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WANTED: Girls' VB Co-Coach

We're looking for an experienced VB coach for our upcoming Girls' VB season to Co-coach with our existing Coach Kristine Shutt. There is a paid stipend for the position. Interested candidates may contact Mr. B at brent@mmcharter.org.

WANTED: Boys' Soccer Coach

We're looking for an experienced soccer coach for our upcoming Boys' Soccer season this spring. Historically, either Julie Cohodes or Brent Boothby has coached (or co-coached) our team. While one (or both) may still co-coach this season, both have potential scheduling conflicts that are leading us to post the position. The season will run from late March to mid-May (minus Spring Break). There is a paid stipend for the position. Interested candidates may apply at:

<https://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/395123>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. B at brent@mmcharter.org.

MMCA Newsletter – February 2017

Updates from Mr. B:

Dear MMCA Families,

Welcome to the *February 2017 Newsletter!*

As we continue to make a conscious effort to use all of the available technology-oriented means to improve communications with our families, I would like to again highlight our Google Events calendar that is posted on our website. Here, we are listing just about every school-related event. If you have a school-related event that's not on the calendar, please contact Mrs. Brown at cbrown@mmcharter.org.

We've got some big events coming up, including Spring P-T Conferences, our annual Mock Disaster, the PTA Art Auction and much more!

A couple weeks ago, I sent a note out to our families about why attendance matters. I've re-published the letter within this Newsletter (page 2). If you haven't read it yet, please do so. As a public school, almost all of our state funding is attendance based. It only takes a 1% drop in attendance for the year to reduce our state revenues by more than \$30,000!

With that, I hope everyone has a great President's Day Holiday Weekend!

MMCA PTA Art Auction Survey

In our PTA Newsletter published last week (republished here on Page 3), we mentioned that we'd be sending out a brief survey regarding our upcoming Art Auction. Please click on this link and take a few minutes to fill out our survey. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017PTAArtAuctionSurvey>

Upcoming Events

2/17-20	No School - President's Day Weekend
2/21	Family Dining Out @ Daphne's
2/27-3/9	Parent Conference Sign-up Window
3/14	Family Dining Out @ Old Towne Pizza
3/31	Pizza Friday
3/13-15	Min Days/Spring Conferences
3/15	Free Dress Day
3/16	No School – Teacher In-Service
3/17	No School - Post Spring Conference Break
3/22	General PTA Mtg. (Elections), 6:30p
3-31	Pizza Lunch Friday
4/7	Free Dress Day
4/10-17	No School - Spring Break
4/28	Auction Fund Raiser
5/1	Principal's Day
5/1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week



February 7, 2017 (re-published for the newsletter)

Re: Importance of Student Attendance

Dear MMCA Families,

During the past few years, I have noticed a disturbing trend that our absenteeism rate has been increasing. This concerns me for several reasons, including:

- Too many absences causes students to fall behind in school;
- Too many student absences disrupts the routine of the overall classroom; and
- Since schools are funded on actual attendance, too many student absences affect programming.

Did you know that:

- Even in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing school increases the chance a student will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.

Since schools are funded on actual attendance, too many student absences affect programming.

Public schools in California are mostly funded based on “average daily attendance” (“ADA”). Any day a student is absent, whether the absence is excused or unexcused, the school does not receive any ADA funding for that student. Student ADA funding is approximately \$60 per day. As an example, let’s say we average 50 students absent per day for a week – that is **\$15,000** in lost funding that could otherwise be used to enhance the educational experience of your child.

What can you as parents do to help with attendance:

- If you know your child is going to miss school, set up an Independent Study Agreement. From the student perspective, I.S. Agreements help keep the students on track and minimize the amount of make-up work they need to complete when they get back from school. Denise Thorman (dthorman@mmcharter.org) coordinates Independent Study – if you have questions about the program, please contact her.
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Have your child prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
- Don’t let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Develop back-up plans for getting kids to school if something comes up. Keep track of your student’s attendance. Missing more than 9 days could put your student at risk of falling behind.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at brent@mmcharter.org.

Sincerely,



Brent Boothby, Executive Director
Maria Montessori Charter Academy

MMCA PTA Newsletter

February 2017

mmcharter.org/pta

ATTENTION!!!

HAVE LUNCH WITH YOUR STUDENT
2017 is quickly approaching...Thursday, February 16...order pizza for you AND your student. Please see PTA's other upcoming events. --->

Another important date coming up is March 22. It is PTA's third and final General Meeting of the school year. PTA Executive Board elections are held during this meeting. We encourage all members to attend this meeting and vote. The new Executive Board begins July 2017. If you would like to run for an office or nominate another person, please email me (see address below).

Finally, PTA's art auction is planned for April. We will be distributing a survey to solicit opinions about the location and ticket prices as well as to recruit volunteers - we need two co-chairs for this event to work with the PTA Executive Board. The electronic survey will be sent this Friday.

Best,

Tracy Montez, President
tracy_montez@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13 to 27 - Cookie Dough Fundraiser

February 16 - Have Pizza Lunch with Your Student

February 21 - Family Dining Out at Daphne's

March 14 - Family Dining Out at Old Towne Pizza

March 22 - General PTA Meeting (elections)

March 31 - Pizza Lunch Friday

Spring TBD - Uniform Exchange



Note: Since your fundraising efforts have been so successful early in the school year, PTA is giving the school \$3,500 to purchase three additional benches for the lunch area. Benches must meet specific state code requirements which is the reason for the significant cost.

Recruiting After School Club Leaders

We're currently in the middle of our third session of After School Enrichment Clubs this year. Each session will have 3-4 different enrichment opportunities (some of which will be age restricted). Generally, a club will meet one time per week for approximately 75 minutes. We are looking for parents interested in leading a club during one of our upcoming sessions. Examples of past clubs include chess club, choir club, Early Engineers Club, Self Defense, Drama and much more. If you have questions about leading a club, please contact After School Enrichment Programs Coordinator Ray Baldonade at rbaldonade@mmcharter.org.

Recording Volunteer Hours

Be sure to record your volunteer hours in the binders in the office. If you have not already done so, start a page for your family and keep a cumulative total of the hours you have volunteered.

YEARBOOK INFO

Don't forget to order your 2016-2017 MMCA Yearbook!

Cost:

\$25 by April 1, 2017

To guarantee that your child will receive a yearbook, order before April 1, 2017! Yearbooks are only available for order online through our publisher, go to <http://www.jostens.com>

Also, we need your pictures!!

Email to mmcayb@gmail.com or upload directly to <https://images.schoolannualonline.com/406043595>





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EDUCATION IS THE FOUNDATION TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Your school will receive 5% back in credit for FREE supplies when you make a purchase of qualifying products and provide your school ID at checkout.
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2015_GST5_Flyer

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER – FEBRUARY 2017

Cultural and Science:

We recognized Martin Luther King, Jr. and learned many interesting facts about his life. We have learned about Antarctica; where it is located and arctic animals. We have also been busy learning all about whales which represents the mammal family. We are learning about our solar system with each child creating his/her own solar system activity book. Other concepts are: Rotation of the Earth, Facts about each planet, and The Largest Star.

Math and Language:

The students are working hard on all their jobs and continue to strengthen their skills in both the Language and Math Areas. We have been busy making 3 part card booklets and practicing various math activities such as Tens Boards, Addition and Operations with the Golden Bead materials. We have been developing our problem solving skills, independence, and positive communication with friends inside and outside the class. The children have enjoyed our weekly trips to the library while learning about “library manners” at our school and singing with Mr. Baldonade playing the ukulele. The children’s small motor skills are being developed by activities on the shelves which include tracing, cutting, sewing, punching out shapes, and handwriting with sandpaper letters. Thank you to our handwriting instructor, Kamni Mangat (Ronak’s mom) for teaching the children proper formation of letters.

Weekly Cooking:

The chefs from our class have been enjoying weekly healthy cooking projects. Special thanks to our cooking parents, Kerstin Gillrath (Sebastian’s mom) and Frankie Arellano (Jacoby’s mom)) for directing the children in the kitchen.

Music and Movement:

Dancing is becoming our latest interest as we learn several new types of dances which include: the hula, bean bag dances and the limbo. The exercise program from Amazing Athletes has exposed the children to hockey, basketball and nutrition twice per month. Also our bi-weekly music program with Ms. Lisa from “Music in the Foothills” has been wonderful as the children learn musical terms and rhythms with instruments and games.

Healthy Heart Month:

February is also the month of friendship. We celebrated Valentine’s Day with **ONE** secret pal. We also incorporated the theme “HEALTHY HEART” for our valentine treats. We had a celebration in the afternoon with craft activities and a homemade card exchange. Thank you Julie Cohodes and Michelle Bedwell for organizing our celebration.

Looking Ahead:

We will continue our continent travel to Asia in February as we learn about the diverse people and cultures this continent has to offer. They will also learn about the different biomes and animals which live in these habitats. Reptiles will be our new discovery in zoology.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, February 16th-FREE DRESS DAY!
- No School: February 17-20 President’s Day

WE REALLY ENJOY WORKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN...

Mrs. Bass, Mrs. Baldonade and Mrs. McKinnon

Yellow Room

February 2017

Wish list books for yellow room:

Frog and Toad are Friends By: Arnold Lobel
Frog and Toad Together By: Arnold Lobel
Uncle Elephant By: Arnold Lobel
Grasshopper on the Road By: Arnold Lobel
Me on the Map By: Joan Sweeney
Mary Hill hardback books- Quarters Nickels
Pennies Dimes Dollars

Other wish list items for sewing:

Light colored yarn & Multi-colored yarn



Upcoming Events

Dr. Seuss week will be Feb.27-March 3
Also, stay tuned for more information
on 120th day. Our school celebration is
March 15th. A 120 collection project will be
coming home.

Sewing

We have just finished our tooth pillow sewing project! Everyone was really excited to complete it and take it home. Please take a look on Shutterfly for some adorable pictures! Thank you Ms. Linda and Ms. Peggy for your patience and for the time you share with our students. You are very much appreciated.

Valentine's Day

We had an exciting morning with many fun heart themed centers to start off the day. We then had fun sharing our secret valentine's with each other after lunch! Carol and I were so thrilled to see the love and care shared between the students.

Health

Please keep in mind that your child will have a more successful morning with a healthy breakfast! We will be starting a Nutrition unit in Science this month! Students will be choosing their morning snack to fit the food groups discussed each week. Please be sure to see weekly emails to set your child up for success.

Reminders

Don't forget to check the yellow room website and Shutterfly site for new updates & pictures.

Thank you for all the Christmas gifts and Valentine's gifts. We feel loved and appreciated!

Thank you for all your support!

February 2017



Mrs. Weiss
Mrs. Bryant

Calendar Reminders

Upcoming
Student of the Week
(Kindergarteners/New
Students)

2/21	Gloria
2/27	Hailey
3/6	Kyle
3/20	Luke
3/27	Marisa
4/3	Mia
4/18	Ryder
4/24	Quentin
5/1	Will
5/8	Olivia
5/15	Lorenzo

*Remember your child is responsible for the cooking project the Friday of their week. Cooking should be interactive and healthy.

Contacting us....

kweiss@mmcharter.org or
dbryant@mmcharter.org

Purple Room News

From the Teachers' Desk

We are so excited to have Kaci Oram join us for her student teaching beginning March 6th. She is the parent of three children currently attending MMCA all of whom have been in the Purple Room in past years.

Look What's Happening...

We have had so many fun activities these past few months!

The secret Valentine Day exchange was such a success! Our class members were so appreciative for all the thoughtful creations. Thank you for the delicious and sweet teacher gifts as well as help during our celebration.

Please continue reading daily with your child and practicing sight words! Since we are finishing with letters of the week, we will be learning about word families and diagraphs.

We have focused on black history month, Asia, president's day and weather patterns. Students have completed many projects regarding these events.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Dr. Seuss Week will be February 27th - March 3rd, and the 120th day of school is on March 10th. Stay tuned for more information on these events.

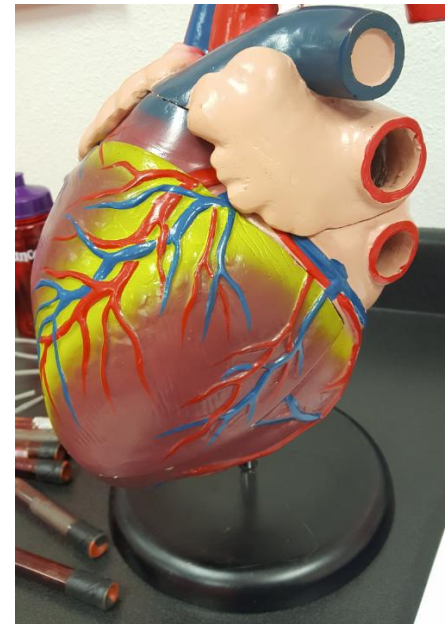
Lastly, conferences will be March 12th - March 15th.

Red Room Newsletter Notes



The beginning of New Year has been very busy in the Red Room! February is Black History month. We have been learning about the contributions of many famous Black Americans throughout history. Our classroom celebrated Healthy Heart Day by going to Bounce U for a science lesson on the functions of the heart. Thank you to all the parents who drove!

In Character Education we have been learning about caring for one another and working together. For Valentine's Day, we made Valentine cards for our military men and women. In addition, the class created Valentine's Day cards that will be delivered to sick children in local hospitals all over Northern California!



Spring conferences are optional. They are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 13th, 14th, and 15th. Please set an appointment time that is convenient for you through the online scheduler. The children are very excited about our field trip the Bernhard Museum on Thursday, April 6th. We look forward to going back to 1890!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelley & Mrs. Bordelon

Blue Room News

We want to start off by saying thank you to the parents who helped make the Louvre such a wonderful event. So thank you!!! Plus thank you to all the parents who attended. The students worked really hard on learning their lines, they were very proud of themselves, and were super happy to have their parents see them. We had a great time teaching them about the different artists and doing the fun projects with them.

This month we celebrate Healthy Heart Month. We went to Bounce U and learned the importance of taking care of your heart. The kids also enjoyed jumping for an hour. We ended the morning with yummy healthy sandwiches. The kids were excited to make their own. The students also made Valentine bags and passed out personalized Valentines. Again, it was such a great day and we couldn't do it without parent participation.

Parent/Teacher conferences are around the corner. Scheduling should be open soon. Make sure to keep an eye out for more information. Conferences are March 13-14. Conference days will be minimum days and the conferences will start shortly after school gets out. We look forward to meeting with all of you.

Next month is Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2. Blue Room will be celebrating him during the minimum days. We will be reading books, doing fun activities, and having a great time. We will be emailing soon about the activities, any extra items we may need, and fun dress up days.

In math, the students have learned measurement skills. They had good time measuring objects around the room in inches and centimeters. The also learned how to use different measurement units, when measuring weight, liquids, and solids. The students are now learning about fractions. The second graders will build and identify fractions to the tenths. The third graders will identify, compare, and find equivalent fractions. The students will enjoy the fraction Montessori materials.

In history, the students have been learning about how America started and about the first Americans. We are preparing them for our field trip in April to the Placer Nature Center. This is a fun field trip where the students get to walk a trail and learn all about the Maidu Indians.

Lastly, we are about 2/3 done with the school year. It has been going by so fast. We enjoy all of the students and look forward to a great end of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email or stop by.

Mrs. Schmich
Mrs. Harper



Aqua Room Happenings

February 2017

It has been such a rainy winter, and we are excited that spring is right around the corner. Our second trimester is nearly complete, and we are looking forward to the last trimester of the school year.

Noteworthy events:

- In December, we had an exciting field trip to iFLY. The students were so brave and had a great time "flying" in the wind tunnel.
- Also in December, had our class play, "It's Electrifying!" The talented Aqua students did an amazing job!
- We have Extreme Gymnastics coming up on February 24th. Look for more information soon.
- Conferences: March 13th-15th. In Aqua Room, our spring conferences are student led. This is an opportunity for your student to show off what they've learned in our classroom this school year. Please bring your student!
- No School March 16th and 17th for Teacher-in-Service and Post Conference break.
- We will be attending the play, "Going West: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad," at the B Street Theater in Sacramento on March 22.
- No School: April 10th-17th. Enjoy a restful and healthy Spring Break!

With only a third of the school year left, we are amazed at how quickly time has flown by. We have seen so much progress in each student and love watching them blossom in their classroom environment. Thank you all for your continued support!

~Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Halbert

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment." ~Maria Montessori

CORAL ROOM NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter articles are written by Coral Room students this year. We are excited to share their articles with you. Realize that we've kept the articles as the student's have written them, so there may be some grammar errors. ~Mrs. Boothby & Mrs. Crouch

In Coral Room, we have music. When we do music, it's on a Friday. These are types of music we have learned so far, we have learned Baroque, Instrumentation, Music for TTV & Sound, Timbre, Instrumental Timbre, Impressionist Music, Mood, Classical music and tempo. Some of the songs we have done is A Sky Full of Stars by Coldplay, Ghostbusters from Ghostbusters by Ray Parker Jr., The Valley of Bells by Maurice Ravel and Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by John Williams. Those are some of the songs we have learned. In conclusion, Coral Room learns different types or style of music. ~Mae Xiloj

In the last few weeks in Coral Room, we have done a lot of Science. These last few weeks we have been doing Life Science. 5th graders have been studying and learning about microbes, cells, heredity, genetics, the plant kingdom, bioluminescence, animal behavior, hunting, dinosaurs, ecosystems, biomes and this week, the human body. 4th graders have been learning about ecosystems, how animals work together, body traits of animals, different types of plants, photosynthesis, almost extinct animals, the human body, and this week, how to keep our bodies healthy and fit. We also do a practice quiz on Thursday, 2 column notes on Tuesday, read and highlight on Monday, and quizzes on Friday. In the last 9 weeks we have been learning about Life Science. ~Regina Guanlao

The math we have learned from November to February is fractions, decimals, math journals, multiples, and factors. My favorite that we have learned is fractions. Mostly adding fractions. Today, February 13th, we are doing compatible numbers and multiplying fractions. It's pretty easy and fun. I really enjoy learning math. ~Isabella Hoover

We've had lots of fun field trips in the school year so far. One of them was when instead of us actually driving somewhere, the field trip came to our school! We call these on campus field trips, and I think about half of our field trips are on campus field trips. One field trip that we went on was on campus, it was all about history and the American Revolution. It was really fun and I would say that it was actually like a game show. We had to answer questions and memorize things and they even gave us points if we answered questions correctly. Another field trip we went on was also an on campus field trip. This field trip was all about science. We learned about light, sound and energy for the first half of the field trip, and for the second half we learned about life science and the field trip was really fun. Another field trip was when we went to an indoor skydiving place called iFly. At iFly, we learned all about aerodynamics and wind and angles. We also actually got to do indoor skydiving too! It was really fun. We've had lots of fun field trips this year and we'll have more to come! ~Karsten Sarmiento

FEBRUARY

Orange Room

February 2017

CLASSROOM UPDATE:

**In Language Arts we have been learning about poetry. We have learned about Emily Dickinson. We also learned about different types of rhymes including slant rhymes, end rhymes and more. --Luke Yaeger

**For History in Orange Room we get to learn about many different exotic places. We get to learn about Ancient Egypt, Ancient India and Ancient China. Every week we do different activities. --Payton Brown

**For the past couple of weeks Orange Room has been learning about inverse operations. This is challenging because we are having to use inverse operations to solve fractions and decimals. --Riley Allred

**In Science we have been studying oceans, maps, waves and tides. Before that, we studied erosion and deposition. --Trent Boothby

IMPORTANT DATES:

*Cookie Dough Fundraiser
ends February 27

*Sly Park is April 3 -7

ASK YOUR CHILD...

About our Valentine's Day
poetry lesson.



The best part
of the week was...

Playing Heads Up 7-UP

during our rainy days. --

Caleb Chenoweth



Welcome to Green Room

2016-17



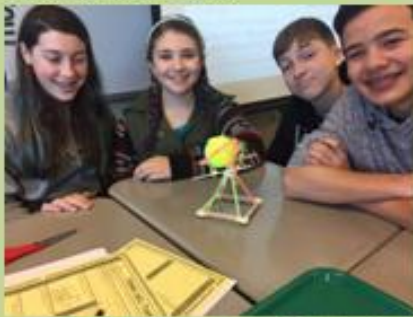
Dear Families,

The year is half way over and going well! We were so excited to welcome Mrs. Oram as a student teacher in our class for the last six weeks. She has been a wonderful addition to our team.

Current Events:

The students had a great time at Extreme Gymnastics!!! Our next field trip will be to the B Street Theater to see "Going West: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad"

Both classes have been busy with various STEM activities that allow them to use their science, engineering and math skills.



ACADEMIC UPDATE:

History: For 7th grade, we are working on our Japan unit. We are doing fun cooperative learning activities that will help to bring the lessons alive! We are studying a powerful time in U.S. history in 8th grade; this includes slavery, statehood, and the Union.

Math: Course 2 students recently wrapped up a unit on linear equations and inequalities; next up, direct and inverse proportions. Get the graph paper ready! Course 3 students have been busy calculating slope and y-intercept and graphing them on a coordinate plane. They've had to analyze the characteristics of parallel lines and solve real-world problems that are represented graphically.

Science: The 7th graders are studying the age of the earth as well as plate tectonics and the rock cycle. The 8th graders are focusing on chemistry, including physical and chemical properties, balancing equations, and working with the periodic table.

ELA: The students have completed their second short story unit. The 7th graders created their own ending to the story and the 8th graders wrote a newspaper article and worked in small groups to video tape a newscast.

Literature groups: Literature groups are due on a weekly basis. Please encourage your student to read and complete the assignment, which includes deep thought questions.

THE WEEKS AHEAD:

3/24 – B Street Theater Field Trip

3/15 – Mock Disaster drill

4/10- 4/17 – Spring Break

