



## Letter from Head of School

Dear Parents,

As a charter school we are required to have our 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students take state mandated standardized tests. They are scheduled to take place this month. Here are a few of our thoughts as Montessori educators...

We see standardized tests as but one narrow snapshot of your child's vast abilities and greatness. We believe that academics are only one of the many Montessori outcomes we strive for. Montessori believed that education is an aid to life and our goal as parents and teachers is to dedicate ourselves to this aid. In Montessori, curriculum/academics is not seen as an end in itself but rather as a means to developing the whole personality... or as a means to helping them reach their full potential.

Children progress academically at different rates. Their starting place in any academic area is unique to each one. Montessori's genius was to know how to follow and support the child in his/her individual, natural advancement. Unfortunately, the culture of standardized testing does not often honor, align or allow this process. Each teacher works very hard to balance the requirement to give and prepare students for standardized tests with being faithful to the Montessori philosophy of following the curiosity and interest of each student that serves to enhance their lifelong love of learning.

Your child's teacher will take into account these results as he/she does the many other pieces of assessment she uses to guide and inspire your child in his/her full development. We encourage you to do the same.

Margo O'Neill  
Head of School

## Elementary Students JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Throughout the month of March, Elementary students have been gathering donations and working on their jumping skills through the Jump for Heart program to benefit the American Heart Association. During P.E. time, students have been practicing jump-roping techniques, including single and group jump, double-dutch, long jump, and also classic games such as "Miss Mary Mack" and "Ice Cream Soda".

Just this week, the students honed their long jump skills on the field, and worked hard on getting their jump-roping hours in before the end of the month. Some students jumped as far as 11 feet! Their support of each other, and of the charity, was an uplifting sight to see.



*On top:  
Curt Fiedler leaps  
to the mat, com-  
pleting an 11 ft.  
long jump during  
the event on March  
27th.*



*On right:  
Alexander Kozub  
completes the 11 ft.  
long jump.*

## **Pre-Primary T-Ball Season Begins!**

To enroll in T-ball this year your child must be at least 4, 5, or 6 years of age. Registration was due in Friday 3/28, but you can email Coach Brian to see if spaces are still available!

Email: [bwhitacre@villamontessori.com](mailto:bwhitacre@villamontessori.com)

**Practices will begin on April 1** for all age groups with no games during the first week. All age groups will practice on Tuesdays. The 4 year-olds will have practice at 3:30- 4:15, 5 year-olds 4:15- 5:00, and 6 year-olds 5:00 -5:45. Games will be at 4:00 and 5:00 on Fridays lasting 45 minutes. The first T-ball game will be on the 11th of April and the last game will be on the 25th of April. All practices and games will be held on the field at the Meadowbrook campus. **The cost is \$40**, which includes a team T-shirt and medal.

## **Elementary II Running Club Gets Moving!**

The Elementary II Running Club, taught by teacher Kaitlyn Shaw, is a new addition to the Enrichment classes offered this year. Kaitlyn is a committed teacher who enjoys running in her spare time, and has a passion for sharing the sport of running with children. So far this school year, the students in the Running Club have participated in two official 5K races—the Color Run in January, and the Bubble Run this March. In the Bubble Run, after insisting on being in the first group of runners, students Ryan Middlemist and Mario Torres both crossed the finish line in 14<sup>th</sup> place, out of 500 people in the first wave. Way to go Ryan and Mario! Keep it up!!

## **Parent Education Series**

Thank you to everyone who attended one or more of the last workshops on Language, and Math. There was a great parent turnout and a lot of information was shared— hopefully providing a deeper understanding of the Montessori methods in teaching. There are still two workshops left in the Parent Education Series! Please be reminded that, unfortunately, child-care is not available during these workshops. See below for more information.



*Parents gather in Laura Altmaier's class for a lesson in Montessori math during the second workshop of the Parent Education Series, held on Saturday March 22nd.*

### **COMING UP:**

#### **Math in Upper Elementary**

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

6:30-7:30 PM

Room # 218

Presented by Shannon, Stefanie and Willa

#### **Language and Literacy in Upper Elementary**

Monday, April 7, 2014

6:30-7:30 PM

Room # 204

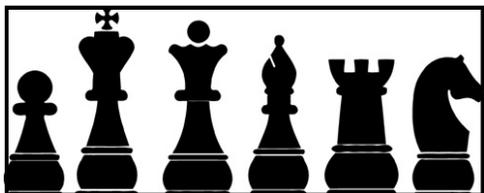
Presented by Kaitlyn, Leticia, and Amy

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

## Villa Chess Club attends Knights Joust Tournament

The Villa Chess club attended the Knights Joust Chess Tournament on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the opening round of qualifiers.

In a surprise showing, two first-time tournament goers came in 13th place out of 38 teams. Samuel Weisberg, a first grader, got 1 point, overcoming nerves and two losses in a row. I think this is the beginning of a very strong chess career for him. And, third grader Cort Ostendorf is the first to qualify for the State Championships with 2.5pts. Well done Cort – “King of Confidence”.



Also doing well was Griffin Goss, who earned his first individual trophy with 3.5pts, taking 5th place out of 35 players. Also, Jack Guzman got his second trophy with 2.5 pts. Both qualified for the Governors Cup State Championships. And to cap it all off, this two-man team also bought home the 3rd place team trophy. Great Teamwork!

At this rate, Villa is going to have two very strong teams in the State championships. There are four more chances to qualify over the next four Saturdays.

Best,  
Coach Adrian Black

## Middle School Heroic Journey Challenges Continue

Connor Davis, Oak student, completed his challenge of spending 3 days and 2 nights alone in the wilderness. Connor had a set course that he followed using a compass and topographical maps to prearranged check points. He purified his own water, used a flint to start his campfire and carried only minimal food.

Michael Riggs, Oak student, had a photography showing Friday evening, March 14, attended by about 30 people who were the first to see his photography. His photographs are on display at Mula Yoga Mesa for the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>. See one of his amazing photos below!

Phoenix Venezia-Phillips, Oak student, organized and emceed a circus performance event with 8 to 10 acts including a dancer, jugglers, acrobats and an aerial silk performer as a fund raiser for Halo Animal Rescue, a no-kill shelter.

Louis Christian, Weldon student, completed his challenge of learning French cooking by preparing and serving a five course meal to the teachers and staff at the Weldon staff meeting on March 25th. Louis served salad with avocado vinaigrette, an olive tart, tapenade, roasted potatoes and finished the meal with a Tarte Tatin.

Jeremy Hintze, Weldon student, has signed up for Cafe Villa to complete his challenge of learning to play *Good Life* by One Republic on the drums and performing it before an audience.

Wil Tully, Weldon student, completed his challenge of spending 3 days and 2 nights alone, camping on the Agua Fria River. He had food with him, but purified his water and used a flint to start his campfires.



*Photo by  
Michael  
Riggs, 8th  
grade  
Oak  
Middle  
School  
Student*



**Q & A with Middle School  
Office Administrator  
Christine Davis**

**What I do at Villa:** Office Administrator at the Oak Middle School office since the 2007-2008 school year.

**How I came to Villa:** After I quit working at Bank One for ten years (Formerly: Valley National Bank, Currently: Chase Bank) to start our family & be a stay-at-home mom, I did some early morning nannying for my former boss and his wife. They enrolled their son in Alana's class at Villa the year that Alana was expecting her son, Ethan and that was my introduction to Montessori and to Villa. I saw such a dramatic change in the boy I took care of and enjoyed everything about Villa and the Montessori Method, that I decided to choose that education for my children when the time came. Eventually, all three of my children were enrolled at Villa and at Winter Break during my oldest daughter, Sloan's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year, the Oak Office Administrator left suddenly and the Director sent an email out to current parents asking if anyone possessed the skills and desire to fill in until the end of that school year, promising they had someone in mind to fill the position the next year. That is how I started working at the Middle School during the middle of a Heroic Journey year and I am still there.

**The most valuable thing I offer:** Years of experience working with this age group and love of most of what that entails. I have a passion for assisting adolescents to realize how great they are and the potential they possess. Most don't know their worth.

**What I do when not at work:** Enjoy our home far away in Buckeye, AZ at the foothills of the White Tank Mountains, decorate, sew, take pictures, teach 5 year-olds at church on Sunday, taxi my children, entertain at home—I love throwing parties. My children will tell you I love cop shows on T.V., but truly, I love watching my kids play sports much more.

**Little known fact about me:** I can still do the splits and love to ballroom dance. In my mind, I'm still thin.

**Little known personal fact:** I am a control freak and love organizing things...I fit my Kolbe!

**My Favorite quote:** "Assume you've had a heart attack; now live accordingly. Assume the half-life of your profession is two years; now prepare accordingly. Assume everything you say about another, they can overhear; now speak accordingly. Assume you have a one-on-one visit with your creator every quarter; now live accordingly."  
--Stephen R. Covey (1932-2012)

**Dates to Remember**

March 31	Summer School Registration forms are available to Non-Villa families in the Administration Office
March 31 - April 4	Heroic Journey Week
April 2	Parent Education Workshop on Math in Upper Elementary
April 7	Parent Education Workshop on Language and Literacy in Upper Elementary
April 11	First Pre-Primary T-ball Game
April 14 - 18	AIMS Testing Week
April 15	Donated auction items are due to the Administration Office, or to Sue Watson
April 18	Middle School End of Year Dance - Weldon Campus
April 21 - 25	Oak 7th Grade Adventure Trip & Oak 8th Grade Internships
April 25	Last Pre-Primary T-ball game
April 26	<b>Villa's Annual Auction Dinner— this year's theme is: "Lost in the 50's Tonight"</b>
April 28 - May 1	Oak 8th Grade Adventure Trip & Oak 7th Grade Internships

## **We Appreciate your Feedback!**

In February we sent out a Survey on Fundraising and Development— and the responses will be an integral part of planning for the future of the school’s development, and fundraising needs. Below are a few highlights from the Survey, including the average #1 answers for each question listed, marked with an X.

Thank you to everyone that participated—we appreciate your feedback!

<b>Questions:</b>	<b>Possible Answers</b>
Do you make tax-deductible contributions to Villa (if yes, mark all that apply):	Love the school <b>Want to support my child’s education - X</b> Believe in the school’s mission
If you do not contribute to any of Villa’s fundraising effort, please tell us why (mark all that apply):	<b>Household budget constraints - X</b> Too complicated or inconvenient Haven’t been asked Feel like we give enough already
Does your family make tax-deductible contributions to non-profit organizations other than Villa Montessori:	<b>Yes - X</b> No
If so, what types of organizations do you typically make tax-deductible contributions to:	Church International Humanitarian <b>Local Charities - X</b>
Please indicate your willingness to make supporting tax-deductible contributions toward the following:	See below for possible answers:
Capital Fund (Middle school facilities, facility improvements for pre-primary and elementary):	Definitely would contribute <b>Probably would contribute - X</b> Probably would NOT contribute Definitely would NOT contribute Don’t know
Annual Sustaining Fund (supplement teacher salaries, unanticipated needs, general program support, more robust professional development plan for teachers):	Definitely would contribute <b>Probably would contribute - X</b> Probably would NOT contribute Definitely would NOT contribute Don’t know
Program enhancement (middle school land lab, language program, STEM enhancement):	Definitely would contribute <b>Probably would contribute - X</b> Probably would NOT contribute Definitely would NOT contribute Don’t know
Classroom Technology plan for 4-year cycle to ensure renewal of technology in classroom:	Definitely would contribute <b>Probably would contribute - X</b> Probably would NOT contribute Definitely would NOT contribute Don’t know
What would be your preferred mode of giving (mark all that apply):	<b>One-time annual - X</b> Monthly contribution billed Quarterly contribution Not likely to donate to Villa

## **APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> - "LOST IN THE FIFTIES TONIGHT" AUCTION DINNER**



This year's event will be held again at Chaparral Suites in Scottsdale. Join the fun and meet other Villa parents by attending this fun, social event. We have plenty of room for everyone! We have sent home auction donation forms with each child in the school. Please help us collect items for the auction. We can not accept items after April 15, so please get your items in before that date. We need all kinds of items and services. There will be extra donation forms and "general ask letters" on letterhead in all school offices. You can also download the donation form and "general ask letter" from the Villa [website](#).

**We have many expenses in all price ranges that need to be underwritten. Please read the underwriting page, and call me on my cell at (602) 363-5006 if you are interested in underwriting any portion of the auction.** Remember, you can receive one-hour volunteer time per auction item or one hour volunteer time for each \$100 in value of items or money donations. All items may be turned into any of the offices listed above. This is a great way to fulfill your required 10 hours volunteer time. Work the night of the auction and get double volunteer hours. Call Sue Watson if you have any questions or are interested in helping with this event (602) 363-5006.

→ **LIVE AUCTION ITEMS:**

TWO VIP TICKETS TO DANIEL TOSH-COMEDY CENTRAL, IN L.A.  
ONE WEEK IN A BEAUTIFUL TELLURIDE CONDO— 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath  
CHAMPAGNE/HONEY FEMALE LAB PUPPY  
OUTING-FOR-A-DAY WITH A SWAT TEAM MEMBER  
WORLD-CLASS WINE COLLECTION—26 BOTTLES, EACH OVER \$30 IN VALUE

→ **SOME SILENT AUCTION ITEMS (KEEP 'EM COMING!):**

CHILD OUTING-FOR-A-DAY WITH A MAYOR GREG STANTON  
ARCADIA ICE SUMMER CLASSES FOR YOUR CHILD  
GOLF & LUNCH PACKAGE FOR TWO AT THE PHOENICIAN  
ONE YEAR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP TO SCOTSDALE RAILROAD PARK

→ **WORKING ON:**

TRIP TO LAS VEGAS—CURRENTLY HAVE TWO SOUTHWEST TICKETS PURCHASED!  
FIESTA BOWL—RIDE IN PARADE FOR A CHILD  
VIP SEATING AT A DANIEL TOSH SHOW IN BURBANK, CA  
A JUKEBOX

***WE WELCOME CASH DONATIONS TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE AUCTION – PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN! EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!***

**JUKEBOX NEEDED!**

Do you know anyone with a cool Jukebox that is just collecting dust?

To compliment the 50's theme, Villa is seeking an awesome, working Jukebox that can be auctioned off during the event.

If you have one you would like to donate, or know someone else that you think would — please contact Sue Watson by phone: (602) 363-5006, or email: [swatson@villamontessori.com](mailto:swatson@villamontessori.com)



# **IT'S BACK!!!!**

## **The Villa Wall of Wine**

Donate a bottle of wine to the auction dinner and earn valuable volunteer hours. The higher the value of wine donated, the more volunteer hours earned.

Wine Donation Volunteer Hours Chart – One hour = \$20 value

**\$10 wine bottle = ½ volunteer credit hour**

**\$20 wine bottle = 1 volunteer credit hour**

**\$40 wine bottle = 2 volunteer credit hours**

**\$60 wine bottle = 3 volunteer credit hours**

**\$80 wine bottle = 4 volunteer credit hours**

**\$100 wine bottle = 5 volunteer credit hours**

**\$200 wine bottle = 10 volunteer credit hours**

There will be a wine wall near the entrance of the auction that will display all the wine donations received. The wine will range from as little as \$10 a bottle to over \$100.00 a bottle. All donated wine will be cleverly disguised in unique packaging. For a \$20 donation, pick your favorite mystery package and then reveal your wine selection. There are NO losers! You will likely be the winner of a much higher valued bottle of wine than your donation. Whether you're a casual drinker or a wine connoisseur, this is one wine sampling not to miss.

Please deliver all wine to the Administration Office, Early Childhood Office or either Middle School Offices. Please bring your receipts if possible and put your name on it so we know whose family gets the credit for hours.

Volunteer hours will be assessed based on the average wine price displayed at [wine-searcher.com](http://wine-searcher.com). Proof of price with receipt will also be accepted. All wine donations must be turned in to Villa by Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**P.S. YOU CANNOT DRINK THE WINE AT THE EVENT! IT MUST STAY CORKED!**

Thank you,  
**The Auction Committee**



**AUCTION ITEMS— UNDERWRITING NEEDED**  
 (\*designates totally or partially underwritten):

Appetizers for Dinner	\$2,500
*Auctioneer	\$500- Paid in full ~ <i>Tim Anton (Alum grandparent) volunteers as our auctioneer!</i>
*Materials for classroom projects	\$1,000 – Paid in full ~ <i>Patty &amp; Mike Smith (Villa grandparents) underwrote the cost of the Class Furniture!</i>
Construction cost for classroom projects	\$800
*Table Centerpieces	\$1,500 – Paid in full ~ <i>Katie Easley (former parent - Lux Wedding Florist) will provide the centerpieces!</i>
*Classroom Baskets & Decorations	\$300 — Paid in full ~ <i>Sue &amp; Vince Watson (grandparents) underwrote baskets and basket decorations!</i>
Postage	\$650
*Raffle Tickets	\$320 – Paid in full ~ <i>Jeff &amp; Jill Zimmerman (Villa Parents) underwrote the cost of the raffle tickets!</i>
Auction Catalog	\$500
Invitation, Banner & T-shirt Design	\$350
Logo development	\$350
*Banners at each campus	\$1000 – Paid in full ~ <i>Equity Sign Group owned by parents Rob Frazier &amp; Erin Lieherr underwrote the beautiful auction banners that will be displayed at each campus!</i>
Letterhead & Second sheets	\$725
Envelopes for Letterhead	\$600
Invitations	\$1,800
Bid Sheets (3-part)	\$500
*Invoices (3-part)	\$300 — Paid in full ~ <i>Margaret &amp; Larry Ostendorf underwrote the cost of the Auction Invoices!</i>
*Security	\$350 — Paid in full ~ <i>Peter &amp; Sherianne Davis (Villa Parents – Simon Consulting) underwrote the cost of the Security Team!</i>

*If you have any questions, call Sue Watson (602) 363-5006*

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My name is John Cunningham. I'm a Villa Dad & I'm grateful for the opportunity to support our school

Lets  
Connect

(602) 558-3843

[john@johncunninghamteam.com](mailto:john@johncunninghamteam.com)  
or as johninphoenix on



If you are interested in putting in an ad, the cost is \$10 a month or only \$45 for the rest of the 2013-2014 school year. To begin an Ad, please contact Barbi Smith at [bsmith@villamontessori.com](mailto:bsmith@villamontessori.com).

*Disclaimer:*

*All information contained in any classified ad is the sole responsibility of the individual advertiser. Villa Montessori is not responsible for the accuracy or reliability of said information. Villa reserves the right to review each ad submitted, and to reject or discontinue, revise, and/or reclassify any ad at any time for any reason. Individual advertiser is responsible for all proofreading and verifying of all information of the ad.*



## Helping Families Save on the Cost of College!

We help families create optimal approaches to paying for their child's college education.

College planning starts early & requires a balance of:

- The Head** (academics)
- The Heart** (school fit)
- The Hand** (financials)

This issue we explore **The Heart**. With a Heart focused approach school choice is made in the following manner:

Career *then* Major *then* School Selection

- With the average student taking over 5 years to graduate, that one additional year increases your college cost by over 25%; with two year, you have over a 50% increase in the total cost of college!
- Not only does the career->major->school selection approach save time and significant money, hopefully it helps guide your child to a post graduate vocation where they find passion and joy.

Next edition highlights "The Hand"

Learn more by contacting us at:  
Simplicit College Funding  
602.717.2011

[Kate@SimplicitCollegeFunding.com](mailto:Kate@SimplicitCollegeFunding.com)

*A Division of Simplit Financial*

# \$59 Office Visit!



Appointments: **602-274-DIET (3438)**

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Tuesdays: Noon – 5pm



1<sup>st</sup> Visit takes about an hour. EKG and Bloodwork Required.  
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**TWO MEN AND A TRUCK**  
"Movers Who Care."

Last spring the Elementary II campus on Cheryl Drive had to pack up and prepare for a move down to the new campus. Overall, the experience with Two Men and a Truck was incredibly positive with all of our things landing safely in their new home.

**Thank you Two Men and a Truck! ~ Cave Creek and 7<sup>th</sup> Street Location**

## **Support our Villa Community**

In keeping with the community spirit of the "Villa Family," we would like to help support those Villa families that own or operate businesses. If you own or operate a business, have a child at Villa, and would like your business listed, please contact Barbi Smith at [bsmith@villamontessori.com](mailto:bsmith@villamontessori.com). We will list the name of the business and any contact information.

### **It takes a VILLAge!**

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Business Phone</b>	<b>Business Web site</b>	<b>Parent(s) Name</b>
Air Sports Trampoline & Tumbling	602-400-6876	<a href="http://airsportstnt.com">http://airsportstnt.com</a>	Scott & Jean Larson
B & B Printing	602-861-3737	<a href="http://bbprintery.com">http://bbprintery.com</a>	Lisa Bartholomew
Fit Minded	602.827-2456	<a href="http://www.fitminded.com">http://www.fitminded.com</a>	Dr. Jennifer Huberty
Kristine Woolsey Studio	480.945.3440	<a href="http://www.woolseystudio.com">www.woolseystudio.com</a>	Kristine Woolsey
Laundryland	480-457-0322	<a href="http://www.laundrylandaz.com">www.laundrylandaz.com</a>	Kristi Lockwood
Phoenix Weight Loss	602-274-3438	<a href="http://www.PhxWeightLoss.com">www.PhxWeightLoss.com</a>	Brent & Debbie Gear
Rodan + Fields Independent Consultant	602-549-0711	<a href="http://www.mscolville.myrandf.com">www.mscolville.myrandf.com</a>	Melanie S. Colville