



HDMS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR, MR. ERIC

Don't we all love snow? It's nostalgic, is great for snowmen and sledding, and makes driving really unsafe.

When a snow day is called, we have to make sure we are still meeting the number of instructional minutes required by the State of Nevada Department of Education. We have three contingency days built into our annual calendar, but we understand that making up school days in June can create a hardship for families. In the past, we have come up with creative ways to make up the time, and we are starting to look at those solutions. We might cancel some early release days or even staff work days.



Normally, we wait until spring break, when we are fairly confident we will not have any more snow days, to make the final decision on how to move forward. We will keep you informed as soon as we have a final plan!

Thank you for your continued support of HDMS.

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOW-2/9/24: PTO CLOTHING DRIVE
- 2/12/24: 3:30 GREEN TEAM MEETING
- 2/14/24: 4:00 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
- 2/15/24: 5:30 PTO MEETING [LINK](#)
- 2/16/24: STAFF WORK DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 2/19/24: PRESIDENT'S DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 2/28/24: TWO HOUR EARLY RELEASE
- 2/28/24: 5:00 HDMS BOARD MEETING
- 2/29/24: 4:30 NNLC LITERACY NIGHT
- 3/6/24: MONTESSORI THROUGH MY EYES
- 3/11/24: 3:30 SAFETY TEAM MEETING
- 3/14/24: 5:30 PTO MEETING
- 3/15/24: 9:00 2ND CUP OF COFFEE WITH ADMIN
- 3/18/24-3/22/24: SPRING CONFERENCES - 2 HOUR EARLY RELEASE ALL WEEK
- 3/18/24: SPRING PICTURES FOR PRIMARY & ADOLESCENT
- 3/20/24: 5:00 HDMS BOARD MEETING
- 3/21/24: SPRING PICTURES FOR ELEMENTARY
- 3/21/24: 5:30 NNLC LITERACY NIGHT
- 3/25/24-4/5/24: SPRING BREAK



Myths about Montessori

1. Montessori is just for rich kids

Many Montessori schools are private schools, however, Montessori public education began in the 1970's to help address desegregation. Now there are over 500 publicly funded Montessori schools in the United States.

2. In Montessori classrooms, children run around and do whatever they want.

The Montessori method provides children with freedom of choice of purposeful activity. The children are involved with self selected work designed to build concentration and independence.

3. The Montessori method is against fantasy, therefore stifling creativity.

Dr. Montessori found that children preferred practical activities that fulfilled their inner needs. Montessori classrooms allow for safe expression through art, music, movement and manipulation of materials.

4. Montessori is outdated.

Changes have been made to the original Montessori curriculum, such as introducing computers, and modifications to Practical Life exercises to keep them culturally relevant. However, the child guided approach has not changed since Dr. Montessori's lifetime. Research confirms Montessori's insights.

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH MENU

Our full breakfast and lunch menu can always be found on our website at <https://www.hdmsreno.com/free-school-lunch-breakfast/>

5 Belgian Waffle w/ Organic Agave Syrup, Fruit & Milk	6 Croissant w/ Fruit & Milk	7 Pancakes w/ Fruit & Milk	8 Quesadilla w/ Fruit & Milk	9 Bagel w/ cream cheese w/ Fruit & Milk
Mac & Cheese w/ Fruit & Milk	Beef Burrito(Veg. Option is Refried Bean Burrito) w/ Fruit & Milk	Cheese Pizza w/ Fruit & Milk	Crispy Chicken Sandwich on a Bun w/ Fruit & Milk	Toasted Ham & Cheese Sandwich (Veg. Option Cheese Sandwich) w/ Fruit & Milk
12 Belgian Waffle w/ Organic Agave Syrup, Fruit & Milk	13 Croissant w/ Fruit & Milk	14 Pancakes w/ Fruit & Milk	15 Quesadilla w/ Fruit & Milk	16
Spaghetti w/ meat sauce (veg. option Marinara) w/ Fruit & Milk	Chicken Quesadilla (Veg. Option is Cheese Quesadilla) w/ Fruit & Milk	Veggie or Cheese Pizza w/ Fruit & Milk	Chicken soup w/ Fruit & Milk	

INTENT TO RETURN FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Did you know there are almost 500 students on the HDMS waiting list? It's vital for our office to know how many students are returning next school year, so that we know how many spots we have for new students. PLEASE fill out an Intent to Return for each of your children as soon as possible. This step does not take the place of registration in the spring, it simply holds a spot on the roster for your child to return next school year.

Use link for the program your child CURRENTLY attends. One form per child.

Primary: <https://forms.gle/LxHfujMNFdzX4v8L8>

Elementary: <https://forms.gle/Li3CYtVuwpjGqRap6>

Adolescent: <https://forms.gle/PT9hh34L8tVriT839>



SIBLING ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



If you have a student currently enrolled at HDMS and you are hoping to enroll a sibling next school year, please reach out to Miss Stacey ASAP! stacey@hdmsreno.com While we can never guarantee a spot will be available, siblings do have priority enrollment per our enrollment procedures found [HERE](#).

NEVADA READY GRANT FOR 3-YEAR OLDS & 4-YEAR OLDS

High Desert Montessori School was approved to participate in the Nevada Ready Grant, sponsored by the United Way again this school year. This grant allows for qualifying 3 and 4-year-olds to attend our Primary program's school day program at no cost.

This school year, we were fortunate enough to qualify 16 children for this grant. Our hope is to qualify 16 3 and 4-year-old children for the 24-25 school year. The eligibility requirements of the grant are that children enrolled in the program must be 4 years old by the cutoff date and families determined to be income eligible below 200% of poverty level. More information can be found [HERE](#).



Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Eligibility

For the 2023-2024 school year, families must meet 2 eligibility requirements:

- 1. Children must be at least 4 years of age on or before August 1, 2023.
- 2. The family's annual household income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).*

Household/Family Size (How many people live with you?)	The Equivalent of 200% of the Annual 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120
9	\$111,400
10	\$121,680
11	\$131,960
12	\$142,240

Please reach out to our enrollment coordinator Stacey Hart at Stacey@hdmsreno.com if you have any questions or think your child may qualify for the grant next school year.

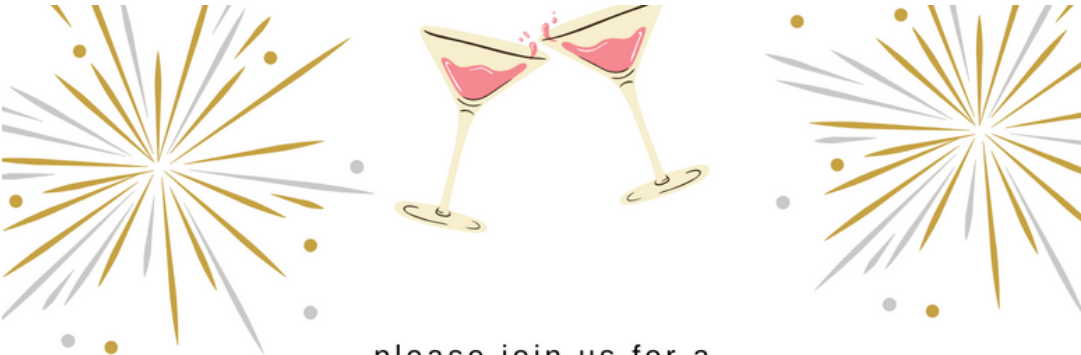
NOTES FROM THE GREEN PARENTS GROUP

A bouquet of flowers is the classic Valentine's Day gift. Like so many things, however, the easiest bouquets to find are also the worst for the planet. According to Green America, cut flowers are not only often imported from South America, but they also have to be shipped and stored with refrigeration. These factors lead to a significant carbon footprint. Most commercial flower growers also use synthetic pesticides like glyphosate and other known carcinogens. Consider buying flowers from local, organic vendors instead of the closest grocery store. Making flowers out of paper or cloth is another fun and long-lasting alternative. Either way, your thoughtfulness will say "I love you" to your loved ones and the planet.



NOTES FROM THE PTO

Our clothing drive ends this Friday so get in any last minute items NOW! We need a volunteer to help bring the bags to get weighed at Savers on Friday from about 12:45 - 2:00 PM. If you're available please let us know on our GroupMe here or at pto@hdmspto.com



please join us for a

HDMS PTO

Brews & Bites

FEBRUARY 24 AT 6 PM

Music | Drinks | Food |
Auction



Underworld Distillery
5301 Longley Ln Bldg F Ste 203
Reno, NV 89511

Brews and Bites is coming up fast! It's Saturday February 24th at Underworld Distillery. It's open to the public so bring your friends. There will be music, a raffle, drinks, and the Taco 'Bout It Food Truck!

We're still looking for auction items for our raffle at Brews and Bites. If you have anything good or know of any leads for great prizes let us know at pto@hdmspto.com

The 50/50 Raffle is also still ongoing. Winners will be announced in our May meeting so get your tickets now. This raffle is also open to the public so please share with family and friends. [Click here to get tickets.](#)

Upcoming PTO Events

- PTO Meeting via Zoom ([click here to join Zoom meeting](#)) 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Thursday February 15th
- Brews and Bites February 24th
- Spring Picnic May 19th

Keep in touch with all PTO events/activities by visiting us on [Facebook](#), on [our website](#) or by joining our [GroupMe chat](#). Our GroupMe chat is a great place to help rideshare to/from school

NOTES FROM THE JEDI COLLABORATIVE

★BLACK HISTORY MONTH★

PBS Kids offers these suggestions on how to teach your child about Black history.

- Buy a book by a Black author or illustrator and make it a part of your child's permanent collection.
 - Look for books that are inclusive and reflect the diversity of our communities.
 - Don't sweep differences under the rug when and if children ask questions about race.
 - Make sure your selections include contemporary stories.
 - Seek suggestions and guidance from knowledgeable cultural experts, booksellers, and librarians.
- 👉 Coretta Scott King Award-winning titles 👉 are always a good place to start for excellence in text and illustrations.

Explore 👉 PBS Kids: Teaching Your Child About Black History 👉 to learn more.

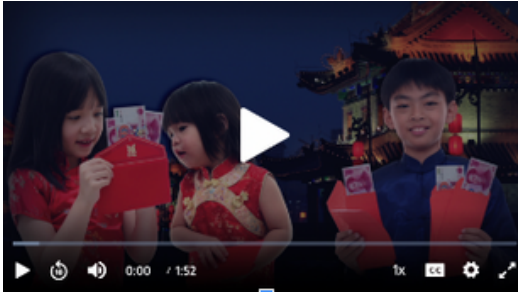


★2024 BMEF (Black Montessori Education Fund) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION★

The deadline for submission is February 28, 2024 at 11:59pm EST. 👉 Click Here to Apply 👉

★CHINESE NEW YEAR★

"Learn more about the history and traditions behind Chinese New Year, a celebration of good fortune at the end of winter celebrated by Chinese people around the world. How do you celebrate the new year?" 👉 Chinese New Year at PBS Kids 👉



★SURVEY: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!★

The anonymous survey should only take a few minutes. The deadline is February 14, 2024.

★👉 Click HERE for the JEDI Survey in ENGLISH 👉★

★👉 Click HERE for the JEDI Survey in SPANISH 👉★

★GET INVOLVED★

1. Let us know if there is a special cultural holiday or event important to your family coming up so that we can learn about it and share it with the HDMS community.
 2. Please fill out 👉 this survey 👉 or email Martha@HDMSReno.com if you are interested in attending or getting involved.
- Come to a JEDI Meeting: February 21, 2024, May 1, 2024, June 5, 2024

PLEASE HELP FUND THE BIRTHDAY BOOK GRANT

HDMS is looking to improve our library. Over the last few years, our teaching staff focused on evaluating our teaching practices. Upon reflection, our school library needs an infusion of books written in the 21st century.



By funding this project you will allow birthday students to select a book that best represents them, their culture, or their passions and help us fill the remodeled library funded by the school last year. Inclusive literature provides "mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors" that allow students to see themselves portrayed, allow them to see identities different from theirs, and allow students to enter into a new world of understanding of and empathy for others (Bishop, 2015). When students are proud of who they are and connected to the school, they are engaged and interested in learning. Students present on cultural studies which is linked to improved attendance and test scores. In addition to the Social emotional benefits, our teachers using these books are empowered to implement the culturally responsive strategies. These strategies are proven to increase reading comprehension and mathematical thinking and in a New America article, a group of students were motivated to make changes in their local community.

Charter schools provide choice and a different way to educate children. Our charter school works hard to provide all that that the district schools provide without as many resources. Thank you for donating to make a difference in our unique population. DONATE HERE

NOTES FROM THE PRIMARY TEAM

SNOWFLOWER CLASS IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS!

Our class has been exploring how to create collage art using recycled materials. We would love your donations of toilet paper rolls, pompoms, pretty paper, used greeting cards, or other fun items you may have lying around at home, please send them our way! Thank you so much!!



NOTES FROM THE ELEMENTARY TEAM

VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATIONS IN LOWER EL

On Wednesday February 14th, all lower elementary classrooms will be participating in craft activities instead of passing out Valentine's to their classmates. If you would like to donate supplies we need: tissue paper, pony beads, pipe cleaners, alphabet letter beads. If you would like to volunteer in the morning on 14th to help with a particular activity, please let me know.



NOTES FROM THE RUBY CLASSROOM

Jamie continues to give lessons on basic operations, fractions, parts of speech, practical life, and science. Ashley is holding them to the follow-up work that goes with it. Please ask your child what they are doing for math, science, art; and check Transparent Classroom for more information. We uploaded 300+ pictures last weekend and have more coming.



NOTES FROM THE EXCELSIOR CLASSROOM

Last week Ms. Emily and Ms. Kiki taught a cooking lesson to children. Students made guacamole in a molcajete, grated a lot of cheese, picked cilantro off the stems, and grilled some delicious quesadillas!



NOTES FROM THE ADOLESCENT TEAM

EXPLORING WASHOE COUNTY CREATIVE EXPRESSION CLASS

Exploring Washoe County took a tour of the Reno Police Department.



BOUNDARY PEAK FIELD TRIP

Boundary Peak advisory students planned a trip to the Discovery Museum



EVENT FOR STUDENTS AGES 12-17

DEFY DARKNESS presented by Forever14 @ Defy Sparks. Tickets are regularly \$25. Use PROMO CODE for HDMS students: HDM24 for a 100% discount if you need financial assistance. <https://forever14.org/defy-darkness>



presents



DARKNESS

#SuicideFreeToday

February 10th 11pm - 6am

Defy Trampoline Park

Ages 12-17

forever14.org/defydarkness



COURAGE PROJECT FOR STUDENTS AGES 8-13

Mindful Ski

with Achieve Tahoe

Jan 26

Feb 16

March 6

Mindful Snowboard

with SkiDucks

Jan 28

March 17

Mindful Nordic Ski

with Nevada Nordic

Feb 11

Mindful Snowshoe

with Tahoe Institute of Natural Science

April 14



The Courage Project is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization offering free, mindfulness-based coping skills training seamlessly integrated into fun, challenging outdoor adventures. Kids age 8 - 13 years old are welcome to join. Activities are thoughtfully designed to increase emotional intelligence, build confidence and promote resilience. Children who experience fear of failure, worry, perfectionism, difficulties with transitions, peer struggles, or could benefit from increased persistence and focus are best suited for our adventures.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our volunteers, wonderful donors and generous sponsors, we are providing FREE Mindful Snowboarding and Skiing clinics at two world-class resorts: Palisades Tahoe and Alpine Meadows as well as Nordic Skiing and Snowshoeing!

If you are interested in signing up your children, please visit www.courageproject.org/schedule to register. Thank you!

CHALLENGE ISLAND CAMPS



CHALLENGE ISLAND CAMPS

SET SAIL FOR SUMMER 2024

CHALLENGE-ISLAND.COM

Spring Break



March 25–29 *Kid's Choice*



April 1–5 *Book Included*

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT
(for Summer Camps only)
Enter Code: *EarlyBird2024*
*valid 2/1/24 - 3/31/24

NEW FOR 2024 CAMPS!
HDMS Families enter code: *HDMS*
for \$10 off registration!

Spring Break (March 25-29 & April 1-5)
Registration opens
January 1, 2024.

Summer (Weekly, June 17 - August 2)
Registration opens
February 1, 2024.