



Telluride Mountain School

LABORATE DURE .. LUDITE DURE WORK HARD ... PLAY HARD



SAVE THE DATE!

Movie Night Friday, May 6th

The Parents' Association at the Mountain School & Montessori presents our biggest fundraiser of the year, **'Friday Night At The Movies'**. This is an elegant and fun evening of award-winning short films, a live and silent auction and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Popular among parents, faculty and community members alike, this adult-only evening is not only the social event of the year, all proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund! Parents, don't forget to take advantage of free babysitting offered by the Parents Association.

See you there!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Penny Wars Fundraiser raises a record \$576.64!!

Each year, students in first through twelfth grades compete to see who can raise the most pennies for a great cause. The goal of this fundraiser is to support a local charity. Second Chance Humane Society was the chosen recipient this year. The goal is to collect as many PENNIES as you can with silver coins collected but counted against your total pennies. These exciting weeks resulted in students raising \$576.64 for Second Chance Humane Society. The third and fourth grade classes took first place, the seventh grade boys took second place and the first and second grade class took third place. **Congratulations to everyone who participated in this annual fundraiser to support our community.**

STEFANI STEPS IN:

Seasoned Educator, Administrator and Leader Takes the Helm in July



The Board of Trustees has proudly announced the appointment of Joseph (Joe) Stefani as Telluride Mountain School's new Head of School, effective July 1, 2011. Joe will follow Interim Head of School Jim Loan, who is currently serving a two-year term.

Joe was selected from a substantial and impressive pool of candidates, which included dozens of local, national and international applicants. The seven-month head search was conducted in-house by members of the Board of Trustees, including Advisory Trustee and Mountain School co-founder Virginia Egger.

The out-going, seven-year Headmaster of Hilltop Country Day School, a PreK-8 independent school in Sparta, New Jersey, Joe is a proven leader with a record of success. His knowledge and depth of experience in teacher competency and classroom instruction, curriculum development, high academic performance, experiential learning, personal responsibility and growth are well lauded by those he has worked with over his career. It is notable that Joe also has an outstanding set of business management and personnel skills. The board believes he will be adept at fundraising, will fully implement the school's policies and strategic plan, and will meet its requirements for the best fiduciary practices.

In spending time with him during the interview process, those who met Joe observed his collaborative management style; that he is an outstanding communicator; that he thinks strategically both in terms of near- and long-term decision-making; and that he is willing and capable of developing a vision for the school through a team approach, including all stakeholders. The Head Search Committee found Joe's calm and unflappable demeanor, sense of humor and unassuming nature to be a plus for the school.

The Mountain School community looks forward to warmly welcoming Joe, his wife Valerie and their three children to Telluride this coming summer. We know they will find themselves quickly at home in this community of people who share their love of outdoor adventure.

Joe's inspiring educational philosophy is available at www.telluridemtnschool.org/headsearch.html.



MARVELOUS MONTESSORI MATH

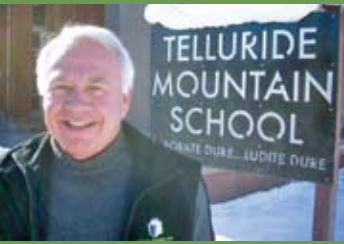
*Hands-On Approach Extends from
Montessori Preschool through Upper School*

Of all the materials in the Montessori classroom, none are more iconic than the geometric and mathematical materials. From the pink tower to the spectacular bead cabinet with its colorful glass beads strung on copper wires, the Montessori math materials are beautiful to behold, inviting to hold, and powerful in the lessons they deliver. One of the most important aspects of the Montessori math curriculum is its progression from concrete to abstract representations of mathematical concepts, from quantity, to operations, fractions, and algebraic and geometric formulas, including the Pythagorean theorem and the binomial equation.



Reflecting today's research in how children construct their understanding of the world around them, Maria Montessori observed that children learn through movement and activity, not through lecture, abstract representations, or rote drill.

As children progress into the elementary years, and leave early childhood, they develop internalized ideas or mental pictures about math, and slowly they are able to leave behind the cubes, bars, and beads that made math concepts concrete in their early years. They learn to work with increasingly abstract representations of number concepts, such as an abacus as they progress to paper and pencil exercises. The transition occurs slowly as Montessori math students develop sophisticated mathematical concepts rather than just memorizing facts and procedures that many children never clearly understand. The next time you are in the Montessori classroom, be sure to observe the profound range of early numeracy activities in use by children from age three to six.



Letter from the Interim Head

Dear Mountain School Community,

In only a few months I will be handing the reins over to the incoming head, Joe Stefani. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the past two years to ensure that we continue to deliver an excellent program to our students.

As of January 2011, we have record enrollment of 119 students. This is the largest student body we have ever experienced at Telluride Mountain School. Since the 2008-2009 school year, our enrollment has steadily increased while most other independent schools in Colorado have held steady or have seen their enrollment decrease significantly.

Over the past two years, the Mountain School enrollment has increased by 18%. Currently, Montessori and grades three through eight are fully enrolled. The ongoing delivery of a strong program in addition to enrollment growth are a testament to the outstanding faculty and staff. I have been so impressed by our top-notch faculty and staff who are truly dedicated to the students and the success of the school.

I look forward to the next few months as I prepare the school for a smooth transition to Mr. Stefani. He will be well positioned to build on the success of this very special school.

Sincerely,

Jim Loan
Interim Head of School

Fall Experiential Lea

The Experiential Education program provides students with a unique balance between classroom work and field-based “Sense of Place” curricula. Experiential education is a synthesis of three major components: outdoor adventure, cultural and natural immersion, and service learning.



1 & 2 Indian Ridge Farm

This fall, the first and second graders studied plants and animals in science. In late September, Indian Ridge Farm invited the kids to experience farm life first-hand. This gave the kids an opportunity to put their curriculum into action.

Through direct observation on-site, the kids discovered the relationship between plants and animals and learned how they need each other to thrive. They got to meet the chickens and turkeys and discussed their needs and treatment on the farm. Next the class headed into the garden. They learned how to pick carrots and how to choose ripe tomatoes.

At the end of our walk around the farm, the class helped harvest potatoes. They quickly learned that digging potatoes is not easy work. The class appreciated Indian Ridge opening their farm and sharing their wealth of knowledge. The Mountain School first and second graders were happy to be able to give back and help in their own small way!

Welcome to Our New Board Member

Father of three Mountain School students joins as Trustee

(Full board member bios available at www.telluridemtnschool.org/governance)



The Mountain School Board of Trustees extends a warm welcome to its newest member, Miles Welch. Miles and his wife Lindsey moved to Telluride in 2002 from New York City and have three children at the Mountain School: second grader Miles, as well as Ellery and James who attend Montessori at Mountain School. A graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Applied Math, Miles is a long-time member of the Finance Committee, on which he continues to serve.

Prior to moving to Colorado, Miles developed futures trading systems for Commodities Corporation in Princeton, NJ. Later joining Welch Capital Partners in New York, he provided macro-economic analysis and traded for the company's long-short equity hedge fund. Now working remotely from Telluride, Miles' current focus is on the equity markets and overseas investments. He is an enthusiastic skier, soccer player and youth soccer league coach.

Learning Trips



3 & 4 High Camp Hut, Lizard Head Pass

This fall, the third and fourth graders headed out on their Outdoor Education trip to spend two nights at the High Camp Hut. The hut is a rustic backcountry cabin, which sits on the edge of a high alpine meadow, reached by a two and a half mile hike South of Lizard Head Pass. On the hike in, students learned basic orienteering, compass, and topographic map skills. The group also identified local plant and animal species using field guides in a “scavenger hunt” activity.

During the two night stay, third and fourth graders participated in foundational outdoor education exercises, group dynamics games, basic wilderness survival and first-aid lessons, creative journaling, and art projects, all while learning how to cohabitate in a high alpine environment. In addition, students took a closer look at the natural history of the area while studying the San Miguel watershed.

The group also participated in a service project building rock walkways around the hut and outhouses. Students returned home with new skills, confidence, and an expanded appreciation of the local environment, which they readily shared with the Mountain School community.



“It’s not what you find,
but what you find out.”

– *Crow Canyon motto*



5 & 6 Colorado Tour

The fifth and sixth grade class surveyed the natural history of southern Colorado for their annual fall outdoor education trip. The four days were filled with exciting travel, day-hikes, specialist lectures, science lessons, art, and service projects. At night, students focused on cooperative cooking and clean-up, journaling, group discussions and story telling around the campfire.

The first stop was at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison where students took in the spectacular views of the National Park’s narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths. We met with an educational specialist to learn about the Proterozoic landscape and the history of the unique landscape. Students also had the opportunity to examine and learn about locally collected animal pelts.

The group then traveled to the Great Sand Dunes National Park to spend two days and nights immersed in the rare high alpine desert. Eclipsed by the tallest dunes in North America, students learned how the combination of geology and hydrology formed the massive



landscape. After gathering information at the visitor’s center, students met with a park specialist to learn about the varied ecosystems and diversity of life that makes up the national park. The crew also had a great time exploring the dunes and testing their friction hypotheses while sliding down the sand formations.

The last stop was Mission Wolf where students learned about the preserve’s purpose and goals, history of the wolf species and current reintroduitory programs. While there, students helped feed the wolves in a hands-on service-learning project. The group camped on Mission Wolf’s property after a full day of touring the site, learning about each resident wolf, and meeting the ambassador wolf puppies.

This amazing outdoor education trip helped students gain a greater sense of place, provided context for science class, created opportunities to apply art skills to new landscapes, developed group cohesiveness, and served as an introduction to extended mountain travel.



7 & 8 Dark Canyon

The seventh and eighth grade class headed to Dark Canyon in late September for a four day backpacking trip. Dark Canyon, considered by many to be one of Utah's most beautiful and least visited canyon systems, was our home and classroom for five days of integrated field studies. During that time, the class learned what is involved in planning and executing a multi-day expedition. Students learned to plan menus, cook over a single burner camp stove, and safely travel through desert terrain. In the field, students searched the rim for evidence of the canyon's original inhabitants- the ancestral Puebloans, played in the stream on the canyon floor, and studied the 300 million year old limestone that formed the walls of their temporary home. Students filled their days with spectacular hikes, lessons on desert ecology, and art projects. Nights were dedicated to journaling in the tents by headlamp, reading stories, and stargazing. Along the way, students competed in a "Top Chef" backcountry cooking contest, weathered a desert rainstorm, and created sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.

The trip provided context for the science class's desert ecology unit and served as an introduction to extended backcountry travel. The trip also provided an opportunity for students to live together as they learned to join as a team to take care of their basic needs of food, water, and companionship.



9 - 12 Crow Canyon

The Upper School students spent five days at the Crow Canyon Archeological Center, outside of Cortez, CO, where they studied the methods of field archeology and the history and culture of the Ancestral Pueblo peoples. Early in the trip, students engaged in a simulated excavation and helped to clean and catalogue recently excavated artifacts in order to develop sound archeological methods and a better understanding of the characteristics of the different Pueblo time periods. Other activities included investigating a reconstructed pit house and room block; learning to spin string,

kindle a fire, and weave, all with traditional means and tools; throwing spears using atlatls, ancient projectile devices that increased the thrower's leverage; and attending lectures on topics ranging from astronomy to the cultural and practical significance of corn in Ancestral Pueblo life to the migration that eventually abandoned the Four Corners area around 1300 CE. Students visited the Anasazi Heritage Center and Mesa Verde National Park in order to better understand Ancestral Pueblo culture.

Later in the week, students participated in the excavation of an active dig site at Goodman Point Pueblo. In the process, students found and identified numerous potsherds of both the corrugated and whiteware variety. Students also found artifacts ranging from flakes and cores (remnants of tool-making), a hammer stone, small animal bones, and even gizzard stones, polished smooth by the digestive systems of domesticated turkeys. All artifacts were classified as likely from the Pueblo III period, dating from 1150 to 1300 CE. As the Crow Canyon motto goes, however, "It's not what you find, but what you find out."



MISSION

Telluride Mountain School delivers a program of challenging academics that promotes critical thinking, aesthetic expression and ethical behavior, while encompassing a commitment to community service, global citizenship and engagement with the natural environment. The school culture embraces independence, personal responsibility, compassion, curiosity and joy.

CORE VALUES

Respect We honor self and community, and value that which is different.

Love of Learning We foster lasting curiosity, creativity and passion in a challenging and safe environment.

Responsibility We understand the impact of personal actions, and uphold service as an integral part of scholarship and citizenship.

Integrity We adhere to values and ethics that enable us to approach our studies and lives with courage, pride, honesty and empathy.

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Pamela Sante joins Mountain School Team!



In May of 2010, Telluride Mountain School welcomed Pamela Sante as the new Business Manager. Pamela joins the Mountain School administrative team with expertise in accounting and business management. Her responsibilities at the Mountain School include accounting, human resources duties, administrative functions, tax returns, forecasting, budgeting, audits and tuition billing.

Originally from the east coast, Pamela has been a resident of Telluride for eleven years. Pamela graduated from Ohio State University with a BSBA, majoring in Accounting. She worked in corporate accounting departments for eight years before moving to Telluride. Pamela was also part of the team that opened The Lodge at Mountain Village. Shortly thereafter, Pamela started Mountain Ledgers with a partner. Some of her larger clients have included Douglas Tueller and Tueller and Associates, The Cosmopolitan Restaurant and Steeprock Jointery.

Pamela recently joined the Telluride Hospital District Board of Directors and among other things, helped create their 2010 Strategic Plan. Pamela was a volunteer firefighter for over five years and she still volunteers as an EMT – Basic. Together with her husband, Emil, they have two children; Tirsia, age two and Zander, age 13 months. Her daughter Tirsia is enjoying her first year at the Mountain School in Miss Amber's Montessori class.

Please take a moment to stop by and welcome Pamela to the Mountain School!



Telluride Mountain School

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*Great Sand Dunes National Park:
Fifth and sixth grade students ascend
a dune in the afternoon light.*

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Reach Your Peak at
Telluride Mountain School