

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

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*It's Hard to Say Goodbye*

*What a Year!*

*An Unexpected Ending*

*A Virtual Celebration*

*Music Touches More than the Heart*

*Honoring the Class of 2020*

academic excellence ...

personal growth ...

small school environment

# Roadrunner report

montessori >>>

## Did You Know?

**The school faculty is working on what school will look like this fall.**

Work is being done to create a three-phase COVID-19 plan for our school. We are putting protocols in place and planning for several possibilities for re-opening, distance learning, and detailed procedures for a reported positive case of COVID-19.

We are reaching out to local health officials, using Centers for Disease Control guidance and the Arizona Department of Education "Roadmap For Reopening Schools." We are preparing for a safe and inclusive environment. As new cases of COVID-19 are rising in Arizona, we are committed to providing a best case scenario for our students.

Keep a look out for a survey from us on "Moving Forward during the COVID-19 Pandemic" with questions regarding our three-phase plan. We will look forward to hearing back from you.

**COVID-19:  
Guidance to  
Schools & Families**



## It's Hard to Say Goodbye

While change is good, and retirement is even better, saying goodbye to our beloved Director of Finance and Administration, Alice Madar, is not easy. For over twenty years Alice has been a part of Sedona Charter School. Since stepping into the position of Director of Finance and Administration she has been overseeing the day to day needs of the school and all that takes place outside of the classroom to ensure that the campus runs smoothly and our students and their families have the best education Sedona has to offer.

Alice started out by being a member of the Sedona Charter School Governing Council in 1997, where she contributed her input and helped to establish the school we all know and love today. The vision for a Montessori school in our community led to purchasing land and finally building the campus we all use and are grateful to have today. Alice was the Project Manager of the building process, taking in and giving her own input as to what the school should look like and making sure that it came to fruition.

Alice dedicated countless volunteer hours in her role as parent representative to the President of the Governing Council from 2000-2001 to get the school running. Moving from that role into the created position of Business Administrator, Alice went from volunteering 40 hours a week to stepping into the official role that she has held ever since, Director of Finance and Administration.

From keeping our Sedona Charter family informed and involved, ensuring that we



received funding, to making sure our students are learning and thriving in an environment that teaches them not only book knowledge but life skills, Alice has played a vital role in making Sedona Charter School the "A" school it is today.

While many will never know just how much Alice has done over the years, our staff does, and we all are thankful for Alice's selfless giving of her time and being to Sedona Charter School.

A goodbye to Alice would not be complete without a goodbye to Konta! The always ready-to-be-petted, unofficial mascot and guard dog of the office, we will be sad to no longer have your doggy face to greet us each day. But you also deserve a Happy Retirement after faithful years of service.

Thank you Alice for all that you have done, seen and unseen. We wish you the best in your next season of life. Happy Retirement Alice and Konta!

## lower elementary >>>

# What a Year!

2019/2020 was an eventful year in the Lower Elementary classroom. We started the year off with Ms. Katarina being on maternity leave. Upon her return, she brought baby Riley with her and introduced him to the students of LE.

In October we had a Halloween Festival that was Spook-tacular! November brought our students' favorite festivities: stone soup. Our 3rd years rearranged the classroom so that everyone could sit together, and we created our Thanksgiving tree. We celebrated Winter Holidays Around the World in December and our students learned about the Native American cultures of North America.

We played string games and wore



colorful yarn around our wrists to practice with. Bohemian Night of the Arts was a great success in February with our students performing and singing in sign language. March was unfortunately cut short due to the COVID-19

pandemic, however, our students and families adapted quickly to "distance learning."

Our students learned how to prepare PowerPoint presentations, write book reports, record videos on Flipgrid, make Montessori materials at home, read with Ms. Stephanie, and participate in literature circles with Ms. Katarina, Ms. Amy, Ms. Haley and Ms. Alexander. Our families went above and beyond to help students succeed, even when it was difficult, even when their new "students" resisted. We all learned how to



communicate and work with each other to achieve goals. We are so proud to have you all as part of our Sedona Charter School community. Thank you for all your efforts and hard work.

We ended our school year with our 3rd Year Bridging Ceremony and helped celebrate our bridging students by sending them to 4th year in a Zoom ceremony. Our 3rd years presented their speeches and sang in sign language.

The year has been filled with happiness, disappointment, growth and love. We have missed you all dearly these last few months and cannot wait to get back into the classroom and see you all again in the fall.

Onward!

## upper elementary >>>

# A Virtual Celebration

Wow families, it's so hard to believe another year is gone. The end of this school year was certainly not the one we planned, but our SCS students made the most of it!

Although we were unable to do our end of year big trip, an annual rite of passage for our 6th years, we improvised a solution with input from our creative students. We held a "virtual Zoom camp-out" during the last week of school. Teachers and students set up tents in our living rooms, complete with s'mores and our favorite camp food. Students came up with artistic and challenging games to play via Zoom, such as hangman, trivia, and pictionary. These students impressed us once again with their imaginations and flexibility during this unexpected ending to our year.

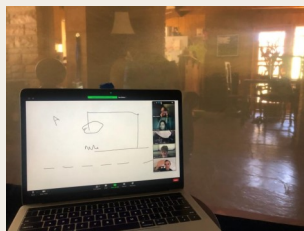
The last day of the school year was an emotional one for us. The graduation ceremony is usually presented in our PAC

with parents, family members and lots of hugs.

However, in spite of our in-person restrictions, the families and students made the most of our new social distancing situation. We celebrated the graduation ceremony for our 6th years not in person as planned, but virtually. Students wrote beautiful, heartfelt speeches thanking their teachers and reminiscing about their favorite memories from Sedona Charter School. It was very hard letting go of these incredible students, having spent three years together with most of them. We will truly miss this entire group as they pass into the next phase of their educational journey and wish them the best of everything.

Following graduation, all teachers participated in a "drive thru" send off for our students. Cheering, horn honking, sign waving and joyfulness were all present. We thank everyone for their participation so we could see you, from a safe distance, one more time before summer break.

Finally, a huge thank you to all parents and students for making this year a special one that we will never forget.



## graduation fun>>>



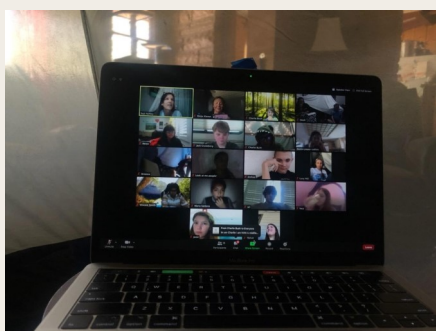
Lower Elementary Graduates on Bohemian Night



Upper Elementary Virtual Graduation



Our Middle School Graduates





# An Unexpected Ending

Well that was not what we expected! After spending 3/4 of a school year in anticipation of the end-of-year festivities of the Catalina field trip, camping and the grand finale graduation ceremony and yearbook signing, our middle school students were tested in their ability to adapt, adjust and be flexible.

While all people around the world have been impacted by this pandemic, our story is this. Students felt the many losses, talked about it, processed in their own ways, then picked themselves up and made the best of this strange situation. They attended Zoom meetings and classes, continued with ongoing projects, completed new assignments, gave final "A Cause to Care About" Zoom presentations (STELLAR presentations I might add), and ended the year together with a graduation committee adjusting the typical ceremony to one



that met social distancing and health standards. We had a beautiful ceremony via Zoom

with many family members and friends in attendance. Graduates gave delightful speeches, there were surprise videos and we all met later that day on the school field, 6 feet apart, happy to see each others' faces in person. There was laughter, chatter and catching up. Graduation certificates and real roses were handed out along with a basket of goodies including handmade roses by the 1st years wishing our graduates well.

Yes, it was all unexpected. But it became a testament to our resilience. To our adaptability. To our community. We are so proud of our students and give the hugest, biggest "bestest" wishes to our amazing 8th grade graduates! Be yourselves, be kind and be the change you want to see in our world.



## Letter from the President



Hello SCS Family,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. I wanted to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to Alice for her many years of service at Sedona Charter School.

I have had the pleasure of working with her for the last two years and I admire her love and commitment to the school. Guiding Alice at all times was our school's mission to provide an experience that allows, "each child to achieve excellence through an individualized program." This unwavering dedication has no doubt made a positive impact on the lives of many children in our community and across the Verde Valley.

She has also been instrumental in choosing our new Executive Director, Crystal Hoyle who will lead us into the next phase of the school's development. Thank you, Alice for caring so much and always being present for your staff, students and families. On behalf of the Sedona Charter School Governing Council, I wish you the best in your new chapter of life!

Yamile Daher, President  
Sedona Charter School  
Governing Council

## Music Touches More than the Heart

Recently, a parent shared an article with me discussing the study and scholarly review of how making music specifically affects children with dyslexia, ADHD and neuro-diverse children. These studies serve to support, substantiate and validate the important role that our SCS strings program plays in educating all our students. In this article, I will explore how studying music can benefit children with dyslexia.

Music training benefits the neural encoding of speech and improves reading. Both music and speech use pitch, timing, temporal procession and timbre to convey information; and evidence suggests that years of processing these cues in a fine-grained way via music enhances their processing in speech. All children who receive music training become stronger readers.

Children with dyslexia have difficulty with auditory processing. One deficit is the ability to discriminate the rate of change of amplitude envelopes at a sound's onset (its "rise time"). In speech, amplitude envelopes play an important role as cues to speech rhythm and syllable boundaries, which in turn help listeners segment words and sounds from the flow of speech. Problems in envelope perception during language development in dyslexia could result in weaker phonological representations at the syllable-level, which would then undermine the ability to consciously segment syllables into individual speech sounds (phonemes). A meta-analysis of studies measuring dyslexics' performance on non-speech auditory tasks and on reading tasks reported that amplitude modulation and rise time discrimination were linked to developmental dyslexia in 100% of the studies reviewed. More broadly, poor performance in tasks requiring temporal processing, rhythm perception and sensorimotor synchronization seem to be crucial factors underlying dyslexia in children.

A randomized control study testing the effect of music training in enhancing phonological and reading abilities found that phonological awareness and reading skills were improved in children with dyslexia after only 7 months of 20-minute per day instruction focusing on rhythm and temporal processing. These are skills that we practice regularly in the SCS strings classroom!



## staff >>>

**Governing Council:** Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Brenda Man-Fletcher, Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi Ashley, Jacki Rice, Crystal Hoyle, 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, Crystal Hoyle, Jannette Villalobos-Gil, Stephanie Knight

**Title I:** Bob Wentsch

**Special Education:** Cynthia Tyler



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## August 2020

*Back to School*

*Ask A Teacher*

*Meeting Our Newest Team Members*

*Classroom News*

**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.*

## around campus and beyond >>>

# Honoring the Class of 2020

This year has been a year that none of us could have expected. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many things that we take for granted changed. One of these is our graduation ceremonies. While it may not seem like a big deal in the grand scheme of things, it is a big deal to our graduates. We understand the disappointment felt by our graduates, and just as we changed our graduations for each of our classrooms to make sure our students got the celebration that they deserve, we also want to celebrate and highlight our graduating alumni.

Our first graduate is Miss Lulu Betancourt, a graduating senior from Sedona Red Rock High School. Lulu is looking forward to attending Yavapai College to earn her Nursing Degree. She has spent her time in high school being a part of the AMEA Northwest Regional Orchestra and will graduate with two college certificates along with her high school degree. Congratulations Lulu! We are all so proud of you.

Next are two of our alumni who graduated from college this spring, Cosmo Illenberger

and Peter Hoyle. Cosmo graduated from the University of Arizona with a BSBA in Marketing, along with a minor in German Studies. While in school Cosmo developed his skills in audio production/engineering and graphic design, which he hopes to turn into a career with the help of his business degree. Peter Hoyle graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and is hoping to pursue a Master's degree in either Public Administration or Public Policy. While in college Peter continued his love of music, maintaining a consistent solo performance schedule as a cellist. Congratulations Cosmo and Peter! We are proud of all your accomplishments and wish you well in the future.

To all graduating high school seniors, and all



those graduating from college, no matter what degree you are receiving, we say congratulations. May the lack of an official ceremony not rob you of knowing what a great accomplishment you have achieved. Your SCS family is celebrating with you.

