



GMS Newsletter

August - December 2023

<https://guadalupeмонтessori.org/>



Upcoming Events

First Day of Spring 2024 Semester - January 8th

MLK Jr. Day No School - January 15th

Parent/Teacher Conferences - February 8th & 9th

Presidents' Day No School - February 19th

Parent Education Night - February 21st



Congratulations to Elementary Class students for their amazing performance in the National Dance Institute's production this October!



The short days of December provide a time to reflect on the busy Fall semester. In addition to the Montessori curriculum, students throughout the school have received enrichment lessons in art, literacy, and music each week. We are so grateful for our school community and are privileged to be part of each child's educational journey.

Wishing you all joy and peace this holiday season.

With gratitude,

Heidi Pendleton, School Director



"The child is the true maker of our spirituality. He teaches us the plan of nature for giving form to our conduct and character, a plan fully traced out in all its details of age and work, with its need for freedom and intense activity in accordance with the laws of life. What matters is not physics or botany, or works of the hand, but the will, and the components of the human spirit which construct themselves by work. The child is the spiritual builder of mankind, and obstacles to his free development are the stones in the wall by which the soul of man has become imprisoned."

Montessori, Maria. *The Absorbent Mind*. Holt, 1995.





October was a busy month!
 Halloween - All the students at GMS celebrated Halloween with a costume parade on the Elementary Field.
 Fire Safety Week - A big thank you to the Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Department for bringing their fire truck to GMS. Students learned all about fire safety and practiced different ways to put out fires. They held the fire hose and experienced the force of water and learned how to use a fire extinguisher.





A big thank you to all the volunteers who made the Fall Festival FUNdraiser a success! This community oriented event was an exciting day. The bake walk was a big hit. Thank you to all the talented bakers who donated so many delicious baked goods and of course the GMS Nutrition Team.

Congratulations to the GMS students who performed at WNMU's Jingle and Mingle event this December. Thank you to Izzy, Maxwell and Maria for your creative guidance.



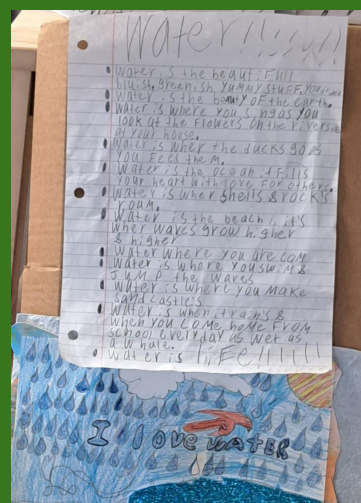
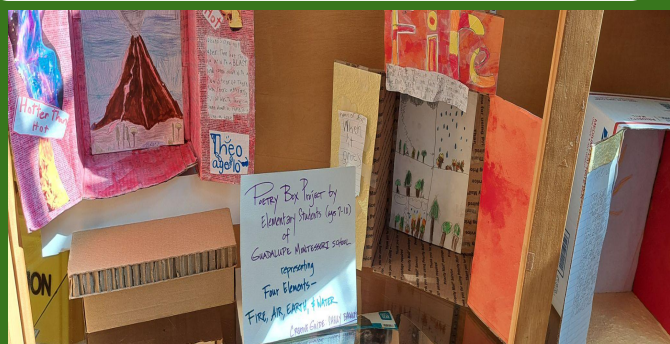
Jingle & Mingle Singing!



The Creative Enrichment Program with Ms. Shelly provides the Elementary students an opportunity to discover the art worlds of Picasso, Hundertwasser and the use of natural materials in 3-D sculpture. As they explored the Universe, game boards were designed by class teams using questions about planets and drawings. The poetry class consists of two groups providing varied learning experiences in literary arts. Primary students have learned about various art mediums to create projects designed to use different media and motor skills as well as sparking their creativity with fun ideas! We hope you get a chance to see their Winter forest creations in the foyer! Ms. Shelly thanks you all for the privilege of teaching your children through creativity and playing with words and art materials here at GMS.



Poetry Boxes made by Elementary students displayed at the Public Library





Buttercup Toddler Class

Buttercups have been hard at work these first few months learning the rules and expectations of the classroom. They have learned how to walk in the classroom, carry trays of materials, help out classmates and teachers. Most importantly they are learning independence!



Sunflower Primary Class

The Sunflower Class has had a joyful semester full of lessons from each area of the classroom, learning how to care for our environment, and building new friendships. Children have explored the world around them through geography and astronomy work by using planet classification cards, tracing and labeling maps of each continent, and creating their own types of land and water form booklets. The class has also learned about what it means to be a community and care for each other through practical life lessons such as observing lessons quietly and helping to clean up messes even when they aren't ours. We have also used the 'peace rose' as a conflict resolution tool where children learn to use their words to express feelings. The children have had the opportunity to participate in weekly enrichment such as music, art, and garden time. Thank you to families who donated weekly items to the classroom and offered to participate in Friday class visits!

Ponderosa Elementary Class

Last month in Elementary, we went on a field trip to see a classical pianist at the FACT in addition to a fun trip to the library. We have begun lessons in history such as the long black line, which tells the story of the coming of humans, followed by a lesson on the clock of eras which places humanity at 11:59:45 ½ on the clock. We are all working on math facts and spelling, poetry and creative writing with Shelly and Joshua, and helping in the garden with the garden crew. We had Brian Holliday share a science experiment related to understanding radiation. We enjoyed gathering with Primary to prepare musically for our Winter Celebration with Izzy and Maxwell. We ended the semester learning about the various holiday traditions with Rebekah, our amazing assistant. The Elementary class is a busy bunch!



Agave Primary Class

The Agave Class has been a vibrant learning environment this semester! Children have been developing their language skills and independence while practicing social emotional skills each day. Grace and courtesy and practical life lessons have been a focus this past semester as children receive lessons from each area of the classroom. Self regulation and controlled movement is practiced through activities like walking on the line.

