



Verde Valley Montessori  
215 South Main Street; Post Office Box 2678  
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928-634-3288

*The mission of Verde Valley Montessori is to create a learning environment which provides a balance of intellectual, physical, social and emotional maturity, fostering the holistic development of each child through the Montessori philosophy of education.*

*Verde Valley Montessori is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. VVM is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination.*

## SEPTEMBER 2017

### STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Student Demonstrations are coming up! This is your opportunity to have your child show you what they are doing in their classroom. The students love showing their parents what they do in school and how they learn each day. You are cordially invited to come and visit your child's classroom as they discuss their work and daily routine with you.

**Preschoolers: Wednesday Sept. 27 from 1:30 – 2:30**

~ Half-day students are encouraged to return with their parents/guardians to share their work.

**Kindergarten: Thursday Sept. 28 from 1:30 – 2:30**

**Lower Elementary: Thursday Sept. 28 from 6:00-6:30pm**

**Upper Elementary: Thursday Sept. 28 from 6:30-7:00pm**

### GRANDPARENTS DAY: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH

On Friday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm to 2:30pm we will be hosting our annual Grandparents Day. This is a time for grandparents to come and see their grand-kids in action and be shown what they do at school. The students love this and are very proud to show off what they do, and show off the special people in their lives. We invitations have been sent home with the students. If your child's grandparents are not available or live too far away, feel free to invite someone who is important to them like a grandparent would be.

### International Peace Day Celebration

Thursday, September 21, VVM will celebrate the International Day of Peace. Come and join us at 11:00 a.m., as we reflect on what peace means to each of us. The students will recite poetry and sing songs, and create art to inspire contemplation of the topic of peace.



### OUR FIRST PTO MEETING WAS THURSDAY AUGUST 24TH



Our first official PTO meeting was a wonderful success. We started our meeting with a short meet and greet, and a few delicious snacks. We then got down to business and made some amazing progress. Our first big event is our annual **Halloween Party/Fall Festival** in October.

The kids love this event and they really look forward to this each year. It is a fun time had by all that includes fun games, pumpkin decorating, good treats, dressing up, and of course gathering with their friends! After our Halloween Party/Fall Festival is the annual **Cottonwood Christmas Parade** – so much fun. We get together; decorate a float of some kind or another (don't know what the theme is yet this year) with the kids and then march in the parade.



Last for the year, but definitely not least is the, oh so popular **Winter Program** – this is a “can't miss” occasion complete with a pot luck dinner and an amazing basket raffle . . . love raffles! When the New Year rolls around, there are some great fund raising events to help provide the funds for all of this and, wait for it . . . . the end of the year “Water Day Fun Day Fiesta”.

We will also be doing the **Build-A-Buddy** again sometime this year - along with some other great ideas that might include **Family Movie Night, Valentine Grahams for MUHS, School Auction, Cup Stacking, and Date Night Movie Night!** We also discussed doing a “Families Helping Families” page where you can pay to advertise your businesses, services, or talents, for other families who need them. This way we can help each other and raise a little money for the school. We have some parents who are starting a PTO Facebook page so everyone can keep up with what's happening and be an important part of all the excitement. I will send out the link as soon as we have that available.

**Let's build some amazing memories!**





### PRE-K AND KINDER CLASSROOM UPDATE:

One month of school and all the students have settled into a beautiful sense of learning. The Eagles (kinders) are really settling in and are helping their Hummingbirds (pre-kindergartners) whenever it is needed. The Eagles are quite proud of the role they play, and the Hummingbirds really look up to their Eagle helpers.

We have had a visit from a tortoise, studied about hummingbirds, and saw a movie in slow motion of all their movements.

Many creative patterns are being built with the ongoing study of shapes. We have crated flowers for our flower study and worked for several days in the ocean complete with waves and ocean animal sound.

Math work is being chosen and the 100 board activities are very popular.

Letter sounds are being blended into words and some are even reading books. The students are all looking forward to Grandparent's Day, and are very excited.

*Ms. Colleen and Ms. Angie*



### 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE CLASSROOM UPDATE:

We have started off this school year learning all the ground rules and daily routines with the older children helping the younger and newer children learn our routine. We have also been busy with gardening, food prep, and tea time, which the students are very excited about.

The first grade is working on learning time, the calendar, and the parts of speech.

The second grade is working on mastering double digit operations and delving deeper into language mechanics, and grammar.

The third graders have embarked on the task of memorizing multiplication and math facts as well as mastering the bead frame. They are working on command boxes as well as refining grammar, for writing.

The entire class is engaged in penmanship, mastering the art of writing whether it be cursive or d' nealian print.

This month the children are looking forward to Grandparents Day and creating a special appetizer for the event. We hope to be able visit a farm that is sustainable. We will be doing lots of art and music in the classroom, as well as peace education and hope to have lots of opportunities for guests and cultural trips.



*Ms. Vena, Ms. Suzy, & Ms. Ginny*

### 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CLASSROOM UPDATE:

Upper Elementary students are off to a great start. We are taking on the increased rigor of the next grade level with gusto.

On Monday, August 21, between clouds covers, we were able to view the distinct shadow of the partial solar eclipse as it was happening. We set up a telescope and each student got to come out view the eclipse as it happened, reflected on a piece of white foam board. Some of the children even got to see the shadow of some sun spots along with the eclipse. The clouds traveling in front of the sun were quite interesting to observe as well.

In our literary discussion groups, the "The Bookworms" are reading, Frindle by Andrew Clements. The "Rainbow Donuts" are reading Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass and the Pugs, are reading Number the Stars by Lois Lowry.



Looking forward into September, we are getting ready for our presentations and activities on Grandparents day, Peace Day, and a special visit from "fireman Steve" who was a fireman in New York City on September 11, 2001.

*Mr. Allen and Ms. Ann*

We still have some of our “one of a kind” beautifully tie dyed VVM t-shirts for sale in the office. We are limited in our sizes right now, but I spoke with the woman who originally made our shirts, and she making us new ones. We will let you know as soon as they arrive. These shirts are great for when the kids go on field trips- so easy for the teacher to spot! They are also just fun to wear and supports school spirit.

All proceeds from the sale of these shirts go to the PTO, to pay for programs, parades, and fun filled events.



Just a reminder to send healthy snacks with your Kids. Also, remember to send healthy items to go with their lunches when they order from Acme. They only get a main course and need some snacks to go along with their main item.



A HUGE THANK YOU to all our VVM Families for your generous donations of items for our classrooms and our School!!! Your kindness and generosity is always greatly appreciated.

Regular dismissal times: Pre-K & K: 2:45

1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 3:15

Early dismissal times: Pre-K & K: 1:00pm

1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1:30