



ST. MAARTEN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2020
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

DEC
10TH

Progress Reports Sent Home

DEC
11TH

Parent-Teacher Conferences

DEC
18TH

Last Day of School - Noon
Dismissal

JAN
11TH

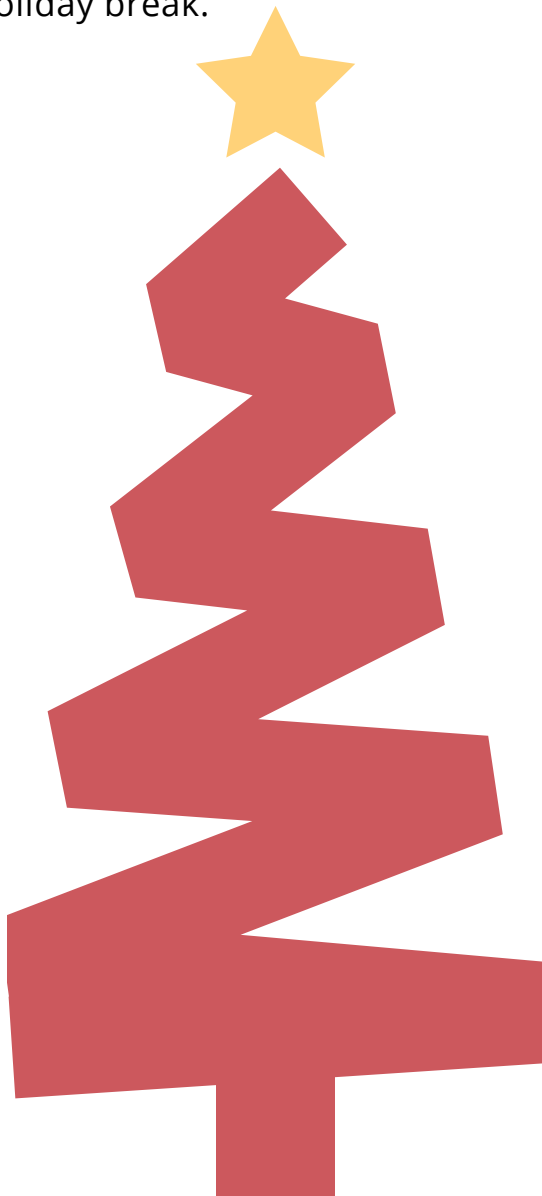
School Resumes

PRIMARY

Ms. Esperanza

December is finally here, and the excitement and magic of the season can already be felt, as we read and talk about Christmas!

We are so proud of the way our students have embraced all the changes this term and welcomed each other back to school. They have all worked very hard and certainly earned the coming holiday break.



The children are practising daily for our Holiday Show. Respecting Covid protocols, we will videotape the show and share it by email with parents.

I look forward to seeing all parents at our Parent-Teacher conferences, slated to take place via Zoom on **Fri., Dec. 11**. There is no regular school that day. Reports will go home on **Thurs., Dec. 10**. Please feel free to ask any questions during our 20-min. conference.

Our last day of school, **Fri., Dec. 18**, we are asking parents to contribute \$5 toward the purchase of pizza, juice and cupcakes for the class party. Students may dress down in festive holiday colors that day. Dismissal will be 12 noon.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday season!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Ms. Shelly & Ms. Ethlene

No one cheered louder than LE on November 30 – the final day of Hurricane Season!

We are mighty proud of the hard work that each class member has done upon returning to school this term. All students are to be commended on their stellar effort adjusting to the new procedures in place for everyone's safety and reminding each other daily of any infraction, along with the amount of work and a Culture project they have successfully completed. Level 3 leaders deserve an honorable mention for being such excellent role models and true Montessorians!

Progress reports are to be sent home on Thurs., Dec. 10, and Parent-Teacher conferences are to be held via Zoom on Fri., Dec. 11. There will be no school on that day for students. Please see your conference time and Zoom code on the envelope of the report.

As we think of those less fortunate than ourselves this season, we discuss in class the types of food items that would brighten a child's Christmas. Please send in your food items for the children at Players Development by Tues., Dec. 15.

We look forward to an exciting array of singers, musicians and actors all lined up to perform at this year's Holiday Concert, scheduled for the last week of school. We have a videographer who will film the show, which will be emailed to parents.

The last day of school is **Fri., Dec. 18**, with school ending at 12 noon. We plan a class party that day. In light of the pandemic, we ask parents to donate \$5 toward this event. We will discuss items the children will like and teachers will make the purchase. Children may wear festive holiday colors on the last day of school.

To keep learning fresh through the holidays, children may expect to receive a holiday homework package. As always, we appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that homework is completed fully, accurately and on time.

We take this opportunity to wish Luuk the very best of luck as he moves to Upper Elementary in January!



As 2020 draws to a close, we look forward to enjoying the colorful celebrations of our island's many cultures, and we wish you and yours a bright and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Mon., Jan. 11, 2021.

Happy Holidays!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

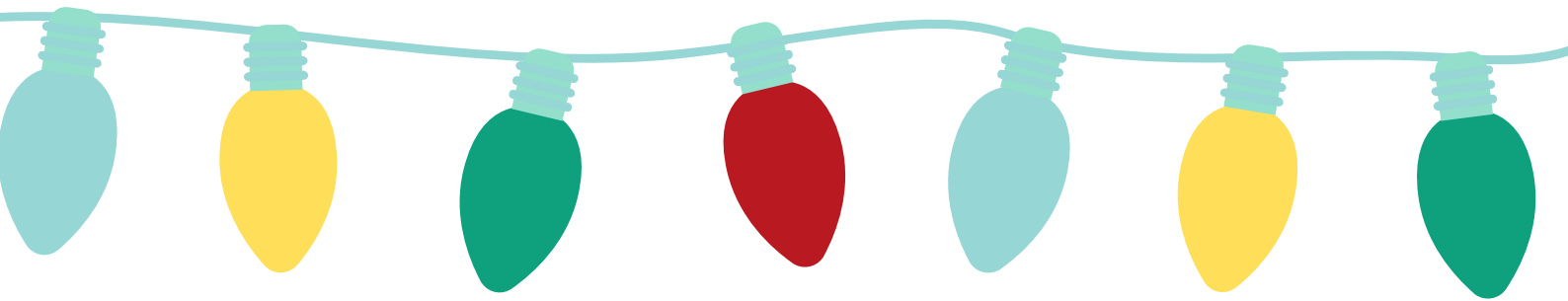
Ms. Marianne & Ms. Wendy

Thank you for your contributions to our annual UE Breakfast of Thanks event. On Fri., Nov. 27, we surprised our Security, Gardening & Housekeeping staff with hand-made cards and gift bags stocked with food staples and treats.

Currently, all students are working from their study calendars and completing Albanesi Montessori term tests in math and language. In the coming weeks, students will revise key skills and broaden their knowledge with extensions.

In our daily read-aloud sessions, we've completed Scary Stories for Little Foxes and begun New Kid, a Newbery-Award-winning graphic novel by Jerry Craft. In addition to learning about figurative devices, character development and plot trajectory, we've discussed ways to analyze a novel's central problem in terms such as Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, Man vs. Nature, etc.

On Sat., Dec. 5, UE students whose work is to appear in Beyond Kultura Foundation's new anthology, Captured by Corona, will be among young writers reading their prize-winning poems and letters at the Philipsburg studio of TV Carib. Details of the broadcast date will be provided as they are available.



Please note the following:

1 Student absences

- When your child is absent at any time, please notify Montessori Admin by email.

2 Parent-teacher meetings via Zoom

- Fri., Dec. 11 – You've received an email inviting you to sign up for an online meeting time and another with the sign-in codes. Please note that **you AND your UE child** are EXPECTED to attend. Feel free to sign in from separate locations. There is no regular school that day.

3 Holiday book-raising & food drive



- Donations by Tues., Dec. 15 – This year, Sint Maarten Montessori School is supporting Players' Development as they collect gifts and food staples for needy children in our community.
- Please bring in new or GENTLY USED books, to be wrapped by our students, and non-perishable food staples to fill holiday baskets. Please consider donating one or more of these items:

- **Sugar and flour – 1 lb. bags**
- **Dry pasta – spaghetti, macaroni or other pasta**
- **Pasta sauce**
- **Tea (box of 25 bags) or instant coffee**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Jam and jelly**
- **Tuna and sardines**
- **Dry beans and lentils**
- **Cooking oil**
- **Canned vegetables**

4 Secret Santa gift exchange

- Fri., Dec. 18 – Please advise by Fri., Dec. 4 whether or not your child will participate in the Secret Santa gift exchange.

5 Class party

- Fri., Dec. 18 -- Please bring in \$5 by Thurs., Dec. 10. This will enable us to purchase individual treats for all students.

6 Holiday homework

- Please expect homework with a focus on reading and novel study, due on Mon., Jan. 11, 2021. Further details will be provided.

HERE ARE A FEW DATES TO NOTE:

- **Thurs., Dec. 10** – Last day of study hall for 2020. Report cards go home.
- **Fri., Dec. 11** – Parent-teacher meetings via Zoom – No regular school that day. Look for log-in and ID codes by email.
- **Tues., Dec. 15** – Holiday Show – This year, our show is to be videotaped and emailed to you.
- **Fri., Dec. 18** – Last day of school – Noon dismissal -- Secret Santa gift exchange and class party. Students may dress down in festive holiday-appropriate colors.
- **Mon., Jan. 11, 2021** – School resumes for all students.

We wish you all the very best this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Stay safe, and practise the 3Ws –
Wear a mask, Wash your hands,
Widen the social distance!