

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

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Classroom Updates
Summer Camps and Events
Alumni News
Letter From the President
Strings Camp

academic excellence ... personal growth ... small school environment

Roadrunner report

music notes >>>

Strings Camp

If you enjoy musical challenges and want to make new connections, Sedona Charter School's Strings Camp has much to offer!



Our summer music camp is designed for both beginners and anyone who has been playing a stringed instrument—no matter how long.

Just a month away, a available seats are filling up fast—so get your registration turned in quickly! This is a great way to spend the week just before school begins. Join Kristina Beachell and some of the best strings teachers in Northern Arizona for Strings Camp—July 28 thru August 1st from 9 am to noon daily. Call the school office for more information or contact kristina@sedonacharterschool.com.

Our goal is to provide exceptional experiences for musical and personal growth, ultimately enriching the quality of your child's music education. We hope that you will join us this summer for a great week of musical fun as we immerse campers in musical study and work to develop their technical skills and musicianship.

Back-to-School Night

Launching a great school year together

See the world your child inhabits every day and walk in his/her footsteps. It's one of the best ways to begin to build that all important home-school connection.

August 6th will be here before you know it and we can't wait to welcome everyone back to Sedona Charter School for another amazing year of academic adventure. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then visiting in person must equal about a million. That's why we are hosting our annual back-to-school night on Tuesday, August 5th. Take advantage of this great opportunity to see the world your child inhabits every day, walk in his/her footsteps and meet the teachers and staff. It's one of the best ways to begin to build that all-important home-school connection.

Make plans now to join us at 5:30 pm on August 5th for back-to-school night.

Reconnect with classmates, meet your new teachers and get excited for a great new year!

Parents, this is an important time to interact with staff and teachers and to welcome our new families to Sedona Charter School. It's also an opportunity for you to be sure all enrollment paperwork has been submitted to the office, pay student fees or make payment plans as well as meet with other parents to arrange carpooling or play dates.

We look forward to seeing each one of you at 5:30 pm on Tuesday evening August 5th.



Building Community ... Reflections from Bob Wentsch



As the 2013-2014 school year fades and the 2014-2015 school year begins to beckon, it seems an appropriate time for reflection. During the past school year, one of the Lower Elementary Staff's missions was to build a greater sense of community among the parents, students and teachers in our class. To that end we scheduled LE Potlucks, Math presentations and other get togethers during months when there were no major school-wide events. Thank you to all who took the time to attend and get to know our approach to teaching and the members of our school community a bit better.

In the coming year we will continue to nurture our classroom community. We will also expand a bit on the concept of community by going out into the Sedona community, much as we started this year with

our trip to the Sedona Fire Station. We will also seek ways to serve the community of Sedona.

In the classroom, the children are learning much more than academics. Social skills, manners and courtesies, and virtues as practical life lessons are always present. Since we are a school, academics are indeed a priority. This year the third year students represented themselves quite ably on the state AIMS test and no one will be retained as a consequence of the Move on When Reading law.* The students and staff are to be congratulated for these accomplishments!

Although our school was significantly impacted by the recession, class sizes are beginning to recover. (The school was designed with a complement of 20 children in each grade). Budgets have been extremely

tight the past few years and our improved enrollment will once again put us on firmer financial ground. To maintain our low student/teacher ratio our staff has expanded to include Bob and Terri (full time), Ginny (4/5 time, Mon-Thur), Dolores (half time), and our newest member, Katarina Houser (full time). Katarina will be joining us in educating the children and learning our ways.

The last bit of reflecting that I have is most impressive. The 2014-2015 school year will be the 20th year that Sedona Charter School has been educating the children of Sedona! My how time flies ...

**School and class scores will be released by the state in late August.*

primary >>>

Read, Read, and Read some more!



Ms. Gail has a great group of parents and students who can't wait for the first day of Kindergarten to begin. Kindergarten is an exciting and critical time in every child's development and growth. Parents, you can play an important role in this wonderful journey by partnering with Gail to keep her informed about what's happening in your child's life at home.

One of the best ways you can help is to read with your child. **Reading to your child once a day is not enough.** Read together at least three times a day. Books are the gateway to building vocabulary and developing listening and early literacy skills. Discuss the characters and ask questions about what is happening in the book, make predictions, and create new endings. Enjoy reading with your child!

upper elementary >>>

Classroom Possible

After a lot of planning and vision, many volunteers, and a few days of hard work, the UE classroom has successfully had a face lift! The walls have been painted a wonderful tranquil blue and everything has been cleaned and rearranged to make Montessori learning even better! We'd like to say a big thank you to all of the parents, staff and students who volunteered their time and talents to help make this possible.

Principal Educator Bill Baker will focus on teaching students the basic facts and skills necessary to succeed in the world. His primary role is to prepare and maintain the physical, intellectual, and social/emotional environment where the children work and learn every day. A key aspect of this is the selection of intriguing and developmentally appropriate learning activities to meet the needs and interests of each child in his classroom.

Lessons are taught to small groups of children at one time and are typically brief and very clear presentations. The goal is to give students just enough to capture their attention and spark their interest. This allows them to be productive, independent learners as they transition to independent work choosing the learning materials best suited for them.

Because the UE teachers normally work with each child for two or three years, Bill, Shandra and Jim will get to know students' strengths and weaknesses, interests, and personalities extremely well. This enables them to use that knowledge to enrich the curriculum and provide alternate avenues for accomplishment and success. Following a three-year master plan, the UE team will monitor individual progress and keep parents informed with progress reports.





Meet the Teachers

Ice Cream Social

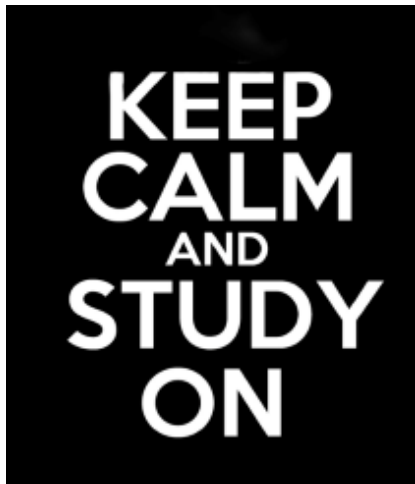
Jenn Jordan just finished her doctoral research at Cambridge University and rolled into Sedona on July 2nd. She has already started working on lesson plans, a new Middle School handbook and is ready to implement lots of new ideas to make our Middle School classroom the place to be in August! Jenn will be spending two weeks in July at Montessori training in Ohio and is looking forward to settling in and getting right to work.

Tim Marsh, our highly qualified Middle School Math specialist and facilitating teacher, has already spent a month teaching Title I Math summer school and preparing the classroom for next school year. Tim and his wife, Julie, moved to Cottonwood in May and are ready to jump right in to make Sedona Charter School a better place to learn.

If you are a Middle School student or parent, you'll want to put a big **red X** on July 9th on your calendars to make sure you are in town and free to join us for the Middle School Meet the Teachers Ice

Cream Social at 6:30 pm. We'll spend a nice summer evening on the patio enjoying delicious ice cream and talking with Jenn and Tim about their plans for the new school year.

Parents, your input is extremely valuable to Jenn and Tim. Please come prepared with constructive criticism, suggestions and comments. We want your feedback on what you liked from last year's classroom and what you would like to see improved or changed.



Letter from the President



Dear Sedona Charter School Families,

Happy summer everyone! I hope you are enjoying warm summer nights and family barbeques! We at Sedona Charter School are in the beginning stages of planning our next big school fundraiser and are in need of a group of parents to join our committee. This year the theme is an Old Fashioned Family Picnic to be held on campus on Sunday, October 5th. That is only 3 months away, so we need to get busy! We are excited to start brainstorming and putting together this amazing event with three legged races, pie eating contests, water balloon tosses and so much more. We will have both silent and live auctions to raise money. This is sure to be an exciting event for kids and adults of all ages.

We do, however, need volunteers for this committee. The more people involved, the less work each individual has to do. If you are interested in contributing to this event in some way by volunteering in the planning stages, sponsoring the event or helping the day of the event, please email me at kristy@sedonacharterschool.com. We plan to have one or two initial meetings to delegate responsibilities and then the rest we should be able to do via email.

Now is also the time to start gathering auction items. So if you own a business, or know someone who owns a business or a restaurant that is kind and generous enough to donate a gift certificate or an item, please help us gather items for our auction! Please e-mail me for a printable letter requesting auction items for our 2014 SCS Family Fundraiser.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! See you next month!

Kristy Kazian, President
Sedona Charter School
Governing Council
Kristy@sedonaharterchool.com
847-624-4341

ask a teacher >>>



Q: Why do Montessori classes group different ages together?

A: *Montessori programs are designed to address the developmental characteristics normal to children at each age level. Classes are organized to encompass a 2-3 year age span, allowing younger students to be mentored by older children, who in turn benefit from serving as role models. With 2/3 of the class returning each year, the classroom culture remains quite stable and the teacher does not have to be the primary focus. Because each child learns at his own pace, students can always find peers who are working at their current level. Students develop a strong sense of community with their classmates and teachers, and gifted children benefit from the stimulation of intellectual peers without requiring that they skip a grade or feel emotionally out of place.*



staff >>>

Lower Elementary: Bob and Terri Wentsch, Katarina Houser, Ginny Bianco

Upper Elementary: Bill Baker, Shandra Ryan, Jim Leinbach

Middle School: Jenn Jordan, Tim Marsh

Administration: Alice Madar, Jane Cathcart, Dolores Biermann

Title I and Strings: Teri Lechowski, Kristina Beachell



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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 >>>

August, 2014

*Celebrating our 20th year
Alumni Highlights*

alumni news >>>

Anyone know a good mechanic?

Certainly! We have two alumni who recently graduated and are beginning their careers as mechanics, changing the world one car (or one airplane) at a time!



Jeremy Pratt

Community College completing his certificate as an A & P (Airframe and Power plant)

Jeremy Pratt attended Sedona Charter School from third through 8th grade. In May he graduated from Chandler-Gilbert

Community

mechanic. Jeremy has already passed two of his FAA oral and practical examinations and has one more to go before being certified by the FAA to work as an aircraft mechanic.

2006 alumnus Boris Madar just graduated from Universal Technical Institute in Sacramento, CA after completing his training to work as an automotive mechanic. He is now embarking on a career in the automotive repair business in northern California.

Boris attended Sedona Charter School from Kindergarten through 8th grade and is the son of our Director of Finance and Administration, Alice Madar. He received a scholarship to attend UTI from the Sedona Car Club.














Boris Madar

We congratulate both of these young men for their perseverance in attending Sedona Charter School and finishing their career training. Their years at SCS taught both men the importance of making a difference in the world by working hard, setting and achieving goals and being kind to everyone they meet on the path of life.



Sedona Charter School JULY 2014

Keeping parents informed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 Earn Cash for Our School!	 Fossil Camp 9-3		3	 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	6:30 pm —Meet the MS Teachers Ice Cream Social 	10	 Chess Club 1-5 pm Sedona Library	12
13	14	15	16	17	 Chess Club 1-5 pm Sedona Library	19
20	21	22	23	24	 Chess Club 1-5 pm Sedona Library	26
27		28			Looking Ahead: August 5—Back to School Night 5:30 pm August 6—First Day of School	
	Strings Camp 9-12		30	31		