



HDMS GRATITUDE NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MR. ERIC

nothing but gratitude!



Dear High Desert Family, Welcome to this year's "Gratitude" newsletter. With Thanksgiving coming, we always want to take some time to say thanks for all the help and support that our community receives throughout the year. This really is my favorite newsletter. It's our chance to say thanks, because we couldn't do it without you. There's so much to be thankful for in the last year, and there are so many people to thank. We have received endless support from our Board, and countless people who helped us along the path to finally realizing our dream of having one unified campus, and being able to provide a free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. We can't express enough how grateful we are to our amazing PTO who work tirelessly to support us, and the parents, grandparents, friends, and family that support our teachers and staff, and our wonderful children. I can't say enough how much I appreciate you all.

Finally, to the teachers, assistants, support staff, and administrative support team; thank you for giving up so much of your time, energy, and love to our students and to this place we call High Desert Montessori. You are all wonderful and irreplaceable members of our community.

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric
Eric@hdmsreno.com

PS, I would like to invite you to spend a few minutes with me Friday morning over a second cup of coffee and maybe a treat. I will be hosting anyone who would like to chat from 9:00 to 10:00 in our 2nd floor teacher's lounge. There is no agenda, only some good conversation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/17/22: 5:30 PTO MEETING
- 11/18/22: 9:00AM 2ND CUP OF COFFEE WITH MR. ERIC
- 11/21/22-11/25/22: NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 11/30/22: MONTESSORI THROUGH MY EYES: LITERACY FOCUS (ADOLESCENT PROGRAM)
- 11/30/22: 5:00 HDMS BOARD MEETING
- 12/7/22: TWO HOUR EARLY RELEASE
- 12/15/22: 5:30 PTO MEETING
- 12/20/22: A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY (PRIMARY & ADOLESCENT)
- 12/21/22: A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY (ELEMENTARY)
- 12/22/22: PAJAMA DAY
- 12/23/22-1/6/23: NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MISS TAMMIE



As we finish up our Phase 3 construction, I would like to give a huge shout out to Dan Joslyn, our construction project manager from Dennis Banks Construction. Dan has helped guide us throughout our 3 phases of construction over the last several years including the renovation of the 1 story Pyramid Building, 3 story Tahoe Tower, and our new community center and playground. Dan has been onsite daily always looking out for our best interest, and helping with assorted facilities tasks. In addition, Dan is a master carpenter and made most of the new bookshelves, cubbies, tables, chairs, wooden signs, and benches you see throughout the campus. He is a class act through and through, committed to the HDMS community and making an everlasting impact. We adore you Mr. Dan!

Ms. Tammie
Tammie@hdmsreno.com

A MESSAGE FROM MISS KALEIGH, OUR MONTESSORI ADVISOR

This year, I am so grateful to our staff. HDMS has the most amazing group of educators and support staff. I am grateful to all of our teachers. Our new teachers have embraced our school, children, and philosophy with open arms and hearts. Our veteran teachers are guiding our children with grace and devotion, while supporting our new teachers. The administrative support staff are working so hard behind the scenes to ensure that our school runs smoothly. I am so appreciative of all of our wonderful assistants- who work diligently every day to help all of the teachers and the children. Our community of parents, guardians and other supporters is second to none. Thank you to our entire community for everything you do...you make HDMS the wonderful place it is to work, learn and grow.

Education is not
preparation for
life; education
is life itself.
— John Dewey

A MESSAGE FROM MISS MARY, OUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

persnickety adjective

per·snick·e·ty (pər-'sni-kə-tē)

1 a : fussy about small details : **FASTIDIOUS**

| a *persnickety* teacher

b : having the characteristics of a snob

2 : requiring great precision

| a *persnickety* job

Dear HDMS Families,

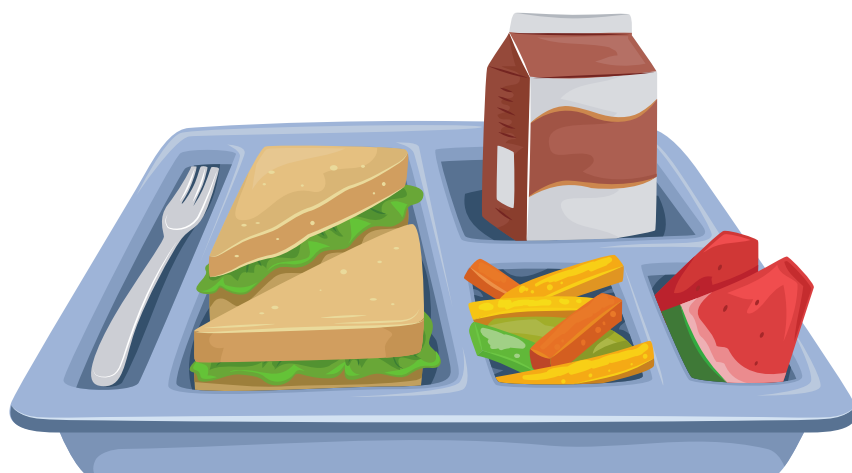
Thank you so much for welcoming me back to HDMS. I am so grateful that I get to work with the most kind, thoughtful and compassionate children. I am grateful that I get to learn from some of the brightest and creative minds. I would like to personally thank 7th grader Noelle, for teaching me the word "Persnickety". She used it perfectly in a sentence and explained the definition to me on the spot. So cool!!

Have a wonderful Holiday Break!!

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH!!

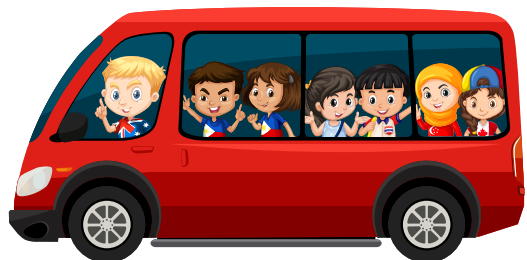
We are grateful to the USDA and the State of Nevada, working in partnership to make breakfast and lunch available to ALL school children at no cost for the 2022-2023 school year! That's over 100,000 free meals that will be served at HDMS this school year!

We are grateful to Ximena Acuna and her team at Farm Fresh Catering for becoming an approved National School Lunch vendor. It is incredible to have a vendor onsite offering healthy and delicious food to our students.



DONATIONS TOWARD A SECOND VAN

We're still raising funds towards a second van! We're grateful to the following donors for their contributions towards our van fundraising efforts!



- Drinkwater Eaton Law (\$500)
- Ormat (\$1,500)
- Bob Mintz (\$1,000)
- Ed, Sue, Miles & Jasper (\$400)
- Red Carpet Events & Design (\$5,000)
- Dan Joslyn (\$1,000)
- Brian Haskell, Realtor (\$600)
- Parker Phariss (\$100)
- Amanda Herringshaw (\$100)
- Fur & Feather Works (\$1800)

DRINKWATER EATON
LAW OFFICES



DICKSON
REALTY

CUSTOM WOOD CRAFTING
Just For You
Dan Joslyn



ORMAT

Amanda Herringshaw
dōTERRA
Wellness Advocate



RED CARPET
EVENTS & DESIGN

FACILITIES DONATIONS



A big shout out to our partners at the Summit Ridge Home Depot for donating \$300 in gift cards that came in handy as we moved into our newly remodeled building!

A huge thanks to HDMS parent Matt Oberg who generously donated his time and talents to camouflage our utility meter to look like a robot.

We'd also like to thank him for spending many hours moving the swings and climbing wall from the Orovada playground to the new playground at our Fantastic Drive building.



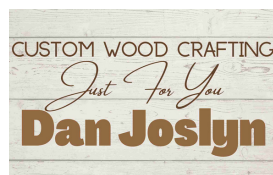
We're so grateful to the Nevada Wildlife Record Book for donating \$1675 to purchase five new archery nets that completely transform our third story multi purpose room into a safe and enclosed archery range!



NEVADA MONTESSORI WEEK DONORS

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank an incredible list of donors who helped make our Nevada Montessori Week Silent Auction a success! From large corporations, to small local businesses, from classroom art pieces to parents donating items to classroom baskets, we were blown away with the generosity of our community! What a way to celebrate our 20th Anniversary and the grand opening of our newly remodeled building!

- \$100 Gift Card to Johnny's Ristorante Italiano - donated by Ashley Allen
- \$100 Gift Card to Rice Box Kitchen -Rice Box Kitchen Reno
- \$200 Gift Certificate to Soul Spa Massage Haven - Matt & Jamie Oberg
- \$111 of clothing from Anahata Designs/Infiniti Now - Sven Waldhor
- \$100 Gift Card to the Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory -Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory
- 1 custom handmade watercolor illustration size 8.5" x 11" -Zoe Bray
- 4 Night Stay over Fall Break at Tahoe Vacation Home -The Neimann Family
- Art & Nature' Lesson : ONE (1) hour for up to SIX (6) Children -Zoe Bray
- Baseball Cards and Parenting Classes -Brigitte Frost
- Basket from Essentially Authentic with Erin -Erin Fitzpatrick
- Beginning Step Dance Lesson for an HDMS Classroom -Irena Poskute-Rodriguez
- Birthday Cake -Shelly Jamison
- Birthday Party Package Balloon Animals -Carrie Jeffers Balloon Artist
- Branded Headshot Session -Midori Joy Photography
- Car Care Club Card at Roy Foster's Automotive - Roy Foster's Automotive
- Chef's Tasting Menu for FOUR with Wine Pairing at Moody's -JJ & Mariann Morgan
- Chiro Flow Water Core Pillow & BioFreeze -Better Life Chiropractic
- Chiropractic Initial Exam plus Two Treatments -Life Force Chiropractic
- Craniosacral Treatment with Judy Abe Ishibashi - Judy Abe Ishibashi
- Custom Family Sign by Dan Joslyn, Artisan Woodworker -Dan Joslyn
- Custom Orthotics -Mt. Rose Foot & Ankle Specialists
- Dinner for FOUR in Atlantis' Toucan Charlie's Buffet & Grille -Atlantis Casion Resort Spa
- Discovery Flight with Great Basin Aviation
- Exam, Consultation and Two Adjustments at Canyon Chiropractic -Canyon Chiropractic
- Deluxe Photography Package -Fifth & Chestnut Photography
- FIVE (5) Woodward Tahoe Bunker Sessions -Boreal Mountain Resort - Woodward Tahoe
- FOUR (4) Admission Pass to Andelin Family Farms Pumpkin Patch
- Eitht (8) Cones or Floats at Sierra Swirl Ice Cream - Sierra Swirl Soft Serve Ice Cream



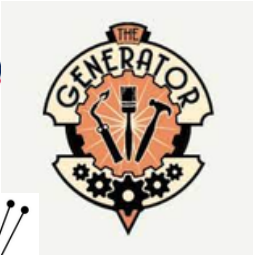
Custom-made illustrations



Andelin Family Farm



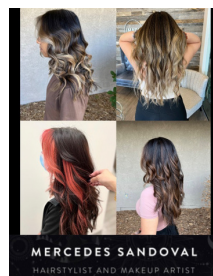
NEVADA MONTESSORI WEEK DONORS CONTINUED



Kristen in Stitches



Clutter | Cutter



- FOUR (4) Defy ONE Hour Jump Passes -Defy
- FOUR (4) Half Rack Dinners at Aussom Aussies Ribs -AUSSOM AUSSIE BARBECUE
- FOUR (4) Infield Tickets to the Reno Aces -Reno Aces
- FOUR hours Home Organizing -CLUTTER CUTTER RENO
- Guided Geology Hike at Incandescent Canyon - Philipp & Janina Ruprecht
- Hair Care Products Basket & Hair Services by Mercedes Quinones-Martinez
- Harveys Lake Tahoe One (1) Night Stay and Dinner - Caesars Entertainment
- Home Means Nevada Gift Certificates & Gift Basket
- Hot Air Balloon Ride for TWO- Pat Irwin
- \$90 In -N-Out Burger In-N-Out Burger
- Lake Tahoe Wrapped Canvas 40"x60" -Reno Type
- Las Vegas Raiders Swag Box -Las Vegas Raiders
- Makita Multi Directional Light & Area Light -Makita USA (mail to Dan at the address listed)
- Styling Services for Photo Shoot -MEBeauty Stylists
- National Championship Air Races Package for TWO
- National Park Hat Knitting Gift Pack -Kristen Ashbaugh Helmreich
- ONE Hour of Archery Range Time & Rental Equipment for FOUR
- Piano Tuning -Michelle's Piano Tuning
- Polish Pedicure with Lisa at TLC Salon -Lisa at TLC Salon
- Race Entry Fee for a Vacation Half Marathon or Ultra Marathon -Vacation Races
- SIX Passes to North Peak Climbing plus Climbing Gear Rental
- Tavern Craft -CJ Haddock/Tavern Craft
- TEN Chiropractic Visits- Dr. Ricky Delacruz
- TEN Yoga Classes at The Studio Juica Bar-Yoga-Massage
- The Brewers Cabinet -Mike and Teri Connolly
- The Generator THREE (3) Month Membership & Swag Basket
- THREE Private 60 minute Harp Lessons -Marina Roznitovsky
- TWO (2) Dinner for Two Cards to Chipotle - Chipotle Mexican Grill
- TWO (2) Ultimate Attraction Packages to Urban Air -Urban Air Adventure Park
- TWO Access Passes at Tahoe Donner Ski Resort -TAHOE DONNER DOWNHILL SKI RESORT
- TWO Area 2 Tickets to a Reno Philharmonic Classix Series Concert -Reno Phil
- TWO Lift Tickets at Sugar Bowl Resort -SUGAR BOWL RESORT
- TWO One Hour Tennis Lessons -Tennis Nation Racquet Sports
- UNR Ultimate Fan Tickets -UNR Athletics

THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT GROUPS

THANK YOU
SO MUCH

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our incredible PTO Board and the volunteer PTO members. This team of parents really knows how to make our staff feel spoiled and appreciated. Our PTO participates in fundraising throughout the year that yields great things for our school. They provide staff appreciation gifts, family events, funding of grants for teacher requests and more.

We would also like to thank our green parents group who helps our community stay focused on our Green Initiative. We appreciate you!

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is astounding to step back and realize how many hundreds of hours our Board of Directors has donated towards our school.

Board Chair: Nicole Commons
Past Board Chair: Max Haynes
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Pillaro
Treasurer: Reid Riker
Secretary: Ashley Allen
Board Member: Jennifer Linn
Board Member: Brigitte Frost
PTO Board Liaison: Nancy Smith

We quite literally would not have realized the dream of a unified campus without their tireless efforts. We are grateful beyond measure to the HDMS Board of Directors!!



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We'd like to thank some very special parents, grandparents, and employees who are unpaid volunteers, running afterschool clubs this year.

A big thanks to Peter & Jenni Murray who run our Robotics Club! And a big thank you to Tesla for the grant that provides their equipment each year!



And our thanks go out to Larry Huddleston, Miss Jamie, Miss Monica, Miss Robin and Miss Laurel for their work in our Archery Program!

THANK YOU FROM THE PTO

Your HDMS PTO would like to send a huge thank you to the teachers, administrators, and staff that help make HDMS run so smoothly! We appreciate all that you do for our children and us parents. Thank you!

Also, a big thank you to all the parents who helped make our past events possible and to all of those who will help make our future events amazing. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

If you'd like to share your thanks, or hear us thank you some more, please come to our PTO meeting today at 5:30 PM on [Zoom](#).

THANK YOU FROM THE GREEN PARENTS

The best things in life are free. When we think about what we are grateful for this time of year, we think of things money can't buy. We give thanks and celebrate Earth's bounty – such as by reducing our consumption and re-using what we have. We are grateful for the efforts our community at HDMS puts in to creating a waste-free environment - for example by sparing the purchase of single use plastics, and returning meal leftovers to the earth via compost. We are grateful for the school playgrounds filled with plants, fruit trees, herbs and mulch for our children and staff to enjoy a natural environment. We are grateful to Ximena and Farm Fresh for providing our children with healthy meals in reusable foodware, and with milk dispensers to minimize waste. We are grateful for the environmentally-conscious initiatives of the children, such as with the creation of the Clean-Up Kids. And finally we are so thankful for the gift of the opportunity to share with you all our passion for treating the world we live in with love, consideration and gratitude.



NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT THANKS FROM ZOE BRAY



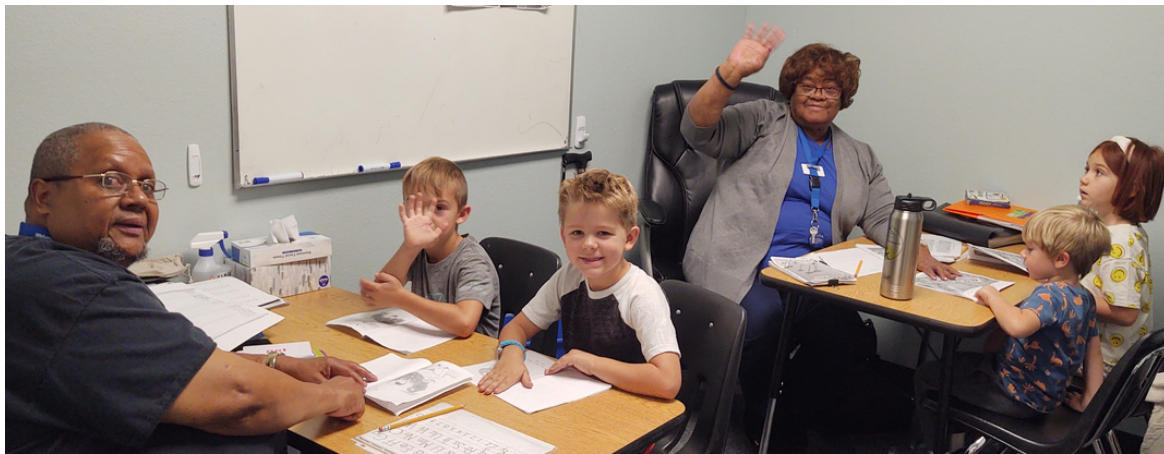
Thanks to a Nevada Arts Council grant and the fundraising effort of our HDMS Executive Director, Tammie Stockton, I am teaching ecological art to some of the lower elementary school children over the course of a few months. I am so grateful for this unique opportunity to share with the children my passion for art and ecology. We spend our time outside in the playground making the most personal unique creations with the natural goodies we find. It is such a gift to witness the children's enthusiasm and focus as they build fruitful relationships with their natural surroundings and discover new creative avenues. This week, one child who had told me only a few days previously that he didn't like plants and making things, declared to me 'This is so much fun. I love making art with nature now'.

THANK YOU TO UNDER THE REDWOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

We're grateful for Melanie Underwood who volunteers to take our new staff website photos each year! Our whole staff is grateful for the gift of her time and talents!



THANK YOU TO OUR FOSTER GRANDPARENTS



We are thrilled to have our Foster Grandparents Grandma Essie and Grandpa Mallory onsite reading with Elementary aged students every day.

GRATITUDE FROM THE SNOWFLOWER CLASSROOM

THANK
YOU!

Dear Snowflower Families,

Jocelin and I wanted to give our heartfelt thanks to you all. We are so grateful to get to spend each day with your amazing children! Thank you for all you do to nurture your child's growth. Our Snowflower community is one of love and kindness thanks to each family's unending support and partnership! We are so thankful to have you all be a part of our community! Happy Thanksgiving!

With love,

Miss Maureen and Miss Jocelin

GRATITUDE FROM THE TOQUIMA CLASSROOM

Toquima Families,

Thank you all very much for your communication, kindness and compassion. Our class has received many donations of classroom materials, weekly food/flowers for our practical life works, as well as tasty food for our beloved Smokey (she sure appreciates the mealworms!). The class really feels like a family, and we are fortunate to have kind and caring children in our room who offer to help one another with things that come up in class including cleaning up messes, zipping coats, or assisting with challenging work. We value each child and are grateful for the opportunity to work with them each day. Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Casey and Ms. Ellie



GRATITUDE FROM THE TUSCARORA CLASSROOM

Dear Tuscarora Families,

A little note from the Tuscarora classroom to express my deepest gratitude for my families and the children I work with each day. I am thankful to be a part of each child's growth and development. The Tuscarora classroom community this year is one of the most incredible, independent, and kind groups of children I have ever had the opportunity to work with. This is because of the wonderful and supportive parents, thank you for all you do! I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Miss Chrissy

GRATITUDE FROM THE PINE NUT CLASSROOM

Dear Pine Nut families,

Thank you so much for supporting our community each and every day. From Diana and Ricky sharing Dia de los Muertos and bones, to Melanie for helping to hang our soundboard, to the Broughton, McCool, and Gormley families for funding our wishlist, and to all of you who have brought in flowers, fruit and more each week. We are so thankful for your support and generosity as we work together to nurture your children. Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you to Miss Martha and Miss Kayleigh for reading with us.

Lisa, Noemi and Annika



GRATITUDE FROM THE LAHONTAN CLASSROOM

Lahontan's families are amazing! Your generosity, involvement, and support are commendable. Thank you for all of your communication and participation. The level of attendance at Back to School Night, conferences, and Montessori Through My Eyes was incredible. Also, a few Lahontan parents go above and beyond by being quite involved in the PTO. Thank you for your respectful and thoughtful posts on the HDMS Facebook group. Thank you all for making HDMS a better place.

There is so much to thank! Thank you to Lexi's grandparents, Vivienne French and Ed Schenk, for a generous donation of \$500 to Lahontan! Thank you to Brian Gilmer for the wonderful Kindergarten presentation on bones. Thank you to Jasper and family, Gabriel and family, Lexi and family, and to so many more for donating items to our classroom. Thank you for the Nevada Day donations. We had such a great time making necklaces and mining for gold and silver. Thank you to everyone who supported Lahontan when we had COVID earlier this year. Thank you for paying your supply fees! Thank you to the numerous families who helped Lahontan move from the Orovada building to our new classroom on Fantastic Drive. Thank you for making Lahontan and HDMS such a wonderful community.

GRATITUDE FROM THE VIRGINIA CLASSROOM

We have so much gratitude this year! A huge thank you to the parents that have chaperoned field trips and the parents who have paid extra to make sure that every child got to go. Thank you to Ms. Mary, she has been a real lifesaver and a huge help! Thank you to the Dhuy family for decorating our room for Halloween and all of the parents that helped with Fall Festival. Thank you to the PTO for all you do and a huge thank you to the ladies at the front desk, you are all amazing. -Miss Autumn



GRATITUDE FROM THE EXCELSIOR CLASSROOM



I would like to thank Ms. Tress for being such a wonderful, a warm, loving, and dedicated assistant. I appreciate all donations to our classroom and volunteers by our wonderful and supportive families. I am thankful to be a part of each child's growth and development. -Miss Jyoti

GRATITUDE FROM THE RUBY CLASSROOM

Dear Ruby Families,

Not only do we have the best parents that provide their time and donations, but we have great assistants. Currently in Lower Elementary, we have Keishla, Paige, Tress, Jasmine and Shay. In addition to daily classroom work, they are doing interventions and all assist with aftercare in some capacity. Keishla also provides weekly choir lessons. If you see one of these lovely people, or our other assistants, please let them know how grateful we are to have them.

Thank you to our administrative staff! Kaleigh allows our staff the opportunity to observe other coworkers. Eric helps us stay compliant with the district. Tammie helps make sure the school is safe and fed. Stacey and Martha are constantly dealing with the little things that fall through the cracks. Sherrie makes sure that classrooms are covered and staffed. Stephanie sets up observations and helps to make sure we have students in the classrooms and a healthy waiting list. Laurel prepares the Weekly Newsletter and provides us with a laugh at the end of our weekly updates. Cheryl makes sure that our books and money is in order. Mary, our counselor, guides students in sharing their feelings and handling conflicts.

Thank you for making this a place that I enjoy coming to each day. -Miss Jamie

GRATITUDE FROM THE SIERRA CLASSROOM

To The Sierra Families,

I would like to convey my gratitude to each of you and your children. I have a class of excited, happy children who are enthusiastic in their learning and happy to be in school. These attitudes come directly from you! Thank you for partnering with me in your child's education. I wish you a warm, family filled break.

Warmly,
Jen



GRATITUDE FROM THE TOIYABE CLASSROOM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families - parents and extended family - who support your child's education and our community. Whenever I reach out to any of you, you are eager and willing to support the educational needs of your children and our larger class community.

I am not a "handy" person by any stretch of the imagination and I rely heavily on skills of others for fix-it jobs, so I especially want to recognize Cathy O'Donnell, Olivia's grandmother, for being my go-to person to help fix cabinets, bookshelves, and cubbies when they start to fall apart.

A big shout out to Jackie Siri, Finnley's mother, who imagined, planned, and assembled the gorgeous school of fish art piece that our students painted for the silent auction in August. It was a beautiful piece of art.

Finally, our board of directors is an all-volunteer group and requires a great deal of time and energy. Our very own Nancy Smith, Logan's mother, serves on our board of directors and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Thank you for your service and dedication to our school!

Again, thanks to all of you for what you do every day for your child and all the ways you support our school.

GRATITUDE FROM THE JUNIPER CLASSROOM

The students are very grateful for HDMS staff, their teachers, to Maria Montessori, for the new three story building, and for glue (just to name a few).



GRATITUDE FROM THE ADOLESCENT PROGRAM

- Coach Larry, for helping coach archery
- Mr. Dan and his team for the beautiful building, shelves & tables
- Miss Mary our Counselor for helping our students, staff, and families
- Miss Laurel for working with the students and creating the weekly newsletter wrap-ups that they enjoy participating in and viewing
- Reno Bike Project for working with our adolescents, teaching them bike and road safety, as well as planning trips and being eco-friendly
- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful for lending supplies to our school in order for the adolescent students and staff to keep our streets clean

