



# Elementary Montessorian

Volume 1 | Issue 1 | September 2014

Visalia Montessori School Newsletter

3514 South Linwood Street Visalia, CA 93277

559.772.5326

## News and Notes for VMS Families

Welcome to our founding parents and students! Thank you for choosing VMS for your child's elementary education.

### **Water Bottles**

Remember to send your child to school each day with a water bottle. We do not have a drinking fountain available to us at the temporary school site, though we do provide a water cooler and cups for those students who do not have water bottles.

### **Snacks, Please!**

Your child will need to bring an extra snack or two each day while we are at our temporary location. We do not provide snacks during the school day for children. We do, however, provide snacks for those

children who stay after school. When we have access to a kitchen at our permanent site, we will have a rotating schedule of snacks.

### **Footwear, Fancy Free**

We spend time being active outside everyday. Please send your child to school with shoes that lend themselves to running, jumping, etc.

### **VMSPA Meeting**

The Visalia Montessori School Parents Association will have the first board meeting of the year on Thursday, September 18 at 6 pm at a place to grow Montessori. All current and future parents are invited to attend. The VMSPA is a parent-run organization that raises funds for student ma-

terials, projects, and student and teacher scholarships. For more information, contact Belinda Heatherly at: [parents@visaliamontessori.com](mailto:parents@visaliamontessori.com)

### **Book Orders**

Scholastic Book Orders are a way to provide VMS families with a simple way to purchase inexpensive books while earning free books for the school. The first book order of the school year, due by Sept. 15, will be done using paper forms. After that, we will have the option to order online, which will give you access to ordering any books available from Scholastic. We'll still do paper orders for those who prefer it. Please make checks payable to Scholastic Books.

## Work Plans Coming Home on Thursdays

Work Plans are a way for your child to keep track of lessons and to set goals for work each day. Work plans are kept in a notebook. This notebook will come home with your child each week on Thursday.

Please ask your child what s/he is working on and sign on the line at the front of the notebook to let me know that you discussed it. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss learning goals and lessons with your child.

Please help your child to remember to bring the notebook back to school on Friday. Without a work plan, your child's day will be directed by the teachers (something every Montessori student dislikes!)

## Upcoming Events

**Book Orders Due**  
Mon, Sept 15

**VMSPA Meeting**  
Thurs, Sept. 18, 6:30 pm  
a place to grow

**VMA Meeting**  
Mon, Sept. 22, 6 pm  
Greenhouse

**Back to School Night**  
Mon, Oct. 13, 6:30 pm  
VMS

## VMSPA News

The Visalia Montessori School Parents Association is seeking new board members.

Even if you don't have time to serve on the board, the VMSPA has many opportunities for VMS families to have input and participation throughout the year.

Our families are important to us! Thank you in advance for helping VMS be the best it can be!

# Montessori Matters: Five Great Lessons

In the beginning of the school year, elementary Montessori students are part of the “Great Lessons”. These lessons are designed to give children a “big picture” account of their world.

## 1. The Coming of the Universe:

This lesson is presented as a version of what some scientists believe to be the beginning of our universe and the formation of the stars and planets. In it, several laws of the universe are presented, such as the states of matter, gravity, inertia, centrifugal force and attraction. Numerous key lessons spring from this lesson, including the history of the earth, experiments and further inquiry. This week, several students chose to draw the stages in the life cycle of a star.

**2. The Coming of Life:** This lesson tells about the coming of life on

Earth, from the first tiny organisms through modern day plants and animals.

## 3. Coming of Humans:

This lesson introduces one of the many gifts that make humans special: hands to do work. From this lesson, students begin the Needs of Humans across different civilizations and across time, starting with early humans.

## 4. History of Communication:

This is the story of the development of the written alphabet, including pictographs, symbols, hieroglyphs, alphabets, and more modern inventions.

## 5. History of Mathematics:

This story includes how math is developed across ancient civilizations and rules that we still use today such as a func-

tioning economy, numerals, and the Pythagorean Theorem, to name a few.

We value these Great Lessons as a unifying historical theme throughout the entire school year. We understand that there was a “beginning” and that there are many stories

across cultures and religions to explain the origin of the Universe, Earth, life, etc. If your family has a special creation story that you have and would like to share, please share with us! We will be reading different creation stories for the entire month.

“  
Let us give the child a vision of the whole universe... for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with earth other to form one whole unity .  
”

—Maria Montessori in *To Educate the Human Potential*



**Visalia  
Montessori  
School**

**Melissa Dabadie– Owner/Director**

**Nina Clancy– Owner**

3514 South Linwood Street

Visalia, CA 93277

559.772.5326

7:30-5:30 Mon-Fri



Like us on facebook.

[office@visaliamontessori.com](mailto:office@visaliamontessori.com)

[www.visaliamontessori.com](http://www.visaliamontessori.com)

The Visalia Montessori School mission is to build an engaged community of respectful and compassionate learners by providing a world-class Montessori environment that supports individuality, self-discipline and a lifelong love of learning.

Currently serving grades 1-2

Before and After School Care Available