

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

Writing: SCS Staff and GC members  
Photos: SCS Staff and parents  
Design & Editing: Stephanie Knight



- A Classroom of Gratitude*
- After School Fun*
- Learning from Other's Experience*
- Did You Know?*
- Ask a Teacher*
- The Things for Which We Are Thankful*

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

# Roadrunner report

music notes >>>

## The Power of Gratitude (Part 2)

### The Rewards of being Thankful

Last month we learned about the 80/20 rule we use to check ourselves when the passion for our art wanes and we feel like giving up. As creative people, if we want to regain our music mojo, we need to practice **gratitude** and reap the benefits of doing so as musicians.

Being grateful fuels creativity. Anger, fear, passion, love, curiosity, joy: these are among the millions of things that can inspire creativity. The foundation that allows these emotions to be expressed through our music is confidence. Confidence comes from being grateful for who you are, from where you've come and



for what you've endured. Practice gratefulness, gain confidence, be fearless!

Gratitude enables us to collaborate freely. Practicing gratitude helps open students to creative situations and possibilities, especially when working with others. There are fewer hurdles and insecurities to fight when we keep an open mind about our situation and the people with whom we work. Some of the best orchestra rehearsals and performances we've had at SCS in years past came from

a recipe of creativity, respect, faith in the process, and gratitude for the opportunity and privilege of sharing with and contributing to one another.

Gratitude makes us happier. Focusing on the positive is a choice we all must make. Choosing to be at peace with what we have and the things we've accomplished and enjoying the process is what's important. Sure, it's disappointing that there is no buzz in our school this year about big concerts or life-changing trips to perform at Carnegie Hall. But what if we just said, "So What?" Realistically, most of us have no buzz around us other than the efforts we create ourselves! Practicing gratitude enables students to feel more thankful and excited

about their own musical journey, appreciate and rejoice in their personal progress, and thus, find and create their own kind of exciting buzz! The possibilities to fulfill our musical dreams become endless when we approach them with gratitude. It simply results in radiant, palpable, and contagious happiness when our joy comes from within.

While we will miss the lights and exhilaration of our Winter Strings Concert, there will come a day when SCS musicians will perform for a live audience again. But for now, it is our hope that we remain grateful for our creative passions, knowing the payoff will be tenfold in the end.

Here's to 80/20 in 2020!



# A Classroom of Gratitude

In the Lower Elementary classroom we have been studying the First Great Lesson. This lesson is the first of the 'Great' lessons taught in the Montessori curriculum. This is the lesson of how the universe and earth were created. There are accompanying science experiments about things such as: the three states of matter, density, the attraction of molecules, how



hot particles rise and cold particles sink and volcanoes. After doing each experiment students are asked to reflect on what they have observed and then draw a picture of the experiment. We concluded



November with a pajama day and songs and crafts revolving around Thanksgiving. The students learned songs about being thankful and even participated in some silly dances. We created ears of corn, turkey hats, and charm bracelets. We learned about the passage

of the pilgrims on the Mayflower and the difficulties they encountered upon arrival in the New World.

We have a special Thanksgiving tradition in the Lower Elementary classroom of creating a thankful tree. The Third Years found a branch that became our tree and then cut leaves out of construction paper. The students wrote notes of thanks on the leaves and then hung the leaves on our tree. By the end of the day we had



a beautiful and colorfully decorated tree.

We also had a special delivery from the knitters at SedonaKind. The organization knitted warm winter hats for all of the students in our class. They sent a card speaking about kindness and spreading our faces into smiles. The students loved picking out a special hat and have been wearing them ever since.

We in Lower Elementary are very grateful for all we have been learning and all the fun we have been having in our classroom.

Onward!



## Did You Know?

### We Offer After School Programs

We are currently offering two After School Programs: Dungeons & Dragons and Beginning American Sign Language. Our Dungeons & Dragons club is being taught by Miss Lucy and meets every Tuesday and Friday from 3-4 pm for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> year students. Our Beginning American Sign Language is being taught by Miss Vicki on Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 pm for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> years. Our students have had a blast being able to take part in these after school programs, and our teachers have greatly enjoyed the time as well.



For more information about our Dungeons & Dragons club please contact Lucy Hill at [lucy.hill@sedonacharterschool.com](mailto:lucy.hill@sedonacharterschool.com). For more info about our ASL class please contact Vicki Blessing at [victoria.blessing@sedonacharterschool.com](mailto:victoria.blessing@sedonacharterschool.com). These two clubs will end just after we return from Winter break. However, we hope to have more programs for our students to enjoy in the Spring!

## After School Fun

We recently started an after-school enrichment program that Upper Elementary students are enjoying. We are playing the fun, creative, tabletop game, Dungeons & Dragons! Although last year it was held as an elective, this year, it will be held via Zoom for our students who are 5th grade and up. We meet on Zoom Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-4pm. The teacher who is the one supervising it is UE's Lucy Hill, and she will be running one of the campaigns as well as UE students, Fernando and Philip.

Dungeons & Dragons is a tabletop game that uses dice and serves as a way to let our students release their imaginations, problem solving skills and creativity. This fun idea was presented last year because it is a nice alternative to video games. This year, it serves as a way to let students safely interact with each other online and explore group storytelling skills. We currently have three different groups of players who are taking part

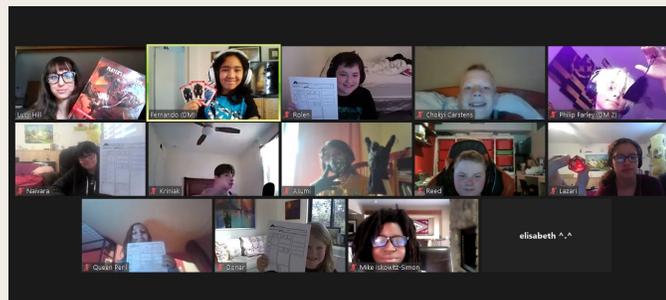
in fun, exciting and completely different campaigns.

Another after school activity that is going on is ASL, commonly referred to as American Sign Language. From 4-5 pm, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Vicki Blessing will be educating our students on how to use sign language. Sign language will help our students learn with and connect to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Starting after winter break will be our Art enrichment program. Whether you are using pencils, markers or paint, art is an amazing way to let all of your bottled-up energy loose on a canvas of your choice. Since there are three different activities, we have scheduled them in a way so that their times won't overlap, meaning students who have the time, and want to participate in all three of them, can do so. We give a huge thank you to all of our teachers who are

leading these activities and hope that you have a great December.

— Fernando Quisumbing (6th year)



# Learning from Other's Experience

Middle School is exploring The History of Unrest in the United States in both History and in English Language Arts. We have studied events such as The Boston Tea Party, The Revolutionary War, the Trail of Tears, Slavery, The Civil War and the civil rights movement of the 1960's. In addition, students have explored poetry of the Civil War Era and the civil rights movement. We have also taken a look at what the civil rights movement looks like today.



We had the distinct privilege of having civil rights activist Indigo Ross speak to us via Zoom about her experiences in California and Arizona working to assure civil rights for all, and volunteering for the Black Lives Matter organization. Students were greatly moved and impacted by her time with them. Here is what a student had to say about what they experienced while listening to her performance back in November:

"I learned so much from Indigo and am so glad I got the chance to listen to her speak. I learned about what she does at BLM and what they stand for. They believe in peaceful protests only. I learned that she works in the art and education ministries. In the education ministry, they work to teach people and build community. In the art ministry, they entertain and make art that represents social change.

This weekend, she will be performing in an art showcase at a park in Phoenix." 7th year student

Our ELA students have created beautiful poetry anthologies, collecting works from the Civil War era, civil rights movement and causes that are important to them and adding their own original poems about things they really care about. Here is one student's original poem talking about Rosa Parks famous for her "stand" on a bus by refusing to move from the front to the back.

**Rosa Parks** by Hannah A.  
Resilient as she is, her sitting there in solitude.

Oppressed by having to give up her rightful place on that bus.  
Standing asking for her purse and others feeling embarrassed  
About what they have been asked.

Persistent sitting and thinking she shouldn't have to move.  
Arrogance in our system that had to be removed.  
Reconciliation that was about to be proved.  
Knowing or unknowing she took a Stand for the rights that were long past due.

Holiday Greetings from Alex, Olof and Jacki!

# Safe Space Computer Lab Update

We continue to offer our Safe Space Computer Lab for students who need to be on campus. A shout out of thanks to Liliana Morales and her family for loaning and installing the tenting for our outdoor lunch area Safe Space! We appreciate you.

With the weather getting too cold for our students to be outside, we have moved into the Middle School classroom and are utilizing it as an indoor Safe Space for the present time. We are exploring several options for an off-campus Safe Space Computer Lab that will be warm and comfortable and most beneficial to our students. We will let you know if such a place becomes available to us.

Safe Space Computer Lab is now available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm. On Wednesdays, the Safe Space Computer Lab is open from 8:30am to 12:00pm, when our school day ends with early release for all students. Drop off is the same, at the entrance between Lower Elementary and the Performing Art Classroom, and your student will have their temperature taken there when they arrive.

Parents, please remember we ask all of the students who attend the Safe Space Computer Lab to make it a habit to charge their computers overnight. Please bring a lunch and be prepared for the cold as we will be having recess outside. Don't forget to have your student bring a warm jacket as the weather turns cooler.

We are thankful to be able to continue offering a space for your children to come and do their schoolwork. We appreciate all the help that has gone into creating this space and all the teachers and our Safe Space Coordinator Kim Pace, who are available to help students. And everyone is grateful that we now have a warm place inside to use as our Safe Space Computer Lab.



## ask a teacher >>>

### Q: What is the Greatest Gift You've Received?

A: "As a first year facilitating teacher in the Upper Elementary classroom, I've had the pleasure of creating some curriculum in the area of Language Arts. It's been so much fun connecting with students as they work through etymology exercises and attend weekly book club meetings.



One of my reading groups recently finished a book called *Frindle*, written by Andrew Clements. The book revolves around a plucky protagonist named Nick. A central theme of the book is classic wish fulfillment - the clever student outwits the persnickety teacher, Mrs. Granger, and each character learns important life lessons along the way.

I thought about *Frindle* as I tried to parse out the greatest gift I've ever been given. Initially my mind wandered to cherished material goods - a pair of high-top sneakers I adored in second grade, my first car, and my wedding ring.

Ultimately, the message of *Frindle* led me to consider the greatest gift I've ever received - my mentors. Nick might not have realized just how important Mrs.

Granger was during a key point in his development as a person, but by college, he understands her significance. Mentors come in a multitude of packages - child sized and adult, old and young, familiar and brand new.

They all share an uncanny ability to show up in your life exactly when you need them the most. I offer this musing in praise of my mentors, both personal and professional. If I didn't say it then, allow me to say it now, thank you. " — Jess Sweeney, Upper

Elementary Facilitating Teacher



**Governing Council:** Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Michael Iskowitz  
Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi  
Ashley, Jacki Rice, Crystal Hoyle, Gail Olson

**Secretary Clerks:**  
**Lower Elementary:** Diana Munger and Vivien Mann  
Katarina Houser, Amy Tedrick, Amy Alexander,  
Haley Seiber, Dolores Biermann, Stephanie Schmid

**Upper Elementary:** Suzi Ashley, Maija Alanen, Lucy Hill, Jacquie Randall, Jess Sweeney

**Middle School:** Jacki Rice, Alexandra Winter, Olof Ehrenstrom

**Orchestral Strings:** Kristina Beachell

**Administration:** Crystal Hoyle, Jannette Villalobos-Gil, Stephanie Knight

**Title I:** Bob Wentsch

**Special Education:** Vicki Blessing

**Facilities Manager:** Octavio Gil

**Safe Space:** Kim Pace



saying goodbye >>>

While we are thankful for all the years of the Roadrunner Report, and sad to say goodbye, this will be our last issue of the school newsletter. Thank you to all our faithful readers, and to all our parents, teachers, students and staff who have contributed to the newsletter over the years. Please keep an eye on our website and social media accounts for the calendar and other school related news going forward. Thank you!



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.*

around campus and beyond>>>

# The Things for Which We Are Thankful

## Responses of Gratitude from Ms. Kristina's Violin Students

"I am thankful for my amazing teacher Miss Kristina. Seriously, I could not imagine a better violin teacher. I am grateful for my family for supporting me and helping me manage my practice schedule. I am so grateful for our school, and the instruments and performing arts course that it provides."  
—Poppy Carter (5<sup>th</sup> Year)

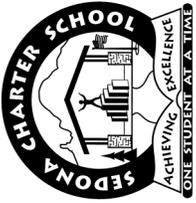
"I am thankful for my wonderful violin teacher Miss Kristina for showing me the ways of violin and helping when I have questions."  
—Reevyn (4<sup>th</sup> Year)

"I'm grateful for playing violin with my peers and having people who support me and never leave my side. I'm also very grateful for Kristina who taught and believed in me through these tough times. Violin is very precious to me and always will be. It's precious because the notes within a musical piece release emotion, give freedom, and tell a story. It's something that makes me feel calm and warm inside. It inspired me to go on and live on even through these rough times. Music is something that connects people; it opens the imagination and brings hope in my eyes. Music flows like water and so does life. Music is something I'm passionate about and I won't let go of it, and you shouldn't let go of the things you're passionate about either. Music brings me warmth; it makes me smile and for that I'm grateful."  
—Lotus Flores (7<sup>th</sup> Year)

"I am very grateful for an amazing teacher and very nice friends to play violin with. I am also very grateful for having a great class. I am very grateful for my parents for being so supportive. I love playing music because it really makes me happy and I have become a good musician."  
—Juni Speilman (4<sup>th</sup> Year)

"I am grateful to have such a great violin teacher and to also have a really great passion for the violin. I am grateful for having a supporting family that just wants me to keep going and going for violin."  
—Vincent Smith-Shayawatt (7<sup>th</sup> Year)

"Violin is something that is special to me because I actually have the ability to play and learn the violin unlike some people. Some people may not be able to play the violin because of their health or another certain reason. I am lucky enough to have the opportunity to play and learn. I also enjoy playing and learning with my classmates and teachers. I was also lucky enough to have the chance to play at Carnegie Hall, but unfortunately couldn't go because of a virus spreading. Even though I didn't get to go there, I still appreciate everything else the violin has done for me. I hope I can continue to learn and grow with my violin."  
—Jasmine Montes de Oca (7<sup>th</sup> Year)



Sedona Charter

# DECEMBER 2020



Keeping parents informed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		8	9	10	11	12
	7	15	16	17	18	19
6		22	23	24	25	26
13	14	21	28	29	30	31
20	27					
<b>W I N T E R B R E A K</b>						
<p><i>Looking Ahead:</i>            January 4— School Resumes            January 11 — Report Cards Available in Parent Vue            January 18 — No School — Martin Luther King Holiday</p>						