

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

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Photos: SCS Staff and parents

Design & Editing: Jane Cathcart



Welcome to our New Executive Director  
Exploring Our World Online  
Engineering Learning  
Collaboration Across the Pond  
Music Connects Humanity

academic excellence ...

personal growth ...

small school environment

# Roadrunner report

## sharing the love >>>

Our middle school students have made it a priority to stay in touch with seniors at Sedona Winds and Cottonwood Village during this time of quarantine for them.

They connected with many of the residents last semester when they were visiting and interviewing them for projects.

Now, more than ever they are trying to encourage these precious seniors with cards, art projects and notes to uplift their spirits. If you would like to join in on this mission, feel free to send a note or some hand lotion or some other pampering type item to:

Sedona Winds  
405 Jacks Canyon Road  
Sedona AZ 86351

Cottonwood Village  
201 E Mingus Ave  
Cottonwood AZ 86326



## Welcome to our New Executive Director

As retirement approaches for Alice Madar, we are thrilled to welcome our new executive director, Crystal Hoyle, who will join us full-time beginning May 4th. She and Alice will work together for two months before Alice turns over the keys.

Crystal is no stranger to Sedona Charter School and has been helping us out in varied ways for more than 15 years. Her family has a long history of serving students with us. In fact, her family moved to Sedona in 2003 just so her son Peter could attend our school. He attended from kindergarten through 8th grade and was a founding member of our advanced orchestra. Crystal volunteered for the school throughout Peter's tenure and even afterward. She headed up the ceramics classes in Bob and Terri's classroom and also managed the lunch program with her sister Kate before Beth and Hector took over. She did everything from cleaning classrooms to leading cooking classes and working on fundraising.

Dedicated to supporting the community, Crystal is a member of several local business groups. She is the past President and current Vice President of the Sedona Village Business Association and a Rotarian. While organizing numerous fundraisers and community service events, she established a

reputation as an excellent leader with a strong sense of integrity, who can dig into the details while still maintaining a sense of fun. She has already been working on grant applications for the school and will be a great addition to our team.

When asked about her approach to this position, Crystal replied, "I believe in the Rotarian Four Way Test of the things we think, say, or do. First... Is it the Truth? Second... Is it fair to all concerned? Third... Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Fourth... Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" and Fifth ... (Crystal added this one) "Will it be fun?"

Her experience as an administrator in the mortgage and hospitality industries ensures that she will continue our tradition of sound fiscal management with an eye to supporting the success of our students through strong classrooms. With Crystal at the administrative helm, Sedona Charter School is certain to continue to be a force for educational excellence through Montessori programming.



# Exploring Our World Online

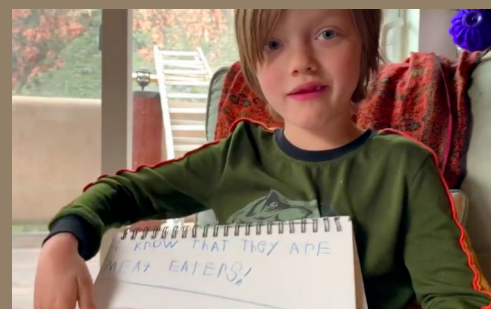
Our Lower Elementary staff have been using a variety of methods to offer online lessons to our students. On Flipgrid teachers have been posting mini-lessons about different subjects. Tuesday through Friday a teacher will post a video about a subject that interests them and then assign a follow-up activity for the students. Some subjects covered include: the planets in our solar system, composting, three sisters



gardening, Morse code and the telegraph, different types of rocks, the importance of exercising, and poetry. Many students have responded enthusiastically to these mini-lesson videos and enjoyed their follow-up activities.

We have also begun online reading groups for our students. While we do not have the materials to do a reading group with every level of reader in our classroom, we are working towards making this a possibility. Right now Ms. Katarina, Ms. Amy, Ms. Haley and Ms. Alexander are leading biweekly groups and Ms. Stephanie is working on weekly groups. Some of the reading groups have assigned papers to complete each time they complete a reading section as well as a job to do during our Zoom meetings.

Ms. Katarina is working with students one on one offering Zoom math lessons. Students have enjoyed stamp game addition and



division and abstract multiplication. One student even built her own stamp game out of rocks!

We are constantly adapting our distance learning program and trying to meet the needs of all students while making academics meaningful and fun. Our class website is updated weekly and we have posted both online activities and offline activities. The website address is: <http://scsleclassroom.educatorpages.com/>

Thank you to our families for all they are doing to keep students engaged in academic pursuits during these curious times and keep up the good work!

## montessori >>>

### Did You Know?

#### The Roadrunner Report begins its 7th year in publication!

Our school began the monthly newsletter in April, 2014 as a way to interconnect our classrooms and inform students and parents about the remarkable education taking place in our community. The name *Roadrunner Report* was chosen to represent our school mascot and the intent of the publication, to report to families all that was happening in our classrooms and with our alumni.

Jane Cathcart designed our first newsletter and has been producing them ever since. We've had other contributing writers over the years and have tried to offer a meaningful and informative monthly account of much of what's happening at our school. Several years ago, our wonderful teachers began writing and submitting their own content for the classroom pages and it took our newsletter from good to great!

As with anything, change is inevitable. We've experienced that like never before over last few months. We want to thank Jane for her dedication to producing our newsletter and for her determination to make it worth reading and in your mailboxes on time. This will be her last edition as editor, and we wish her well in new endeavors including becoming a grandma for the first time in July. Stephanie Knight will be taking over as our new editor with the June/July edition and we know she'll do a great job.

## upper elementary >>>

# Collaboration Across the Pond

As we continue to forge onward with our students into this previously uncharted territory of distance learning, using our newly constructed remote classrooms, some wonderful learning opportunities have been presented to us. We are grateful for our global connections and wanted to share an inspiring quote from Maria Montessori that springs to mind as human beings all over the planet are sharing this same experience:

*"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."* — **Maria Montessori**

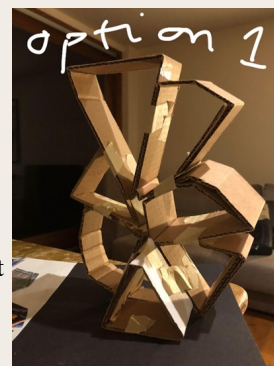
Remarkably, we've been offered a unique opportunity to interact with fellow Montessorians from across the pond. Ms. Maija's Scottish friend, Julie, graciously offered to hold a sculpture workshop via Zoom with eight of our students. Using the simplest of materials — cardboard boxes, tape, glue and scissors — the children created original

sculptures as they studied form and balance. We were so grateful for this opportunity.

Not only are we enjoying art collaboration, but also Julie's son, Lewis, reached out to our Sedona Charter School scholars with a wonderful writing opportunity. During quarantine, he and a few friends started an online magazine called *Curious Times*. In this magazine people are able to connect, share thoughts, news, ideas and writing skills during this stay at home time. He was hoping that some of our students would be interested in writing a 200-300 word article about what it's like to be learning via social distancing in Sedona. Many of our UE students have enthusiastically submitted their insights and reflections to this magnificent endeavor, true Montessorians, continuing their global education by whatever means available.

The Curious Times:

[https://www.curious-times.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR0zoqRfUIX1ORWkd4OcnE-0cuvSPSZAW\\_cR\\_FcCBTHQEZcdUO7B0c1lF3o](https://www.curious-times.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR0zoqRfUIX1ORWkd4OcnE-0cuvSPSZAW_cR_FcCBTHQEZcdUO7B0c1lF3o)

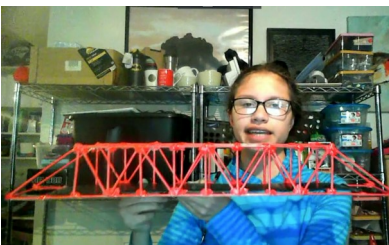




# Engineering Learning

Middle School continues to evolve in this new online paradigm. We connect in as many ways as possible, using Flipgrid videoing, Zoom groups and classes, and meeting individually online. Our approach has been adjusted to keep in mind that we all need to move and have hands-on experiences in addition to learning lessons online. We are listening to our students and families, incorporating their ideas and needs, and making our education a group collaboration. We are very thankful for the participation of our students and parents in this journey!

In ELA, students began book groups together. Each small group explores a new book together, meeting once a week on Zoom to discuss, analyze, answer questions, and define vocabulary. In language class, students are researching and creating videos about different holidays around the world. Our unit on "Empathy" is providing opportunity to extend ourselves into the community, finding ways to help others in isolation from our homes, including writing to and making art for the senior friends we've made this year from Sedona Winds and Cottonwood Village. We are also looking at our current events through the knowledge of all that we have learned this year about government, economy and healthcare. And in science, students are practicing strict adherence to the scientific method, creating clear, strong



experiments right in their own homes to prove or disprove their theories. So far these include

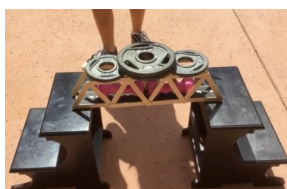
comparing heart rate while holding breath under water compared to in air, which surfaces get the most bounce from a



basketball and whether microwaved water causes different results in plant growth than non-microwaved water. Scientists in action. And we need strong scientists!

Students also built sturdy bridges based on their studies in geometry. Our

photos show a few that held up under heavy weight.



On Easter Sunday, our beloved pet hamster Pumpkin died. Pumpkin had been with us for two school years and lived well beyond the typical lifespan of her species. She was sweet, personable, and loved to be held and cuddled. We were able to have a socially distanced memorial for her, sending her down Oak Creek in a student-crafted boat, the U.S.S. Pumpkin. Here is a little video of our opportunity to "see" each other in real life and give Pumpkin a beautiful send-off.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YPOvy\\_eFkF2r5A7M6u3gvD8JR0XKPvTz/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YPOvy_eFkF2r5A7M6u3gvD8JR0XKPvTz/view?usp=sharing)

## ask the editor >>>

**Q:** Is Teacher Appreciation Week happening this year?

**A:** It most certainly is! Now more than ever, we need to come up with unique ways to show our teachers and staff that we are grateful for all they do for our students. You may be busier than ever, or you may have more free time than usual; plan ahead for Teacher Appreciation Week. Perhaps as a parent monitoring your child's learning at home, you've developed a whole new appreciation for our teachers. They have certainly risen to the challenge of providing online distance learning in a meaningful and engaging way.

While we know you all appreciate and love our teachers, we're asking you to express those sentiments this year. May 4-8 is the week to make your voices heard! Let our teachers know that you appreciate their hard work and that you care. Everyone loves to get an unexpected note or gift that says "I noticed what you did."

Check out this link for some creative ways to do teacher appreciation while in quarantine. Let's show our teachers some love! <https://www.afrugalchick.com/how-to-do-teacher-appreciation-week-during-quarantine/>



## Letter from the President



Hello SCS Family.

I truly hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy.

While some of us might be enjoying our time at home, others are probably struggling with certain aspects of present day to day life. This is a completely valid and normal response to an event that is life changing and fundamentally alters our view of the world. Most of our daily schedules have changed drastically and it can definitely be uncomfortable as we experience a rollercoaster of emotions. And that's okay.

It's alright to miss family and friends, our routines, our favorite hangout spots, our space and alone time. It's ok if the novelty of being at home is wearing off. Lastly, it is perfectly fine to express these feelings to those close to us. By expressing these emotions, as uncomfortable as they can be, we can better work through exactly what is causing our discomfort. Feelings are temporary and we can see this as we experience the ups and downs of a difficult time.

Let's remember too, that our children are going through this with us, although in a different way. They are likely missing their regular activities and friends. By recognizing their individual struggles and allowing them to express their feelings, perhaps we can find new ways to bond with them as adults.

I sincerely hope that you and your family members will emerge from this with a new understanding of one another that helps grow and solidify your relationships in the future.

Yamile Daher, President  
Sedona Charter School  
Governing Council



## staff >>>

**Governing Council:** Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Brenda Man-Fletcher, Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi Ashley, Jacki Rice, Alice Madar, Gail Olson

**Lower Elementary:** Katarina Houser, Amy Tedrick, Amy Alexander, Haley Seiber, Dolores Biermann, Stephanie Schmid

**Upper Elementary:** Suzi Ashley, Maija Alanen, Lucy Hill, Jacquie Randall, Mackenzie Pace, Heidi Nila

**Middle School:** Jacki Rice, Tim Smith, Alexandra Winter

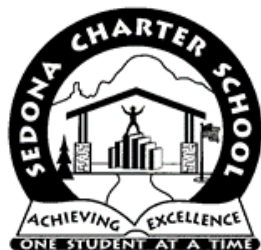
**Orchestral Strings:** Kristina Beachell

**Athletic Director:** Tim Smith

**Administration:** Alice Madar, Jannette Villalobos-Gil, Stephanie Knight

**Title I:** Bob Wentsch

**Special Education:** Cynthia Tyler



contact us at 928-204-6464  
[www.sedonacharterschool.com](http://www.sedonacharterschool.com)

165 Kachina Drive  
Sedona, AZ 86336

**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 the community.*

## music notes >>>

# Music Connects Humanity

During COVID-19 seclusion, we're pleased, (but not at all surprised) to see that music has had a large presence in helping the world to cope with our current reality. From news clips of people singing and serenading their neighbors on balconies in Italy, to live performances by local musicians on Facebook, to a fancy video of The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra playing Beethoven, and big stars performing from their living rooms (for free!), it is a great time to tap into the power that music holds to elevate our mood and ease the stresses of life. Studies show that listening to music can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. It can enhance life satisfaction, optimism and hope, and make life more meaningful. Research also suggests that listening to music may improve immune function.

If you ask a musician who inspired them to pursue music, the overwhelming response will be another musician. From a very young age, we learn by watching, listening and imitating actions of others. Parents don't give their toddlers a five-step plan to teach them

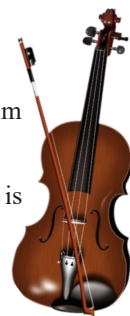
how to walk and talk. Kids figure it out by watching their parents and imitating their actions.

The power of learning by observation should not be overlooked for musicians. Great musicians gain new insights by watching and listening to other musicians make great music. Exposing students to a variety of musical styles increases their musical intelligence and will help to inspire new goals. Many students gain a renewed commitment to their musical craft when inspired by the personal talents of others. By watching other musicians play, young musicians will begin to realize the broad potential of their own instrument and even discover new sounds and styles they never thought possible.

Most significantly, students gain an understanding of how music brings a level of connectedness to humanity. Though nothing can replace the connection of being part of a live audience at a concert, we encourage you to use this time to take advantage of all that musicians from

around the world are offering online. Whether a living room concert, a video tutorial, or friends sharing what they practiced this week on Facetime... this is a great opportunity to explore the plethora of quality music that exists online for enjoyment and learning. We are partnering with Chamber Music Sedona to bring live performance videos from resident musicians at the Lincoln Center in New York City to our SCS students. A link to that program will be given in your Google Classroom once it is up and running.

Our personal experience of increased contentment and calm when playing or listening to music is enough to know that now, more than ever, the time is ripe to be playing and sharing music with each other! Enjoy the escape!



## June/July 2020

*Classroom News*

*Ask A Teacher*

*Summer Happenings*

*Around Campus*

