



**Director's Note** Our school's identity as a preschool which challenges students to flourish is established. This year, we took on a new facet, a new developmental phase, as we opened our Elementary classroom (1st thru 3rd grade). With our growth, we have re-evaluated our communication vehicles including our website and our newsletters. Based on parent feedback, we are pleased to introduce two changes which we feel will help you, our parents, be more aware of the happenings in the classroom while also informing perspective families of who we are becoming a new exciting educational option for student into Elementary school!

First, the newsletters will now be issued by classroom (Toddler, Primary, Elementary) and include a calendar (see reverse) which will detail snack, library, and topics of study. The newsletters will be delivered in the tote bags on the Friday and be available online. Second, the website is being redesigned. We will announce it formally in the coming days. A few features of the new site:

- ★ A redesigned calendar page; Parents with a Gmail account can subscribe to the calendar & import school events into their own schedules.
- ★ Elementary blog featuring daily and weekly teacher updates and information on Montessori education
- ★ Primary blog to communicate class highlights, photos, reminders, and upcoming events
- ★ Both blogs are password protected. Passwords will be provided when site is launched.
- ★ Parents can subscribe to receive new blog posts via email or can check the blog at their convenience.
- ★ Easy access to the TMS online library catalog
- ★ Printable forms for activity registrations, ordering classroom shoes and lunch boxes, etc.
- ★ Optimized for smartphone/ipad access

We look forward to a wonderful spring with your students! And welcome your feedback on the aforementioned modifications  
~ Ms. Amanda

**CLASSROOM NEWS :**

*The class has been a buzz with activity this last month. The first annual Grandparent's Tea was such a wonderful event. The students and the Grandparents and guests couldn't have been more proud! We will continue with our daily/ weekly updates thru the website blogs. Please note the calendar for some topics we will be covering.*

*Some notes from our extra curricular teachers:*

*ART: We have had a diverse few months of art, from contemporary artists, like Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and George Rodrigue to some historical famous artists including Monet (water lilies), and Klimt (Tree of Life). This month we will be creating Impressionistic art in the style of Vincent VanGogh; as we try our hand at thickened paint called impasto, and create Van Gogh's Sunflowers. Several of you have been contacted about putting in some of your student's art for an online literary/art journal. It is a unique opportunity! We will inform you if any students from TMS were selected.*

*MUSIC: We will be using Orff instruments to explore various music theory concepts. These will include: Music alphabet, Staff, Treble clef, Line and space notes, Steps, skips and repeats, Intervals, Whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests, and Musical form. We will also be learning about the families of instruments found in a symphony orchestra in preparation for the visit later this spring from members of the Richmond Symphony. The San Francisco Symphony Kids' Site is a fun place for students to further explore some of the concepts we will be learning in class <http://www.sfskids.org>*

*This year we have two new groups coming to the school; The Richmond Symphony's Woodwind Quartet and the Richmond Youth Harp Ensemble. We are excited to welcome both of these groups who will share a concert and some educational tidbits with the students. Interested parents are welcome to come and share their musical talent. Please email the office to schedule a time to share your gift!!*

*CHINESE: Wow! It is wonderful all the Mandarin the children are learning. In March our Chinese class will learn Lesson 6: Necessities of study. Vocabulary will include: ruler, pencil, book, notebook, schoolbag, eraser. We will also learn a rhyming song. We will continue to develop their vocabulary and confidence in speaking in the coming months.*

*SPANISH: This month we will continue working with food. We will be focusing on the gender of nouns. At home play a game: look around and try to guess the gender of objects around the house. Are they masculine or feminine nouns? Ex is the chair a masculine or a feminine noun? La silla is a feminine noun.*

*It is shaping up to be an exciting spring at TMS!*

*~ Ms. Sandy & Ms. Ali*

**PARENT-TEACHER PARTY:** Interested in helping plan the Annual Parent-Teacher Appreciation Party? Join us after drop off on Tuesday, March 6th. We have the location and time we just need help with decorations, food, set up and clean up. You should have received your evite via paperless post this week. If you didn't receive it, please call the office.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** The school extends congratulations to Ms. Karen (Ms. April's class assistant). Ms. Karen completed her certification in Primary Montessori Education thru the Center for Guided Montessori Studies. Good Work!

**SUMMER CAMP:** Please turn in your forms if you are interested in attending summer camp in June.