-2010. This year Hermosa will be proactive in its response and asks your support. We are advancing toward at least four means of alternative funding for Hermosa: our annual capital campaign; an appeal to corporations; appeals to philanthropic individuals; and, free-market enterprise. Hermosa needs your help now, as never before. Your tax-deductible contributions in any amount, large or small, are essential. Gov. Jan Brewer has proposed drastic additional funding cuts to AZ children and education,

Every Day,  
in Every  
Classroom,  
Something  
Amazing is  
Happening  
at Hermosa!



including charter schools like Hermosa. Some charter schools have already closed. If passed by the legislature, further cuts will continue to adversely effect all schools. You are encouraged to follow the funding news on the Arizona Charter Association website, [www.azcharters.org](http://www.azcharters.org).

**Please give generously now!  
Help support Hermosa and  
our outstanding teachers.**

## Hermosa Students Raise, Donate \$1367 to Help Haiti

Every year Hermosa students create and administer an independent fundraising project. Students learn teamwork, responsibility, and business basics. They earn money together, vote on class projects they want to invest in, pay for the project, create it, enjoy it for themselves, and sometimes leave it to benefit future students. This year Hermosa students will donate their example of giving and kindness.

Students' major fundraiser this year, Un-

cle Jerry's colorful, high-quality t-shirts, raised \$1375. Students had previously saved \$400, then raised another \$217 in donations. When it came time to vote on how they would invest their earnings, the students voted (without teacher prompting) to send \$750 of their new earnings to help victims of the Haitian quake, plus \$617 from their savings and additional fundraising, to "Save the Children" in Haiti.

# Hermosa Montessori

## Pre-K Enjoys Indigenous Art, Harvest Lessons, Pennies for Peace



Huichol yarn drawings teach history & culture.

Preschool and kindergarteners enjoyed a recent visit and lessons by an artist from the indigenous Mexican Huichol tribe as part of their international crafts project. He taught the students how to create uniquely beautiful Huichol yarn drawings that tell stories and history.

Sally's room experienced a harvest "Cooking Project." All students contributed vegetables to make a harvest stew. The children enjoyed learning about crops, the harvest, various food ingredients, spices, and how to prepare a delicious meal. Parents brought pies, utensils, and helped chop and cook. "Special Thanks!" to Diana Williams, Lory Cannizzaro, and Anne Fulton-Cavett!

This year Pre-K students are again learning about helping other children by participating in the "Pennies for Peace", introduced in 2008 and led by Cacye Cavett, Nick Gada, and Gracie Gada. Students have held fundraisers and brought in their own savings to help educate children in a curriculum that promotes world peace. This year Hermosa Pre-K students have already contributed over 14,000 Pennies for Peace. Congratulations students!

**Hermosa Choir  
Director, Margie  
Kersey, reports:**

**"I am amazed at how fast Hermosa students learn and what a joy they are to work with!"**



**"We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, or logic, but somewhat beauty and poetry."**

**Maria Montessori**

## Hermosa Chorus & Singers Delight Full House in Holiday Concert

Over 400 parents, relatives, and friends were delighted by Hermosa's Children Chorus and the Hermosa Singers, in their December concert conducted by Margie Kersey. The students shined and excelled in their first performance of the school year before a standing-room audience who enthusiastically embraced the attractively dressed, precisely organized students. The Chorus and Singers delivered a professional, joyful performance including holiday songs, audience sing-a-longs, and joyful good humor. It was a memorable evening for all!

The Hermosa Children's Chorus and The Hermosa Singers are now preparing for Hermosa's Fine Arts Showcase on May 1, and Choir Concert on May 8. Choir Director, Margie Kersey, reports she is amazed at "how fast Hermosa students learn and what a joy they are to work with!" Students love her, too. Like all Hermosa teachers, Margie makes learning fun! She also makes concerts and shows fun. Be sure to save May 1st and May 8th!

## Lower EI Students Learn Foundations of Science & Universe

Hermosa Lead Teachers in Lower Elementary are working together this year to coordinate dynamic, dramatic team presentations of science lessons. Lower EI students have been excited, focused, and responsive to learning about the universe, its grand scale, galaxies, stars, our solar system and the planets. Through teacher demonstrations, students have witnessed and studied the laws of gravity, the laws of motion, centrifugal force, and how earth's continents and oceans were formed by geologic forces. Teachers have demonstrated how the earth's elements combined with the laws of physics to create the layers of the earth. These studies are part of the first of the Montessori "Great Lessons." Studies are integrated throughout the student's curriculum wherein the lessons reinforce one another to facilitate learning, understanding, discussion, growth, retention, and mastery.

## Science Report by Talyor Nations, Upper Elementary

### "The Black Mamba"

This year's science is the best of the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade! Reason being, we get the amazing opportunity to work with Aletris Neils. She is an animal biologist at the University of Arizona working toward her Ph.D. My favorite science class was when she brought in the black mamba,

a venomous snake that is found in most of Africa. I would have thought it would be called mamba because of its skin color. But, as it turns out, its skin is not black at all. It is more of an olive green. It got its name because of the inky blackness inside of its mouth.

Snakes are not my favorite animals; in fact, I'm actually

pretty scared of them! The snake was creepy, with its fangs and red eyes. It was dead though. If it was alive I probably wouldn't have chosen this for my favorite science class. Most people, besides me, decided to touch it.

Even though it was a little creepy, I learned a lot of about this interesting snake.

A bite from this snake can deliver up to 44 mg of venom, and only about 10-15 mg is all it takes to kill a full grown adult! That is a lot of venom for a 14 foot long snake! Depending on the nature of the bite, death can result at any time between 15 minutes and 3 hours. On average, how-

ever, death usually occurs 30 to 60 minutes after evenomation. Rodents, ground squirrels, and other small mammals are the mamba's main food source. The snake delivers one or two deadly bites and backs away for the bite to paralyze its prey. I hope to learn more about this fascinating

snake from Africa.

**Aletris Neils, Ph.D.** candidate is beloved by Hermosa students. She comes to Hermosa via a science education grant. In addition, Aletris now volunteers her time on Monday afternoons as Hermosa Science Club leader! Thank you, Aletris!



**"The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say: The children are now working as if I did not exist."**

Maria Montessori

**"This year's science is the best of the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade!"**

**Taylor Nations**  
President  
Upper Elementary  
6th Year Student

## Students & Families Enjoy Upper El Dinner & Fun-filled Show

Hermosa Upper Elementary students and teachers held their annual Potluck Dinner and Show in December. It was a great event that also raised donations for the Community Food Bank. Buffet tables were filled with entrees, salads, home-made treats, breads, and desserts. Students of all ages, parents,

and relatives enjoyed a relaxing dinner with pleasant conversations.

After dinner, guests were welcomed by Upper El students into the Middle School to enjoy a show created completely by the students. Theater style seating overflowed into standing-only. The audience enthusiastically applauded student's

songs, instrumental music, dance, improvisational theater, and magic.

The show closed with a hilarious, fast-paced, accurate rendition of Abbot & Costello's "Who's on First?" Thank you Upper Elementary students, teachers, and families!



**"One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child."** Dr. Montessori

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## Children Need Good Sleep Every Night and a Good Breakfast Every Day

Research shows that children, and adults, do best with adequate sleep. Science also shows that regular sleep routines for bedtime and rising help us feel our best. It is best to avoid late bedtimes for children, especially young children. Children need up to ten hours of sleep per night. Follow a good night's rest with a nutritious breakfast to help your child learn, feel good, stay healthy, and have fun.

## Please Contribute to Hermosa's Teachers and Your School's Future!

Please make your tax-deductible contribution to "Hermosa Montessori Charter School", a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, 12051 E. Ft. Lowell Rd., Tucson, AZ 85749.

For news and updates, please visit [www.hermosaschool.org](http://www.hermosaschool.org)

# Hermosa Montessori School

"Celebrating the Love of Learning for over 30 years"

## Annual AHERA Notification 2009-2010



**"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed." Dr. Montessori**

Regarding:

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). This is a compliance notification for Hermosa Montessori School, Inc., and Hermosa Montessori Charter School.

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers, Staff, and other Employees:

In accordance with regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we are required to notify you each year of the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan.

Hermosa's Asbestos Management Plan indicates no asbestos-containing materials were used or specified

in the construction of any of Hermosa's buildings. Hermosa Montessori School fully complies with all federal and state regulations regarding asbestos.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available in the front office during regular business hours.

# Hermosa Montessori

## Tucson Symphony Piano Trio Performs & Teaches at Hermosa



**“Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.”**

Maria Montessori

Leading instrumentalists from the Tucson Symphony Orchestra performed and taught lessons in music appreciation for all of the Lower Elementary students on January 21, 2010. The TSO piano trio is: Paula Fan, piano; Michael Fan (her brother), Violin; and, Xiao-Dan Zheng,, cello. Paula taught students about the instrument families in the orchestra. Many students were surprised to learn that

the piano is a member of the percussion family.

The trio demonstrated how music and imagination work together to tell stories. They challenged students to listen, imagine, and identify types of characters, scenery, and emotions as the trio skillfully performed various classical works. Students enthusiastically reported what they had heard, how it felt, and what they thought the music was

describing. The friendly musicians were delightful to hear and inspired the students' focus and involvement. Students were encouraged to ask questions and received kind, age-appropriate answers. Many students shared about their love of music and instruments they play. TSO returns on March 23 for their fourth educational visit this year. TSO visits are funded by the annual activity fee.

## Middle School Science Goes Energetic...

## ...and Creates Waves !

### Science Note

#### For Parents:

Starting in early childhood, progressing through lower to upper elementary, and middle school, traditional Montessori science methods used at Hermosa incrementally and ingeniously *involve* students in scientific discovery, often in ways that are memorable and fun.

Hermosa middle school students have been experimenting with energy, forces of motion, and how energy transforms. They have done this by conducting various experiments and coming up with questions during the process.

The students then conducted research in order to answer their questions – just as scientists would. Whether they were swinging a baseball from a string to see if it would swing back and hit them in the nose or dropping a tennis ball on top of a volleyball to see the energy transfer, they were having fun and making hypotheses about what would happen next. “My goal as a science teacher is that the students will begin to make predictions and question the world around them as they do in science class and connect the concepts learned in science to their daily lives,” says teacher Moriah Flagler.

The most recent endeavor middle school students took on was “The Treacherous Ocean Voyage.” In this lesson they acted as scientists on a dangerous ocean voyage – determining what type of wave or wave interaction would be the most destructive to their created ship. Through a series of test runs in wave tubs and a very wet afternoon – the captains discovered challenging wave conditions, the science involved, and shared their journey as a dramatic scene, a PowerPoint show, or even a reading of the ship's daily log.

Middle school parents will want to mark their calendars for Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m. to hear Dr. Betsy Coe speak at Hermosa Middle School. Dr. Coe is one of the world's leading authorities on adolescent development and Montessori methods. Please see the related article on the following page and R.S.V.P. to the front office for Dr. Coe's presentation.



## Meet Dr. Betsy Coe: Hermosa Middle School, Feb. 11

Elizabeth (Besty) Coe, Ph.D., is four-time past president of the American Montessori Society (AMS), a world-renowned authority on adolescent developmental psychology, an AMS lead-researcher, and an expert on how the Montessori model meets students' needs. Dr. Coe is also a wise advisor to Hermosa, a long-time friend of our founder/principal, and a beloved mentor to many

Hermosa teachers. She is welcomed back to the Hermosa community for a special presentation on **Thursday, February 11, at 7 p.m.** in the Middle School. Please arrive early, seating is limited!

Dr. Coe is a highly popular and informative keynote speaker at major conventions throughout the world. She travels the globe weekly in support of the best in Montessori education and leadership.

Betsy Coe is Founder/CEO of the Houston Montessori Center, one of the world's leading Montessori training institutions, and Director of School of the Woods, a preeminent, authentic Montessori school serving students from preschool through high school. Mark your calendar. Bring a notepad!



**Dr. Coe will speak on new research and discoveries, and Montessori Middle School, which she helped create for America.**

## Hermosa School Calendar Dates Spring 2010

**Feb. 22-28** Montessori Education Week

**March 13** Sweetheart Ball

**March 17** Skate Night

**March 23** TSO, Lower El

**March 29 – April 2**

Spring Break NO SCHOOL

**April 12 – 16** AIMS/

Stanford: Grades 2-8

**April 16** Spaghetti Dinner

**May 1** Fine Arts Showcase

**May 3 – 5** Kindergarten

students visit L.E.

**May 6** Young People's Concert, L.E. field trip

**May 8** Concert: Hermosa Choir & Hermosa Singers

**May 13** Skate Night

**May 10-14** Middle School Trip

**May 20 -21** All Grades

Conferences NO SCHOOL

**Check the Hermosa website for news, changes, and updates.**

### Dear Hermosa Parents:

**Summer Registration 2010 will be the due date for Extracurricular Activity Fees for 2010-2011. This annual fee of \$400 per student provides superior education for your child in music, choir, art, ethics, character development, and physical education, as well as field trips, Tucson Symphony, and playground upkeep.**



**Parents will learn more about all Hermosa classrooms during the February 8-11 "Silent Journey & Discovery."**

## Hermosa Music & Choir Develops Character & Intelligence

Hermosa music education integrates music and movement in ways shown to nurture and accelerate a child's total development, including language, math and cognitive skills. Current research shows this program also improves a child's ability to plan, guide and control their own behavior. Hermosa music is taught by Mary Rudy, a life-long Montessori

teacher.

The Hermosa Choirs are directed by Margie Kersey, Founder and Former Director of Tucson Girls Chorus.

Participating in music and choir help develop areas of a student's brain related to language, spatial reasoning, math, and creativity. Music and choir also help students develop craftsmanship, quality conscience, discipline,

problem-solving skills, teamwork, confidence, and self-esteem.

Mary Rudy is providing group lessons in the Kindermusik program for babies and toddlers, shown by research to advance early development.

Margie Kersey currently has limited openings for private piano lessons in her Sabino Canyon home.

Call for more information.

**Margie Kersey**  
Hermosa Choir  
Director: Private  
Piano Lessons.  
Phone: 722-2355

**Mary Rudy**  
Hermosa Music:  
Kindermusik for  
Babies & Toddlers.  
Phone: 885-3362