



Comet Connection

March 4, 2020

Cottage School, *Montessori Education*

San Juan Unified School District

Greetings Cottage Community,

As we head into spring, we have a very full calendar through the remainder of the school year and I hope you and your children are as excited as we are about all of the planned activities in front of us.

In case you missed it, over the past month we had phenomenal performance by Mrs. Laurente and our school choir, and Mrs. Ferguson's class performed the musical "Gold Dust or Bust" while Mr. Bravo's class sponsored a spaghetti feed. Kudos to all our students and staff for making these events come alive!

This month we have our book fair and parent conferences scheduled; please make sure you coordinate with your child's teacher for your parent conference meeting time as our schedules are very tight for availability.

Finally, the district hosted a special early kindergarten registration event at Greer Elementary this month and we already have two of our three kindergarten classes full for next year! We always fill up our classes so please be sure you register early!

**Sincerely,
Dr. Arthur Estrada, Principal**

Important Dates

March 6th	ELAC Meeting 8:45 am
March 8th	Daylight Savings – Clocks move up one hour
March 10-13th	Parent Conference Schedule 12:05 pm dismissal all grades
March 16th	No School
March 20th	Arcade Library Family Night 5:30-7:00 pm Cottage families only
March 23-27th	Book Fair
March 26th	Grand's Lunch Event Grades 1-3: 11:50-12:25 Grades 4-5: 12:40-1:30
March 24th	Book Fair Reading Night 5:30-7:00 pm
March 25th	Gathering – Trimester Attendance Awards
March 31st	PTA General Meeting ELECTION NIGHT 6:00 pm
April 1st	Reading Challenge Forms due
April 6-10th	Spring Break

Montessori and the Planes of Development

by Ms. Nemer

Maria Montessori described child development in terms of planes, or stages, of development. (From "The Absorbent Mind" by Maria Montessori).

The First Plane (Birth to ages 6):

The first plane is described as "The Absorbent Mind." Children are absorbing sights, sounds, smells, and textures from their environment. They learn through exploration and play. During these years, children are always touching things in their environment to learn. Most of the child's energy is spent on this type of learning.

The Second Plane (Ages 6-9):

The second plane is described as the stage of "Great Stability." The sense of self develops. Children are seeking to find their place in the universe, asking a lot of "why" questions. Children tend to be extroverted at this age and exhibit a strong sense of what is right and wrong. They tend to develop socially and do more things in groups.

The Third Plane (Ages 9-12):

The third plane is referred to as "The Age of Rudeness and Serenity." Children have great imagination at this stage and desire more creative work in class. They start to look inward and become more socially conscious. Children at this age also want the adults around them to treat them fairly and with respect, and will revolt, or appear rude, when they feel this is not happening. Children in the third plane often feel more self-conscious and have a desire to be similar to their peers to not stand out.

What does this mean for you as parents and us as teachers? We must stop and think about why our children may be acting in a certain way. What can we do to support them to be successful? Stay tuned to the Cottage Comet for more information on the Planes of Development or email susan.nemer@sanjuan.edu with any questions!

Ms. Nemer

Pick up and Drop off

Be Safe...Be Safe...Be Safe...

Please ensure that you are entering and exiting the parking lot at SLOW speeds to ensure the safety of our children and staff. Last month a car ran over the foot of one of my staff members and recently I was almost hit along with a couple of students by a car that was making a U-turn on the street.

The safety of all of our children is more important than the 30 seconds you'll save by driving through the parking lot quickly. I need your help in keeping everyone safe. Thank you!

Cottage PTA News

The Cottage Spring Ball will be on Friday, April 17 and will be a really fun evening event for both students and parents! More information will be sent home soon and we hope to see your family there.

Our PTA has grown this year and has continued to support our school in so many ways. Please help us ensure this endures in the 2020-21 school year. **Our PTA officer election will take place on March 31 at 6pm and we must have enough PTA members in attendance in order to hold the vote.**

Confirm your PTA membership on the school website under "Cottage PTA Slate." PLEASE, if you can make time to attend this meeting we request your attendance.

Child care is provided (as well as dinner for the kids) and we will have snacks for parents too. If you are a PTA member and haven't yet been to a meeting, this is the one that really counts! Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please email us at PTACottage@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of Cottage Elementary and the PTA!