

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

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PAC Wall of Thanks

The Empowering Nature of Change

Love and Laughter

Prepared for the Future

Order From Chaos

Ask a Teacher — Lauren Hendler

academic excellence ...

personal growth ...

small school environment

Roadrunner report

Performing Arts Classroom Wall of Thanks

Our parents and students know how special Sedona Charter School's Strings Program is, but do your neighbors and friends know? We are so excited to begin work on our new Performing Arts Classroom, but before this dream becomes a reality, we need your help!

We need parents and students to spread the word around town that something awesome is about to take place at Sedona Charter School. We need you to share your excitement with others!

We've started the final movement in our Sedona Charter School PAC Symphony with only 100 measures left and we are looking for 100 people to donate at least \$500 each to get us to our goal. Before too long our students will no longer be learning in a room the size of a small garage, easing scheduling and making for a great music education experience!

While we could take many approaches to raise this last \$50,000, **we just want to go big and bring it home!** To enhance the lives of our students, whether in the area of drama or musical arts, we are about to break ground on an amazing classroom where they can learn, work together and

perform. Our goal is to raise this money BEFORE school begins in August.

As an extra incentive to our summer donors, we're adding your names to our Patron's Circle as well as a special wall of thanks

possible for them. Those who donate \$500 or more will be invited to a special thank-you concert for donors only after the building is complete. They will also receive two tickets and reserved seating at our other concerts next year.

So don't delay. Go to our website or mail your check to Sedona Charter School right away. We'll keep everyone updated on our progress via our Facebook page. Even if you don't have \$500 to donate, you might know someone who does. Show them this article or give them a call. Spread the word that SCS has a one of a kind elementary strings program unlike any other school in the nation.

With the new tax law for 2018, donations to non-profit organizations are still tax deductible and \$400 can still be claimed as an Arizona tax credit. We can't think of a better investment. Can you? If you are interested in building or classroom naming rights, please give Alice Madar a call.

This is our final push to put us over the top on our PAC fundraising and we're totally confident that we can reach our goal before the new school year kicks off on August 8th. Please help us make this dream become a reality not only for your children and grandchildren, but for generations to come.

where donors will be permanently recognized as investors in performing arts education along with others who have already helped us come this far. Future generations will walk into our new classroom and see your name as someone who cared enough to make music and drama



lower elementary >>>

The Empowering Nature of Change

Many changes await our classroom in the months ahead, and we cannot wait to welcome students back and watch them enjoying learning. We completed a very emotional year in May with students and teachers working hand-in-hand, focused on the goal of becoming lifelong learners. While this year was somewhat unique, we persevered and learned much.

Third-year students completed their LE journey with an engaging rite of passage trip to the Grand Canyon followed by the year-end ceremony. We witnessed a beautiful 'Moving Right Along Ceremony' which showcased our class accomplishments. Bob led the students through songs accompanying them on the accordion, and all three grades played their recorders.

Each third-year student wrote and memorized his/her speech over the course of two months, delivering them with impressive public speaking abilities. Our ceremony concluded with students singing Moving Right Along by the Muppets, a very special

song that has been and will remain a Lower Elementary tradition.

We want to thank Bob and Terri for their years of service leading and developing our LE classroom. As we continue to grieve the unexpected death of Terri and support Bob in his new role of working with our Title I students, we anticipate exciting changes as we continue to educate your children in the Montessori way.

We want to thank our parents, students and staff who have supported us and been there for us this past year. We are humbled to be entrusted with educating your children each day, and we look forward to the new year and your continued support.

Summer is moving fast, and we anticipate the coming school year with an openness to new possibilities. Fall is a good illustration of the positive effects of change and the significance it brings. Change is inevitable and will move us forward in a way that empowers every student for success. Think back to your childhood and the phone on the wall vs. the one in your pocket. Vastly

C Concentrate on a new outcome
H Have a vision of what you want to achieve
A Always be open to the new possibilities
N Never let fear dictate your decisions
G Give your new direction a chance to work
E Embrace the change as it unfolds

Dan Mount

different, yet both effective. Our goal is to honor history and the past while embracing change, realizing that we all play a role in making it happen.

Ben Franklin said, "Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it." Our LE classroom will move forward while at the same time holding space and respect for those who brought us where we are today and for the incredible way they accomplished that goal.



upper elementary >>>

Love and Laughter

Wow families, it's so hard to believe another year is gone! The month of May seemed to fly by with all of the excitement in our UE classroom. It's impossible to talk about all that was happening, but here are some highlights:

The students presented their musical, "The Constitution," on May 17th. We are all relieved that the songs we diligently rehearsed for so long are no longer invading both our conscious and unconscious minds. During the month prior to the play, someone would inevitably come into class each morning stating that "We the People" kept playing over and over again in their sleep, including Suzi! Congratulations UE staff, parents and students for a great performance. The teachers now know who to look for when casting future plays— what an amazing group of thespians.

Our 6th years ended their time in UE with a life changing experience at the Grand Canyon. They hiked 12 miles into Havasupai and camped for three nights, being wholly responsible for the shopping, planning, camp site, cooking and cleaning. Luckily, we still found time to explore Mooney and Havasu Falls each day, enjoying some much-needed swimming and climbing activities. Our students are so close knit and respectful of each other and we were moved beyond words by their exemplary behavior. This was truly a rite of passage for them and, as a result, they are more closely bonded than before. When asked to share their greatest memory of the last three years, this trip unanimously became the apex for everyone. Because of our students' respect, grace and courtesy, determination, and an unflinching perseverance, this was an epic adventure. We are so very proud of them and know they will be successful as they move on to middle school. A special thank you to all our chaperones, without whom none of this could happen.

The last day of the school year was an emotional one for us. We celebrated the graduation ceremony for our 6th years as they prepare to move on to middle school. It was beautiful to hear their speeches and favorite memories as they presented them to students, staff and parents. We will truly miss this group as they pass into the next phase of their educational journey and wish them the best of everything.

Finally, a huge thank you to all parents and students for making this year a splendid odyssey of discovery filled with love and laughter.



Emerald Bay Adventures

During the second week of May our 8th graders, along with two very enthusiastic chaperones, boarded the school van to embark on an amazing, life-changing adventure. They were headed to Santa Catalina Island's Emerald Bay for a well-earned rite-of-passage celebration. Emerald Bay is known to be the most beautiful cove on the island and is one of the top 10 snorkeling spots in the world. The water is crystal clear and contains abundant sea life found nowhere else on the island. It is a perfect spot for learning and adventure, away from cell phones, computers and electronic devices.

This annual educational trip was hosted once again by Mountain and Sea Adventures, an organization with over 20 years of experience "specializing in imparting a deep personal appreciation for marine biology and environmental science." Their staff and camp counselors were incredible, and our students took to them immediately.



From the moment our kids stepped onto the ferry that transported them from the mainland to the island, they were captivated by all the fantastic opportunities provided: snorkeling

through sea kelp forests, kayaking around smaller islands, hiking over hills to hidden coves, swimming in the cold Pacific, making new friends with other



campers, learning about the ocean's varied sea life, and even sleeping in wall tents.

Their week was filled with excited chatter as they shared their many experiences. The days were consumed with informative lessons, enhanced by journal writing and fun, experiential learning. There was even an evening of night snorkeling and kayaking where they were able to capture lobsters and swim with bioluminescent plankton.

Our students returned to Sedona not only slightly sunburned and a little tired, but with a new outlook on the world garnered from this rite-of-passage experience on the island. What a successful and productive way to close out their education at Sedona Charter School. We wish them well as they move on to high school and beyond.



Letter from the President



Hello Everybody,

With another school year in the history books, I would like to thank our teachers, staff and parents who contributed to make this school year amazing. As the students get a well needed vacation, teachers and staff will be busy tying up loose ends from this year as well as preparing for the year ahead.

When the Sedona-Oak Creek School District voted to close Big Park Community School I started thinking how fortunate we are to have Sedona Charter School as an option. Most Montessori schools are private tuition-based institutions; therefore, we are very lucky to have our kids get a Montessori education for free at Sedona Charter School.

Sedona Charter School was founded in 1995 and is currently the oldest charter school in Arizona. Our success is largely derived from dedicated staff and involved parents who helped shape our school into what it is today. Two of the teachers that made this possible are Bob and Terri Wentsch. Bob is stepping down as Principal Educator of the Lower Elementary classroom and transitioning into a different teaching role next year. As I was reading through newsletters from previous years, I came across an article in which Bob said that the class motto in their first year was "pack up and move!" In the first few weeks of the school's opening in 1995, the classroom moved three times from the library's community room to the church on Deer Trail to a modular classroom with no electricity or running water.

Perseverance paid off as we rose to become one of the best schools in the state. Over the years many start-up charter schools have used Sedona Charter School as a model to start and sustain their classrooms. We are fortunate to have Katarina Houser ready and willing to step in as the Principal Educator of Lower Elementary. Her energy and enthusiasm are unparalleled.

On behalf of the Governing Council I would like to wish you all a happy, fun-filled summer. Please make sure your kids do some reading and math during the break. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. I look forward to seeing all of you during the summer and at the start of the school year.

Respectfully yours,

Steven Paley, President

ask a teacher >>>

Q: Why should children take a drama class?



Lauren Hendler

A: Whether or not your child is a diva or quiet and reserved, drama class offers an opportunity for her to collaborate with classmates and develop strong communication skills.

Theatre games and scene work teach kids to speak loudly, clearly and with confidence. More importantly children learn to listen. The number one theatre game rule is the "yes and" rule, requiring every idea to be respected and built upon.

Drama also teaches empathy. Students look at the world through someone else's eyes. Pretending to be someone else gives students the opportunity to understand and gain respect all points of view.

This upcoming school year our Middle School students will work on these life skills in their weekly drama class. Together they look forward to writing their own play and performing it in our new Performing Arts Classroom. We expect to see you all there!



staff >>>

Lower Elementary: Katarina Houser, Amy Tedrick, Kathleen O'Connor, Deborah Williams, Dolores Biermann
Upper Elementary: Suzi Ashley, Maija Alanen, Jacquie Randall
Middle School: Lauren Rondeau, Laurie Altringer, Ana Hansen
Orchestral Strings: Kristina Beachell
Drama: Lauren Hendler
Administration: Alice Madar, Lauren Hendler, Jannette Villalobos-Gil
Title I: Bob Wentsch
Special Education: Lucy Schwill, Cynthia Tyler



looking ahead >>>

August 2018

Back to School Night
Teacher Introductions
Ask A Teacher
Letter from the President



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

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

around campus >>>

Order from Chaos!



We are hard at work preparing for school to begin in August. The playground is being moved and there is a huge hole in its place where construction has already begun on our new Performing Arts Classroom. We can't wait to see this finished.



Our new "tiny house," officially known as the Elk House, made its way over the trees to its final home on campus. Crews are in the process of connecting utilities and finishing the decks so that we can provide affordable housing for one of our new teachers before the summer ends.



The Lower Elementary classroom is preparing for all things new as well! Carpets have been cleaned, the room has been painted, and the hard floors are being freshly updated. What looks like chaos now will hatch into a beautiful fresh, newly organized classroom in August!