

A publication of Sedona Charter School
K-8 Tuition-free Montessori School

Writing: SCS Staff and GC members

Photography: Alice Madar and staff

Design & Editing: Jane Cathcart



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Run-Out Concerts

Every year we look for opportunities for our orchestra students to venture outside of Sedona Charter School and perform in venues other than concerts. In the past, the SCS orchestra has performed at Natural Grocers to raise funds for MMUN and in Uptown during the St. Patrick's day parade, just to name a few. These "run-out" concerts are a great experience for the kids and are well received by the audiences.



On December 8, 2015 our orchestra performed for the local PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) at their annual holiday luncheon. Students worked hard and performed for 30 minutes playing popular songs such as *My Favorite Things* as well as music from *The Nutcracker Suite*.

We are excited to announce that the PEO not only made a contribution to our strings building fund, but many were exposed to our strings program for the first time. These run-out concerts are very important, not only because they give our students more performance opportunities, but also because they are a form of outreach and information.

This is just one of the ways we are able to spread the word about our fantastic strings program to the general public. By taking the initiative to expose the community around us to the beauty of Sedona Charter School music, many may be compelled to support our fundraising efforts for a new music classroom.

Run for Fun

It's time to start thinking about running to keep warm! With the snow and colder temperatures, we know that the Sedona Marathon is just around the corner.

Our students began preparing for the race just before winter break. Mark February 6th on your calendar and plan to spend the morning running for Sedona Charter School!

This is a fundraising event for the school, and student race fees go directly to the school to help us continue to provide quality Montessori education in Sedona. So don't delay, bring your entry fee to the office and sign-up right away. There's a distance for everyone from 5K to 10K to half or full marathon.

Parents, if you are unable to run, please consider volunteering at our aid station. This year we will need a crew of volunteers to come up with a theme, make decorations and work at the aid station during the race. If you are willing to help organize and create the race winning aid station, please let Alice Madar know right away. The Marathon offers a \$250 reward to the non-profit agency voted best aid station, so get your game on and be creative!

In addition, we always need volunteers to help distribute race packets as well as friends and family along the route to cheer on our runners. So make running the Sedona Marathon your New Year's



resolution this year and get moving. It only takes a little willpower and putting one foot in front of the other. If you would like to register but do not have the financial means to do so, please let the office know. There are limited scholarships available for staff and students to register.

The cost for this year's 5K or 10K for students 12 and under is \$10.

Bring your \$10 to the school office and you will be given a code to register online. You can use an office computer or register at home with the code. Non-students and adults will need to register directly with the Marathon this year.

So lace up those running shoes and get moving for a great cause!

lower elementary >>>

Fundamental Human Needs

Fundamental Human Needs is one of the studies which a child in Lower Elementary may choose in History. Fundamental Human Needs are the basic needs which must be met and fulfilled in order for a person to survive on the earth (or any other planet!). These needs are divided into two groups, material and spiritual. Material needs keep your body safe and alive. Spiritual needs are for your heart and your mind. One of the spiritual needs is religion or belief.



This year our class studied the land of Israel. These investigations included geography, history and an introduction to Judaism.

The first years heard versions of the Hanukkah story, learned how the Jewish people fought for their beliefs and made their own Menorahs. The second years began to learn how to research a topic and record their findings. The third years researched a variety of Israeli topics of their choosing and studied the history and geography of the country of Israel.

Our Reading Assistant, Meri Thomason, shared information about Israel and the beliefs of the Jewish people. Rabbi Alicia Magal and her husband, Itzhak, also came to our class and presented songs, experiences and information to the students.



Students presented their findings at the Winter Holidays event. Parents and friends toured the classroom viewing the menorahs and stories. Guests viewed displays about Judaism and Israel to add to their knowledge. Visitors played a game of dreidel, created scratch art and grated potatoes to enjoy luscious latke.

It is my sincere hope that by helping our students learn about the beliefs, religions and cultures of other countries, they will develop understanding and tolerance. Knowledge is Power! We are all just people trying to figure out life! Let there be Peace. And let it begin with me ...

montessori >>>

Did You Know?

Video game pioneer, William Wright, attended a Montessori elementary school.



Video game pioneer William Wright, creator of The Sims, SimCity, and Spore, attended a Montessori elementary school. Each of his widely successful games share a certain spirit allowing players to follow whatever path interests them. Much like the structure of a Montessori classroom where students choose activities that interest them to reinforce learning.

"Montessori taught me the joy of discovery," Mr. Wright told The Wall Street Journal. "It showed you can become interested in pretty complex theories, like Pythagorean theory, say, by playing with blocks. It's all about learning on your terms, rather than a teacher explaining stuff to you. SimCity comes right out of Montessori."

upper elementary >>>

First Semester Wrap-Up

During last semester, students and teachers have really become one big happy family in Upper Elementary. It is incredible to note the growth in academics and social skills of our students. We love our aides Bev and Jackie and they really love the students too!

This past quarter many of our sixth year students participated in Middle School's math class and our fourth and fifth years showed amazing growth on STAR math testing too! We are very proud of the math efforts so far. Next semester we will continue to begin our school days with Exel math and then use Montessori materials for skill and concept work. One thing you can help us with are MATH FACTS! If your kids have any hesitation with their times tables to 12, please quiz them daily! Also, if any of your children have trouble reading a clock, please work at home on this skill!

Last semester all of our students read two novels with their literature circles and practiced reading comprehension as well as response to literature techniques. Our group discussions were very meaningful and life changing. We have really tackled big issues that link to morality and doing the right thing. We will continue to read great novels next semester. Parents, please have your kids read every single day!

Science has also been extraordinary. Our trip to the Biosphere really helped the students to dig deep into the meaning and practice of the scientific method. The students also have been coming up with some of their own experiments while also learning much about the human body. Students are always welcomed to do some science work on their own and share it with us for credit. Go on the UE web site for ideas in science.

Writing is also highly emphasized in the Writer's Notebook and Humanities. Our fifth years are writing an incredible autobiography. Our sixth years are progressing very well on their senior projects and enjoy a research afternoon each week at the Sedona Public Library.

We hope that every UE family had a nice time together over winter break. For the new year, why not make a New Year's resolution to minimize the electronics and read a book, or go outside and enjoy each other's company!



Students Make a Classical Odyssey



*The performance was scheduled for December 17th, but we had one very big problem, **SNOW!***

Last quarter the Middle School made an in depth analysis of one of the oldest pieces of western literature, The Odyssey. Although the poem by Homer was likely composed almost three thousand years ago, the origins of the story probably go back much further since the Greeks had a strong oral tradition. This may make the Odyssey the most told and retold story of all time.

Just before Winter Break, our middle school students became the next generation of storytellers to take on this classic tale. Starting with a version of the story written by Mary Pope Osborn (of Magic Treehouse fame), students first spent three weeks reading and analyzing the story in depth by participating in Literature Circles. Each group of 4 or 5 students was then responsible for creating a presentation of one sixth of the story for the rest of the class. These groups then wrote a script for their part of the story. The scripts were combined and edited into a single cohesive play.

Then the real fun began. Students were cast in roles; sets were under construction; costumes and props were being given the final finishing touches. The performance was scheduled for December 17th, but we had one very big problem, **SNOW!** With an early dismissal, a late start and outdoor set making hampered by the weather, we postponed our performance to Thursday, January 14th with a school performance at 1:30 pm and a 6:30 performance for parents and friends.

We hope you will all put this on your calendars and plan to join us for the Middle School Play. It will be an epic performance that you won't want to miss!



Winter Holidays Fun



Something for everyone at the bake sale!



Face-painting fun for all!



The UE classroom presented the holiday foods and traditions of Greece.



Our Middle School musicians provided some of the entertainment for the event.



The petting zoo was a HUGE hit!

Gingerbread House Contest>>>



Our gingerbread house contest was a great success with several amazing entries created by our SCS families. In the end, the Pirate Ship created by the Tedrick family was the winner. First place prize was a \$50 gift certificate to Whole Foods. Thanks to everyone who baked and decorated for our Winter Holidays event.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS DAY A GREAT SUCCESS!

staff >>>

Lower Elementary: Bob and Terri Wentsch, Katarina Houser, Shannon Duggan
Dolores Biermann, Meri Thomason

Upper Elementary: Lisa Hirsch, Bill Baker, Maija Alanen, Lucy Schwill (SPED),
Jacquie Randall, Beverly Black

Middle School: Jenn Jordan, Tim Marsh

Administration: Alice Madar, Sophia Zeno

Title I and Strings: Teri Lechowski, Kristina Beachell



contact us at 928-204-6464
www.sedonacharterschool.com

165 Kachina Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

our mission... *Our Montessori school challenges each child to achieve excellence through an individualized program. We inspire a passion for learning, instill a sense of personal responsibility, and cultivate a respect for the environment and involvement in the community.*

looking ahead >>>

February 2016

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A Close-Knit Community

Jessica Guadarrama attended Sedona Charter School from its very beginning all the way through 8th grade in 2004. The small-school community resonated with her, and to this day, she is drawn to organizations and towns that foster a close-knit community. She has found this in her current home in Boston, MA and in her workplace, a start-up called Placester.

Placester helps real estate professionals market their listings online. Jessica works in customer support, and reports that the job is teaching her a lot about business as well as communication. In her free time, this Sedona native is enjoying life in Boston.

"I started college at NAU (Northern Arizona University), but I wanted to do something different. I was accepted to Boston University (BU) and transferred there during my sophomore year," she

says. "I like Boston because it is a great city for walking. I don't even own a car. There's something to do every day, and there's so much history. A lot of the residential areas, such as the one I live in, have a really strong sense of community."

She earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations at BU. After college she worked for a non-profit café and found herself drawn to organizations that address the issue of food insecurity. "I would love to eventually work in that field, or even start a company that addresses food insecurity," says Jessica.

Looking back on her years at Sedona Charter School, Jessica says the school had more academic rigor than she realized at the time. "I thought I was behind the students from other schools, but in high school I ended up helping older students with math. When I went to college, my papers got good grades, and I think it is



Jessica Guadarrama

because of the foundation I got at Charter." Her writing and language skills also helped her succeed as a slam poet.

In her senior year of high school, Jessica earned a coveted spot on the Flagstaff slam team, and competed in a national poetry slam in Madison, Wisconsin. "There were only a couple of other high-schoolers in the whole event," she says. "I still keep in touch with people from that event. It was really exciting to mix with people of all different ages from all over the country, who all had this passion for poetry."



Sedona Charter School

JANUARY 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Looking Ahead: February 3 —Early Release Wednesday February 6 —Sedona Marathon February 10 — LE Potluck February 12-15 —No School President's Holiday February 23 —Winter Strings Concert</p>					2
3	<p>3:30 pm— Orchestra</p>	<p>7:30 am Math Club</p>	<p>7:30 am Beginning Orchestra</p>	<p>7:30 am MMUN</p> <p>6 pm MMUN Parent Mtg</p>	<p>Report Cards Mailed</p>	9
10	<p>3:30 pm— Orchestra</p> <p>4 pm—Music Parent Mtg</p>	<p>7:30 am Math Club</p>	<p>7:30 am Beginning Orchestra</p> <p>6 pm—LE 3rd Years Math Meeting</p>	<p>7:30 am MMUN</p>	15	16
17	<p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>7:30 am Math Club</p>	<p>7:30 am Beginning Orchestra</p>	<p>7:30 am MMUN</p>	22	23
24	<p>3:30 pm— Orchestra</p>	<p>7:30 am Math Club</p>	<p>7:30 am Beginning Orchestra</p>	<p>7:30 am MMUN</p>	29	30