

# Soldotna Montessori News

September 14, 2023



## Upcoming Events

9/13-14	Dixon - Field Trip (Rafting/OEC)
9/20	Walk Your Student To School Day (TBD)
9/21	Peace Night School Event 5:30-6:30
9/21	APC General Meeting (5:30)
9/29	School Assembly (9:00) Faris' Class Hosts
9/29	Early Release Day (2:00)
10/3	School Shirt Tie Dye Day
10/12	Early Release Day (2:00)
10/13	NO SCHOOL End 1st Quarter
10/19	Earthquake Drill (10:19)
10/20	School Assembly (9:00) Moore's Class Hosts
10/23	Picture Retakes
10/26-27	Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/9	Early Release Day (2:00)
11/10	Vacation Day (No School)
11/23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

### Lunch Accounts

Please check your student's lunch account periodically to ensure they have available funds

Reminder!

### Soldotna Montessori Charter School Peace Night Event

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2023

**September 21, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.**

- Hot Dogs Provided
- Community Peace Messages Activity
- School Participation in "One Voice" Song
- APC General Membership Meeting Held in Conjunction with Peace Night
- **Sign-up at the school website to bring buns, condiments, chips, or a side dish**



### 1st Whole School Event - Peace Night

Families, don't miss our first school event of the year! We will recognize the International Day Of Peace together; Peace education is a tenant of a Montessori education. We will be serving hot dogs, but need families to participate by bring a food dish. Please sign up to bring something [HERE](#).

Walk Your Kids  
to School Day

INTERNATIONAL



**WHEN:** Wednesday, Sept. 20th....meet at 8:00 and leave the church at 8:15am

**WHERE:** Meet at the Catholic Church on Redoubt

**WHY:** Learn about safety issues as students walk to school...promote physical activity

**WHO:** All Redoubt, Soldotna Elementary, and Soldotna Montessori staff, students and their families

**ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!!!**

Rain or shine, please dress accordingly.

# THE BACK PAGE

## NEW REQUIREMENTS: The Alaska Reads Act

Over the summer, a new law went into effect called the Alaska Reads Act. The law is based in reading research called the Science of Reading. The purpose of the Alaska Reads Act is to improve reading instruction and student reading ability by focusing on a school's core reading program and stages of intervention in support of students who are not yet proficient. The law specifically addresses students in grades K-3. While there are many components that are part of this new law, there are some specific items parents and families should know and may encounter as a result of the school meeting the requirements of this new law.

- 1) We will be using a new, periodic benchmark assessment called mClass for monitoring the progress of student reading. mClass replaces the Oral Reading Fluency Test we have used for years as a benchmark assessment.
- 2) Students who are measured by mClass as below proficient will receive intervention instruction, and parents will be notified within two weeks of completion of the assessment of the need for intervention. Additionally, a face-to-face meeting will be held regarding an Individualized Reading Intervention Plan at Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- 3) The more challenging portion of the Alaska Reads Act (law) is a requirement to notify families, near the end of the year, for students who are still performing below proficient, of the option for retention. Most notably, there is a requirement for retention at grade 3 if a student is still below proficient at the end of grade 3. There is a waiver process that would allow for parents of 3rd grade students to still be promoted, but it would require a commitment to 20 hours of summer reading intervention.

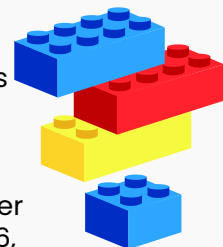
The Law has lead to many adjustments within the Alaska education system for reading instruction and will certainly be something SMCS will need to adjust to. However, I am confident in our school's ability to meet these new requirements and challenges. There will be a time of learning how to meet these new requirements, and it will take time, but we will be successful in our work. We hope that as we navigate the year, and the Alaska Reads Act, that we find the right implementation for our school and our families. If you have questions about the Alaska Reads Act, please feel free to contact the school.

## Lego Robotics



We have completed our drawing for students wishing to participate in Lego Robotics from all the permission slips we received prior to September 14. We have space for 10 students at each grade in grades 4-6. We will not be accepting late permission slips, and students who are not drawn for a space will be placed on a waiting list in the event there is a student who drops within 2 weeks.

We will notify families of students who were drawn on Friday, September 15, via email. Our first day for Lego Robotics will occur on September 26, after school, from 3:30-4:45. 4th grade students will be meeting on Tuesdays only. 5&6 Grade students will be meeting on Tuesday & Wednesday each week.



## Battle of the Books - Coaches

We are looking for parent volunteers to serve as a Battle of the Books coaches for our Grades 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6 B.O.B. students. Battle of the Books is a program hosted by the Alaska School Librarians Association, and students are challenged to read a list of books and be able to answer questions about the books. Students participate in this program voluntarily, and permission slips will be going home next week; however, we need parent volunteers to coach. Our Grades 3-4 and 5-6 groups will develop a team that will compete among other schools in the district later in the year. If you are interested, let us know.