

**ST. MAARTEN MONTESSORI SCHOOL**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**JANUARY 2021  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

# Primary News

*Ms. Esperanza & Ms. Julia*

We would like to begin by wishing each and every one of our families a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021!

It is with great excitement that we welcome our primary children to their new classroom. The kids have settled well, and routines remain the same.

This month, we are learning about transportation. Please send your child with books, toys or pictures on this theme for Show & Tell. Please give your child some details about the item being brought to school, such as who got it for them, what kind of transportation it is and how we use it. The purpose is to encourage the child to feel comfortable speaking in public.

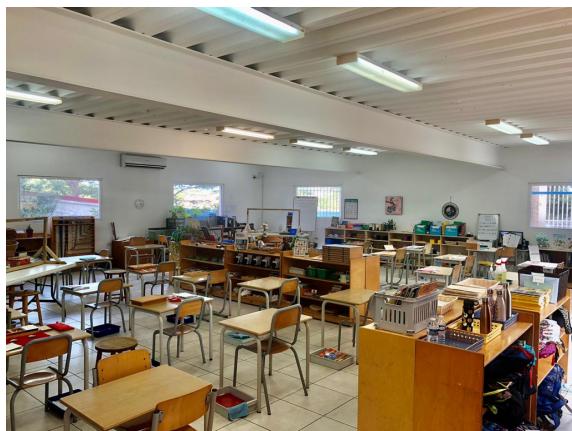
The students are enjoying their new classroom. See photos attached.



# Lower Elementary News

**Ms. Shelly & Ms. Ethlene**

Happy New Year to all families, and welcome back to school. We welcome back Anaiska and Asier and new student Markus. We look forward to another great year together! We've settled nicely into our new classroom, and the children have all given positive comments about it. Please see a few pictures attached.



Thank you for your contributions to our yearend class party. The children chose and thoroughly enjoyed the items, and nothing was thrown away. Thank you to all those who completed the holiday homework package. Some students are still finishing assignments, and we appreciate them being returned on completion.

As we head into the second semester, the children have settled in quickly and are diligently working on their study guides. We're happy to add back weekly yoga beginning next Tuesday. We remind our families about safety protocols. All children must enter the school gate with a shield, and we continue to reinforce "The 3 Ws", coined by Ms. Marianne: "Wear your mask, Wash your hands and Widen your distance.

Our class has ongoing talks about the environment, including climate change and reducing classroom waste.

- The school day begins at 8 a.m. Children may arrive at 7:45 a.m. and not before, but must be in school by 8 a.m. Classes start at 8:05 a.m. sharp.
- All children are asked to keep a reusable water bottle at school; if it goes home, it must be returned daily.
- Please pack lunch utensils for your children, as we do not provide cutlery.
- We also appreciate children bringing a healthy snack daily.
- Plastic folders with homework are sent home on Monday and must be returned to school with completed work on Friday. (Those in study hall need to bring homework on days they take study hall.)
- Every child takes a Spelling test on Friday.
- Gym (Physical Education) is held on Wednesday. Children are to wear their Montessori T-shirt, track pants and proper footwear.
- Show & Tell takes place on Friday.

Students will soon be moving into the early work of the next level as we head toward August 2021; thus, we're stepping up the work pace. Please listen to your child read as often as possible. Math and Spelling are sent home on Monday and are due on Friday. Children should write in pencil and treat their books with respect. Please check that your child has completed the assigned pages and sign off on them. Your child's best handwriting is expected in homework books; illegible work will be rewritten during school breaks.

Please support students' efforts to study for and succeed on their Spelling tests, held on Friday. Level 2 and 3 students are memorizing multiplication tables. Please practise in the car during your school commute.

# Upper Elementary News

Ms. Marianne & Ms. Wendy

Happy New Year to all! It was a pleasure to end 2020 with Parent-Teacher meetings that enabled us to highlight our students' strengths and achievements and set intentions for 2021.

This week, the UE class returned with vigor, leaping right back into their study calendars. In daily group lessons, we continue to explore math and spelling questions that arise in homework, emphasizing the links between operations in Math and grammar and sentence analysis in Language.

We're extremely pleased with the level of attention given to the holiday writing tasks. Currently, we're reading aloud the Novel & Character Study assignments, which enables us to consider how others structure their work – and, especially, to note the use of literary vocabulary in our writing.

Across the curriculum, we encourage students to build their knowledge of processes and associated vocabulary. For example, when dividing fractions, we remind students to “flip and multiply,” noting the word “reciprocal.” Recently, we’ve met words such as “paradigm,” “infinitive,” “participle” and (sorry) “phlegm,” which we use to advantage in our daily spelling contest, Sparkle.

This week, we've begun reading aloud the Newbery-Award-winning fantasy novel, The Girl Who Drank the Moon, by Kelly Barnhill.

Please note the following:

- Physical Education – Our gym time remains on Tuesdays; however, we now occupy the sports court from 9:20 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Study Hall – Our after-school session has resumed Tuesdays to Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please contact us if your child wishes to participate, as we expect a regular commitment – not “drop ins.”

- Snacks – We keep our shields on in the classroom AT ALL TIMES; thus, we remind you that snacks must be suitable for enjoying with face coverings in place. We suggest a REUSABLE METAL STRAW for drinking from individual water bottles.

This month, we welcome Luuk to our class in Level 4.

Good luck to the Montessori UE & LE team of Adriaan, Chris, Sahana and Cato in the Domino's Inter-School sailing regatta on Sat., Jan. 16.

# *Happy January BIRTHDAYS*

*Olivia - Primary*

*Zayn - Primary*

*Lou - Lower Elementary*

*Ms. Ethlene - Lower Elementary*

*Sebastian - Upper Elementary*

*Sahana - Upper Elementary*

