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Sunrise Montessori Of Napa Valley  
Established 1978

February 2010

"You (Maria Montessori) have very truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have the struggle, we won't have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering. -Mahatma Gandhi, addressing Dr. Montessori and her students, London, October 28, 1931

**MESSAGE FROM B & J** - Registration packets for the 2010-2011 school year will be coming your way this week. For those of you planning to return in the fall, we ask that you hand in your applications within a week after receipt. We want to place all of our current students before applications from new, potential families begin to arrive. Thanks for your help in this!

Our Chinese New Year celebration was an absolute treat. Many, many thanks to the parents and students who helped create such a successful hour of dancing, story telling and information about Chinese New Year and culture. We look forward to our celebration of Irish culture and song during our St. Patrick's Day festivities in March.

Attached you will find the current volume of our magazine, "Tomorrow's Child". There are many interesting articles including one about the "normalized" Montessori classroom (a term we discussed at our philosophy meetings) and another about the importance of order in your young child's life.

We look forward to seeing you at the Kindergarten/Elementary meeting on **Tuesday evening, February 9th**. After a panel discussion, the teachers will be very happy to answer your questions and we will have a packet of hand-outs for you to take home.

### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to new family members!** - We congratulate the Deeik and Finkelstein families on their new additions. Gabriel Deeik was born on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and Ruby Finkelstein arrived on January 24, 2010. We send wishes of good health and happiness to both families.

**Dad's Nights** – The Elementary students will host an evening especially for their fathers on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Dads can join their Preschool students for a Dad's Night on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Montessori Education Week** -- The International Association for Montessori Education invites you to join with others in the Montessori Community throughout the world to celebrate the qualities of Montessori during Montessori Education Week, which is February 21st through the 27th this year. One of the activities suggested is for parents or children to write "letters to the editor" of local newspapers that highlight what they love about a Montessori education.

## FOS CORNER

**Annual Campaign** - We are currently at 24% parent participation in our Annual Campaign. Many thanks to the following families who have recently donated to this year's Annual Campaign: The Busbys, The Deeiks, The Chius, The Collins, The Doughertys, The Erhards, The Fishers, The Gleasons, The Hollisters, The Huffmans, The Jewells, The Kellers, The Medranos, The Meyers, The Mottaleis, The Richarts, The Ryans, The Schultzs, The Shipmans, The Sotherns, The Steffensens, The Tennants, The Tretheweys, and The Wilkinsons.

**Dine & Donate** – This month's Dine & Donate will be **February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** at The Little Gourmet (owned by Sunrise parents, Tom & Judy Blix) located at 1040 Main Street in Napa. Look for your flyers in your parent folders as we get closer to the dates!

**Passport to Africa** - On Friday, March 12th we will hold the largest fundraiser of the year. Please plan to join us for a very enjoyable evening. What could be more exciting than a Passport to Africa?

**Auction Donations** - Please email Lyndsey Richart, at [lyndseyrichart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lyndseyrichart@sbcglobal.net), or call her at 225-5694 if you have an item to donate for our silent and live auctions at Passport to Africa and many thanks in advance!!!

**SEQUOIA SENTINEL** - This month we present two examples of very distinctive writing styles and themes. First, we offer a tale from The Old West and we will finish with a description of a best friend.

### **Billy Strong Bottom**

by Ben O'Dwyer

Once upon a time, far out in the Mojave Desert, a baby was born. This incredible baby weighed 243 pounds and was eight feet long. Because of this, his mother died of a heart attack shortly after he was born. His father, horrified at his son's size, sent him out into the desert and told him never to come back. So he went.

The people in town got news of this incredible child and named him, "Billy Strong Bottom". As Billy got older, he often visited the town and made friends with the children who lived there. By the age of 6, Billy Strong Bottom was 35 feet tall, by 8 he was 60 feet tall, by 10 he was 120 feet tall, and by 16, Billy was over 250 feet tall.

He was also said to be able to lift anything.

One 14th of June, the Mojave Desert had its worst drought ever. It lasted for 21 months and during that time not a single thing grew and there was no place to get water. Many of the towns people left, but the ones who stayed suffered a great deal. One of the people who stayed was Billy Strong Bottom and one day he said to himself, "Well, I ain't gonna just sit here an let all 'em good peoples suffer!"

Then Billy got an idea! On the 19th of November, right at noon, Billy started his plan. Billy's plan was to dig a giant trench from the top of the tallest mountain right to the beginning of the town. Then, on a cloudy day, he would climb to the top of the mountain and grab a cloud. He would then shake it until it rained, the water would come out of the cloud and fall into the trench where it would flow down to the town.

So, on the coldest day of the month, he climbed the mountain and did exactly that, and that is how the drought ended. When Billy returned to town, all the towns people thought of him as a hero, and he lived happily to the end of his days.

## **Taylor**

by AJ Diakon

I have known Taylor for as long as I can remember. I have always liked Taylor because we have so much in common. We both play basketball and have been on numerous teams together. We both like to try all different types of foods and have lots of fun with it. These are just a few examples of the many characteristics that Taylor has. Let me tell you more!

If I had to describe Taylor I would say she does well in sports. She is a very fast runner and holds a seven minute mile. Taylor is also a very good basketball player. She can use both her right and left hands which gives her an advantage. She also has a very accurate shot. Taylor can shoot a three point shot and make it!

Taylor is also a very good artist. She draws animals well, and her architecture is always fun to look at. Taylor is very creative when it comes to free art. The colors that she uses always blend together and create beautiful art. Taylor is also good at shading. She is able to make things look 3-D just by using her pencil.

Taylor is one of my very best friends. I admire the way she is always patient and willing to help me. She is loyal and I know that I can trust her. Taylor always sticks up for me and I appreciate that. Taylor respects me, and I respect her. When she needs space I give it to her and vice versa. I have known Taylor for a long time, and she has always been a kind and caring friend. I hope that I have been as good a friend to her as she has been to me.