

* “Motherhood (parenting) is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. It’s about understanding that he is exactly the person he is supposed to be. And that, if you’re lucky, he just might be the teacher who turns you into the person you are supposed to be.” –Joan Ryan

WELCOME TO UPPER ELEMENTARY



PARENT ORIENTATION

2023-2024

Meet the Teachers

- * **Ms. Bridget** – *Language, Social Studies (4th Grade), and Art*
- * **Ms. Mafe** – *Math, Social Studies (5th Grade), and Spanish*
- * **Ms. Janelle** – *Science*

FRIDAY



- * SPELLING TESTS
- * CHECK PAIRED PASSAGE
- * SUNSHINE MATH
- * SPEED TESTS
- * LIFE SKILLS
- * CHINESE
- * PE - wear PE shirt in the morning (don't forget deodorant)
- * ART
- * TIME FOR KIDS (Begins in Sept.)

Our Daily Routine

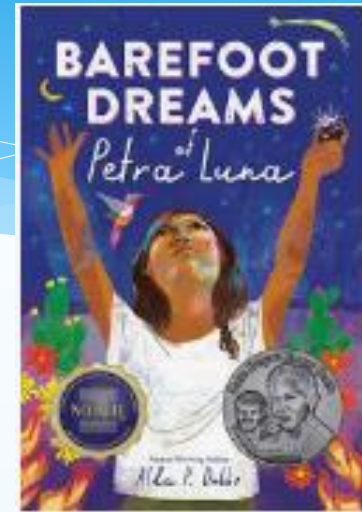
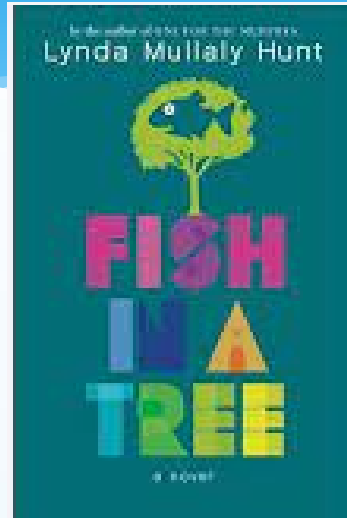
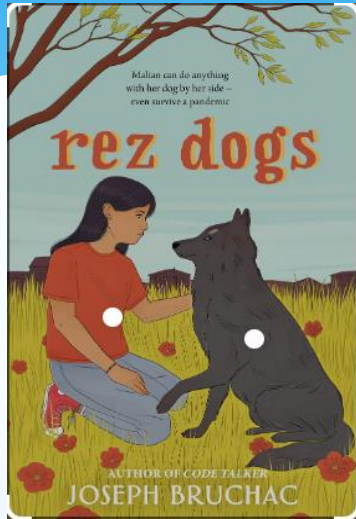
- * Language
 - * Math
- * Social Studies
 - * Science
 - * Spanish

Language Arts



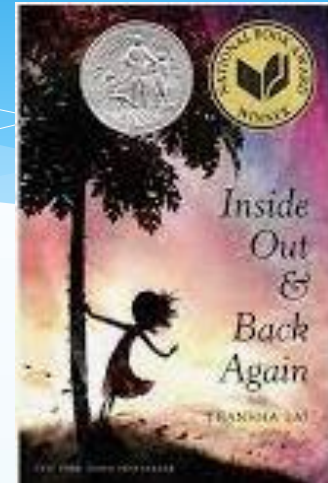
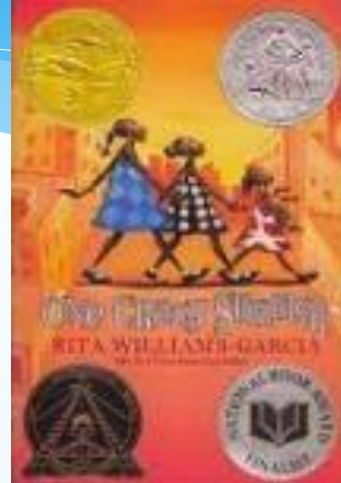
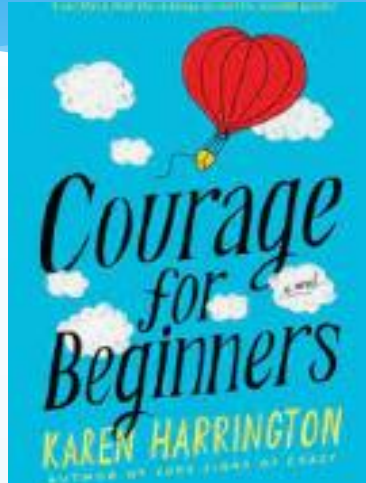
- * SRAs
- * Grammar Workshop www.grammarworkshop.com
- * Vocabulary Workshop www.vocabularyworkshop.com
- * Spelling www.spellingcity.com/montessoriacademies
- * Literature
- * Creative Writing and Journaling
- * Reading Counts
- * Book Reports
- * Montessori Materials
- * IXL Language www.ixl.com
- * Paired Passages

4th Grade Book Reports



- * **Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchae (September 19th)
- * **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (November 28th)
- * **Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett (February 13th)
- * **Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna** by Alda P. Dobbs (April 23rd)

5th Grade Book Reports



- * **Pig Hearted** by Alex Perry (September 19th)
- * **Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington (November 28th)
- * **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia (February 13th)
- * **Inside Out and Back Again** by Thanhha Lai (April 23rd)

Book Reports

- * 4 Book Reports per year over a 2 month period with a formal report.
- * Discussion is held on the date listed on the handout.
- * Book report rough draft will be due on the Tuesday after the discussion. Final draft will be due one week later.
- * Please purchase books ahead of time.

Math



- * Montessori Math with Materials
- * Geometry
- * Word Problems
- * Montessori Sequence Cards
- * Group Lessons
- * Sunshine Math
- * Speed Tests
- * IXL Math – Topic Lessons
www.ixl.com
- * Xtra Math
www.xtramath.com



Social Studies

4th Grade

Historical Literature Read Aloud Connection

- 1. The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo**
by Jean Craighead George (ASAP)
- 2. A Land Remembered Vol. 1 & 2**
(student editions) by Patrick Smith

5th Grade

Historical Literature Read Aloud Connection

- 1. The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich (ASAP)
- 2. Heart and Soul The Story of America and African Americans** by Kadir Nelson

- * SS Interactive Notebook
- * Geography
- * Literature Extensions

Historical Person Project

- * Students will choose a person and will complete research based on the requirements listed in the packet.
- * Project is due on October 23rd.
- * Historical Person Fair is October 26th.
- * Information will be distributed in September.

Science

4th Grade

Physical Science

- ❖ Matter
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Light and Sound
- ❖ Magnetic Power
- ❖ A world in Motion

Life Science

- ❖ Cells and Organisms
- ❖ Heredity and Diversity
- ❖ Ecosystems
- ❖ Plants of the World
- ❖ Earth's Animals
- ❖ Our Body Systems
- ❖ Science and Medicine

Earth Space Science

- ❖ Oceans and water ways
- ❖ Soil
- ❖ Weather and Climate
- ❖ Natural Disasters
- ❖ To Protect and Conserve
- ❖ Solar System
- ❖ Science and Technology

5th Grade

Physical Science

- ❖ All About Matter
- ❖ Heat
- ❖ Light and Sound
- ❖ Electricity and Magnetism
- ❖ Motion
- ❖ Technology in Society

Life And Science

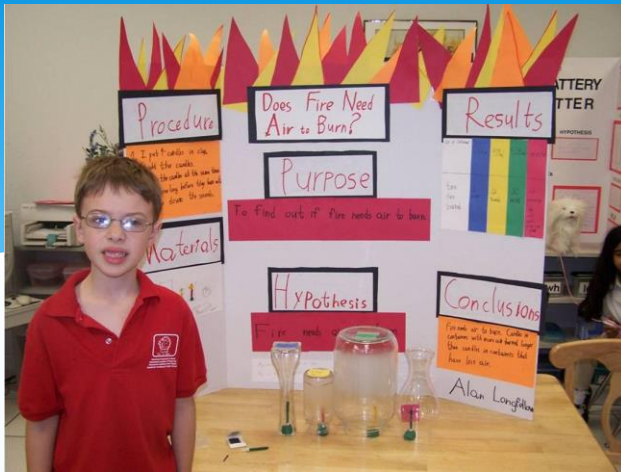
- ❖ Cells and Microbes
- ❖ Plant Kingdom
- ❖ Animal Kingdom
- ❖ Prehistoric Life
- ❖ Systems of Life
- ❖ Being Human
- ❖ The Amazing Brain

Earth Space Science

- ❖ Structure of Earth
- ❖ Shaping the Earth
- ❖ All About Soil
- ❖ Finding Solutions
- ❖ The Water Cycle
- ❖ Exploring Our Solar System

Science Fair

4th Grade



- * Students choose a topic for the experiment.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home at the end of October.
- * Final experiment due:
February 19th



Business Fair

5th Grade

- * JA Biztown visit on October 10th
- * Students choose a product to start their own business.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home at the end of October.
- * Final project due:
January 30th

Homework

- * Read for 30 minutes daily
- * Reading for Concepts – 3 stories per week; checked Thursday
- * Spelling – **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** write each word 2 times, 6 times total

Friday Spelling test

- * Spelling City website – 10 minutes per night / highly recommended
- * IXL Language website – weekly lessons assigned to coordinate with Grammar Workshop
- * Grammar Workshop- Finish lesson if not completed during class time
- * Vocabulary Workshop – one unit per week (work is checked on Wednesday and test is given on Thursday)
- * Journal and Paired Passage

Homework

- * IXL Math – Students are required to complete the skills assigned in their planner per week.
- * Each grade is assigned a required set of skills per week as following:
 - 4th grade must complete 6 skills with a minimum Smart Score of 80
 - 5th grade must complete 7 skills with a minimum Smart Score of 90Sometimes I will only assign 3 skills out of the set. They still must complete the remaining number of skills required per grade level. If the skills assigned are already done, then the student must complete the total amount of skills per week
- * Xtra Math – done on a daily basis Saturday – Thursday until all levels are completed. (4 times/week)
- * Science and Social Studies homework will be assigned as needed and it will be written in their planners.

Technology Enhancements

- * 4th – 5th graders need to bring Wi-Fi compatible tablets/Chromebooks to school everyday.
- * The students will use their tablets mostly for homework, but will also be tasked in multiple subjects to enrich lessons periodically.
- * **CHARGE YOUR DEVICES EVERY NIGHT!**

Online Procedures and Guidelines

- * Students will be instructed on their responsibilities and restrictions for the use of technology.
- * Students and parents both sign the iPad/Tablet User Agreement.
- * Please make sure that all personal content on individual devices is appropriate for school environment – no mature rated games.
- * Social media should not be accessed during school hours or on school premises.
- * Messaging between devices is prohibited during school hours or on school premises. (including parents)

Online Procedures and Guidelines

- * Students may not use a device to take pictures/videos of their classmates unless it is for instructional purposes.
- * Students may not use/touch another person's device or password.
- * Devices are to be kept in the students cubby and not be left anywhere else in the classroom or school.
- * Montessori Academies is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Other Reminders

- * **Class begins at 8:30 am. We begin lessons promptly.** If your child is late/absent please understand that they will have to make up this work as part of their homework. Lessons cannot be recreated.
- * **Class ends at 3:00 pm. Upper Elementary dismissal is between 3:05-3:30.** If you arrive early please park and wait until your child arrives at the gate.

Other Reminders

* Absences during the school year are handle in the following way:

students are asked to complete regular homework for the extent of their absence, all class notes can be copied upon return from another classmate, special projects or lessons cannot be recreated, students are encouraged to keep a Trip Journal to record their activities to share with their class.

Please do not ask for assignments in advance as our schedule is subject to change and some lessons require the student's presence for demonstration.

THANK YOU

We look forward to an exciting year full of challenging discoveries and new learning experiences. We appreciate your support and help throughout this journey.