



St. Maarten

Montessori School

You are lovely



HAPPY VALENTINE'S

February 2021 Newsletter

Primary News

Ms. Esperanza and Ms. Julia

Primary students continue to have fun while learning new things every day.

This month, our theme is Antarctica, and we encourage parents to help your child find a Show & Tell item appropriate to the theme.

We also remind parents to return folders to school, so your child can bring home their weekly work in an orderly manner.

Lower Elementary News

Ms. Shelly and Ms. Ethlene

Welcome, February, and much-celebrated Valentine's Day! We happily welcome Declan to Level 3 this month!

Thank you to Caelan for his kind donation of books to our classroom library and to Ms. Marianne who has also "beefed up" our resource and novel sections. Currently, Level 3s are completing Dear Mr. Henshaw, and some Level 2s just wrapped up reading and discussion of The Foundling.

We will also look at customs and traditions such as Chinese New Year and Black History Month.

A stellar effort is being made with weekly homework, and all children are achieving excellent marks in weekly Spelling tests. Students are also reminded to complete Dutch and French homework as it is sent home.

Now is the time of year when students really start to focus on their work in preparation for advancement to their next level of education. This means more concentrated work periods and higher expectations for all students, including homework. Level 3 students have begun computer keyboarding lessons and will soon begin research projects, gleaning information from .org sites and sharing information with their peers. Level 1 & 2 students are working on keyboarding skills. Please listen to your child read aloud each night, if possible. This practice benefits them greatly.

We hope to walk down to our neighborhood wholesome farm and learn about planting and local agriculture, as we will start working in our school garden next month.

We have Yoga on Tuesday mornings, Community Meeting on Wednesday mornings, Science Experiments on Thursday mornings and Show and Tell on Friday mornings.

Please wash lunch bags and backpacks to keep them extra-clean in these times.

Please note the following:

- Mid-term Break – No school on Monday and Tuesday, February 15 & 16.

We remind our students daily to keep practising the 3Ws: Wear Your Mask, Wash Your Hands and Widen Your Distance. We must keep doing our part.

Upper Elementary News

Ms. Marianne and Ms. Wendy

Welcome to the second-half of the 2020-2021 school year! Weather-predicting groundhog Punxsutawney Phil returned to his burrow for another six weeks of winter, but UE has their eyes on spring – and the school yearend approaching!

Currently, all students are working hard from their daily study calendars, with focus on math operations and applications and word study, writing mechanics and reading comprehension at all levels.

To start the month, we read aloud a short biography, *Who Was Albert Einstein*, and considered in our journals his well-known statement, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

We continue reading aloud *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, building our understanding of the use of imagery, similes and metaphors. This week, we read aloud and analyzed a prize-winning essay by CIA Grade 11 student Isabela Cifuentes in advance of tackling another essay assignment of our own.

In honor of Black History Month in February, current ReadWorks Passages and Article-A-Day selections feature stories of accomplished African-Americans. To bolster comprehension, Level 4 readers will read at the Grade 3 level, while Level 5/6 readers will read at the Grade 5 level. In addition, the deadline for all work is Fri., Feb. 12 (rather than Feb. 5).

Recently, we enjoyed the opportunity to join CIA phys.-ed. teacher Ms. English and her high-school students as they gauged our fitness levels with the well-known “beep test” and other challenges. We look forward to building our strength, flexibility and endurance and retesting in the coming months.

We appreciate the diligence with which UE students are completing and submitting homework on time; however, on behalf of our Dutch and French colleagues, we remind all students to take this work equally seriously.

Our Mid-Winter Break is slated for Mon. & Tues., Feb. 15 & 16. Please note that students who leave the island must present a negative Covid test before returning to school on Wed., Feb. 17.

We appreciate regular communication with UE families; however, as a Montessori teaching team, we request that school-related correspondence be sent to the Montessori school email – not to teachers’ WhatsApp or email accounts. You may continue to submit student work to my personal email.

As always, we thank you for your support and co-operation during the continuing pandemic. Please be sure to clean lunch bags and backpacks regularly. Whenever possible, we encourage UE students and families to set the tone in the community by following the 3Ws: Wear a mask; Wash your hands and Widen the social distance!



February Birthday wishes to

Cameron - Primary

Zara - Primary

Kiki - Primary

Ms. Esperanza - Primary

Emma - Lower Elementary

Juan - Lower Elementary

Declan - Lower Elementary

Gabriel An. - Upper Elementary