

ARBORLAND MONTESSORI

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Our Principal's Summer Message



As we are preparing for Arborland's 35th anniversary, please allow me to share my incredible journey with you!

In the fall of 1990, 5-year-old Joyce Lee joined Arborland's kindergarten program while her older sister Jennifer was attending our first grade. Her younger brother Jonathan also joined Arborland's kindergarten program a year later.

Being an intelligent, exuberant, and outspoken child, Joyce sometimes got into trouble for constantly debating with her teacher and was sent to the Principal's office to talk with me. Even though this happened a few decades ago, my memory of Joyce testing my authority as Principal is still fresh in my mind. She genuinely believed her arguments were valid. I had to scratch my head and ask myself how I could help this young girl see things from her teacher's viewpoints. I quickly learned that acknowledging her viewpoints and calmly guiding her through logical questions helped her see that it is not about right or wrong, but that an event has different viewpoints. It was those private conversations that also taught me to see a young child's viewpoints without reprimanding her. Although she was held accountable for her words and had to accept the consequences following her actions, she could sense my genuine interest in helping her, understanding her, and guiding her. Somehow, this little girl who was testing her principal to the limit must have felt my underlying nurturing love and a bond was formed between us.

Thirty years later, in May 2021, Joyce sent me a picture of her and her fiancé. In the picture, I saw her excitement, her glow, and her beautiful engagement ring. I stared at the picture and was emotional and grateful that Joyce remembered to send me a private message for her important milestone.

"It's a great privilege to be a part of your children's lives. I may not remember what I had for lunch, but I will always treasure my bonds with the students and their families!"

This year, I received a surprise call from Joyce. Can you imagine what her call was about? She asked me to propose a toast at her wedding. I was blown away by the honor, love, and trust she bestowed upon me. How many people remember their elementary school principal? How many people would invite their elementary school principal to their wedding, let alone ask them to speak at their wedding?

As I shared my memory of Joyce on her wedding day, Joyce's eyes were filled with grateful and joyful tears. She could not believe all the memories I recalled about her that happened 30 years ago.



In spite of my high expectations and tireless demand for their accomplishments, the students seem to always rise up to meet my bar. As educators, we don't always have the joy of seeing all our work come to full fruition. We work hard, we worry, but we never stop to think about the bonds we create and impact we have. All I know is that we always work hard to plant the seeds and set our bar high. Then we trust the students to continue to thrive, do amazing things, and be excellent leaders in their fields with their teachers and Arborland forever part of them.

Joyce went on to earn a Bachelor's in Political Science from Columbia University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Her older sister, Jennifer, earned a Bachelor's in Business from UC Berkeley Haas Business School and her MBA from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School. Her younger brother, Jonathan, earned his Bachelor's in Business from USC Marshall Business School and his MBA from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

In my mind, I will always remember all three of them playing on the tire swing, doing the stamp game, and delivering beautiful speeches at our Costume Party, International Culture Day, and recitals. I am so appreciative that they remember my impact on them and think of their time at Arborland so fondly.

I was honored to be a part of Joyce's wedding, and I cannot wait to attend Jennifer's, Jonathan's, and many other alumni's big days of their lives! It's a great privilege to be a part of your children's lives. I may not remember what I had for lunch, but I will always treasure my bonds with the students and their families!

Staff Updates

See you on the first day of school, August 15, 2022!



Ms. Kim
Montessori Teacher
Room 8

Hello everyone! My name is Ms. Kim. I have been with Arborland Montessori for over 6 years. I started as an assistant teacher in the Spanish-English dual language classroom and have been team teaching with Maestra Michelle in Classroom B for the past 4 years. I'm excited to announce that I will be joining the Hughes campus as the lead Montessori teacher in Primary Classroom 8.

I was raised in Fullerton and continue to reside in this beautiful city. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Child and Adolescent Development from California State University of Fullerton and my Montessori teaching Credential from UC Irvine.

I got married last year during the COVID pandemic. My hobbies are hiking, dancing, and shopping. Teaching has become a passion of mine throughout the years and I am so excited to begin this journey and make lots of wonderful memories with my students and Arborland Family!



Ms. Denise
Administrative Assistant
Hughes

Hello, everyone! My name is Ms. Denise and I joined Arborland Montessori back in October 2021. My college major was theatre arts with an emphasis in stage management, but I've always wanted to pursue a career in education. Arborland has been so gracious as to give me opportunities to practice my craft in an educational environment.

Outside of school. I'm usually with my kids--Ethan, 12 and my niece Dominique, 19. When we can, we like to travel and discover new places together.



Ms. Villaverde
Montessori Teacher
Room 206

Hello! I am Ms. Cindy Villaverde. I will be team teaching with Ms. Woo in the Upper Elementary this Fall.

I received my Bachelors of Science Degree in Biology from University of Santo Tomas, Philippines (1999). I completed my AMS Primary Montessori Credentials in 2002, AMS Elementary Montessori Credentials in 2006 and Supervision and Administration of Early Childhood Center Credentials from UCLA in 2008. Teaching is an absolute passion of mine and I have been instructing students of all ages for 24 years.

I am married to a wonderful husband, Casey. We have 3 beautiful boys and a dog. They take up most of my free time. We enjoy traveling as a family. I am so excited to work with you and your children. It's going to be a year full of fun, learning, and lots of adventures. I can't wait to see what this year has in store for us!

Hello, I am Ms. Kristine and I joined the Arborland Administrative team back in September 2021.

Being at Arborland has been a blessing! I enjoy helping students and parents. I am also able to grow through my daily interaction with the children and their families. It's inspiring to see how much they learn and grow each day!

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family--my husband Anthony, my 12 year old son, Yuan and our mischievous Labrador, Bruce. We enjoy eating home-cooked meals, watching movies and just bonding as a family.



Ms. Kristine
Administrative Assistant
Hughes



Shi Lao Shi
Montessori Teacher
Room C

My name is ShiLaoShi and I originate from Zhejiang province, China. At the age of six, my parents discovered my interest in piano, and cultivated my musical growth. I went on to obtain a Bachelor's in Music Education from ShaoXing University, China, then pursued my dreams of studying music in the U.S., where I completed a Master's in Music Education at Azusa Pacific University. I joined the Arborland family in 2016 as an Intern, while achieving the Montessori Credential.

After team teaching with Ms. Salzman for the past 5 years, I am excited to guide, help, and work with Classroom C students as their Montessori teacher. Arborland holds high standards and expects everyone to deliver results. I appreciate the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills to benefit the children. Please do not hesitate to practice your Mandarin Chinese with your children or with me. I am excited to teach your children and to learn from them too.

Hello, Arborland Family! This is Ms. Hernandez, and I am the new Upper Elementary Montessori Teacher in Room G at the Valencia Campus! I am looking forward to spending time with my new "old" students.

I have been teaching in Lower Elementary here at Arborland since 2014 with Ms. Cynthia. My educational background includes a valid Clear California Teaching Credential, a Master's Degree in Multi-cultural Education, and a Montessori Teaching Credential. I have taught pre-school, been a school bus driver, an entrepreneur, a substitute teacher for pre-school through high school, and an elementary classroom teacher in both private and public school settings. The most rewarding position I have held is here at Arborland. I cannot wait to see Upper Elementary students grow intellectually and emotionally this school year!



Ms. Hernandez
Montessori Teacher
Room G



Ms. Snider
Montessori Teacher
Room 10

Hello everyone, I am Mrs. Snider. I'm excited to say, during the summer I will be transferring back to the Hughes campus as the Room 10 Montessori Teacher. I strive to make the environment calm, relaxing and inspiring. I truly believe when your child is happy and content in the prepared environment, your child will learn naturally.

I came to Arborland in 1995, and have been here for 23 years. I have worked at both campuses and was Dr. Chen's Assistant Principal until 2015. I was happy to return in 2019 to resume my teaching responsibilities here at Arborland.

Through my experience I have found Arborland to be one of the most authentic Montessori schools around and I couldn't be more excited to work with you and your children this school year!

Hello everyone! I'm Ms. Garcia and I have taken over as the Room 5 Montessori teacher since March 2022. Teaching at Arborland has been the most fulfilling experience because of the collaboration and diverse skills each teacher and staff member brings to the table. This enables us to learn from each other, thus granting your children unique and quality education.

I have wanted to become a teacher ever since I was in the 4th grade and was finally able to make this dream come true when I received my Montessori Teaching Credential from the American Montessori Society.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband Arturo and I have been married for 15 years and we have two beautiful girls, Stephanie and Sophia.



Ms. Garcia
Montessori Teacher
Room 5



Summer Academics



Creative Writing Corner: Writing Fictional or Non-Fictional Stories in First Person

AN EXCERPT FROM: **GET A SNACK AT 4 AM**

Based on a Roblox Game by Stixxal by Olivia O.



Hi, my name is Player. I know you think that might be a weird name for a person but I'm not real, at least not anymore. I'm part of a video game where I wake up at 4 AM to go get a snack.

The game all started 2 weeks ago. When I walk home from school I walk under a mountain through a tunnel to get to my tiny town that only contains two houses (one of them being abandoned and the other being mine) and the gas station where my best friend, Cashier, works at, and a cut-off road. It always looked like it was floating but I just assumed that my mind was just playing tricks on me.

The first day of the game was a Monday and as I was walking home from school the tunnel started to collapse. I ran out from under it barely escaping with my life. When I looked back at the tunnel, what I saw wasn't a crumbled tunnel with a mountain on top, it was just a mountain. I looked around and touched the mountain. There wasn't even a trace of the stone that lined the tunnel or cracks anywhere. I was shocked but held it together while I ran to my house.

I got inside and I blacked out. I woke up in my bed. "How did I get here?" I thought as I looked around my room. Everything seemed normal until I saw a piece of text floating above my head that read "OBJECTIVE: get a snack". "That's weird..." I thought, assuming that this was just another one of my weird dreams, "I am kind of hungry though". I hopped out of bed and headed to the kitchen.

I looked in the fridge to see if we had something to eat. I looked in the fridge and screamed when I saw ---

AN EXCERPT FROM: Lost at the Mall by Kaitlyn K.



I was out at the mall with my mom one day. We were shopping and we went into Old Navy. I wandered off into the store and got lost, and I was having a breakdown when I couldn't find my mom.

I wandered out of the store and looked around to see if I could find her. I started to panic more when I couldn't find her in the sea of people at the mall. I walked to another random store labeled Zara.

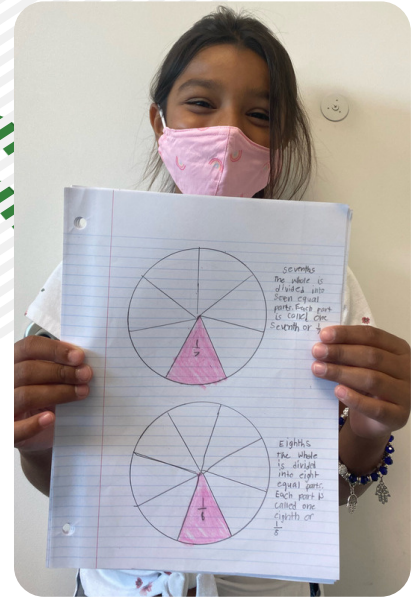
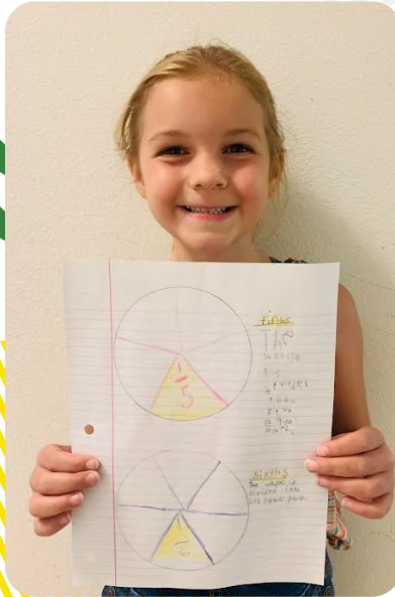
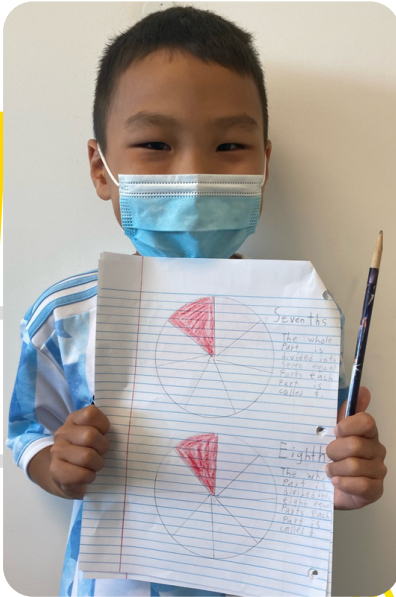
I walked inside to look for her, and when I didn't find her, I got more scared than had ever been in my life. I rushed outside, looking for her and calling for her and after a few minutes I sat down heavily on a bench in the middle of the mob of people. All of a sudden I thought I heard something like "Kaitlyn! Where are you?!"

I ran to the voice but when I saw what it was, I deflated mentally. In reality the voice was just a random woman selling balloons to people. I went back to Old Navy just in case my mom was still there but I didn't see a single speck of her, or anyone I knew.

I went to the checkout counter, and luckily for me, there wasn't a line there. I went to the lady at the desk and asked her if I could use her phone to call my mom. My mom picked up and I could hear the relief in her voice. She told me that she was in front of Zara and to find her there.

When I found her, I was crying. She wrapped me in her arms and I told her about everything that I had been through that day. I never leave my parent's side while shopping anymore.

Fraction Review



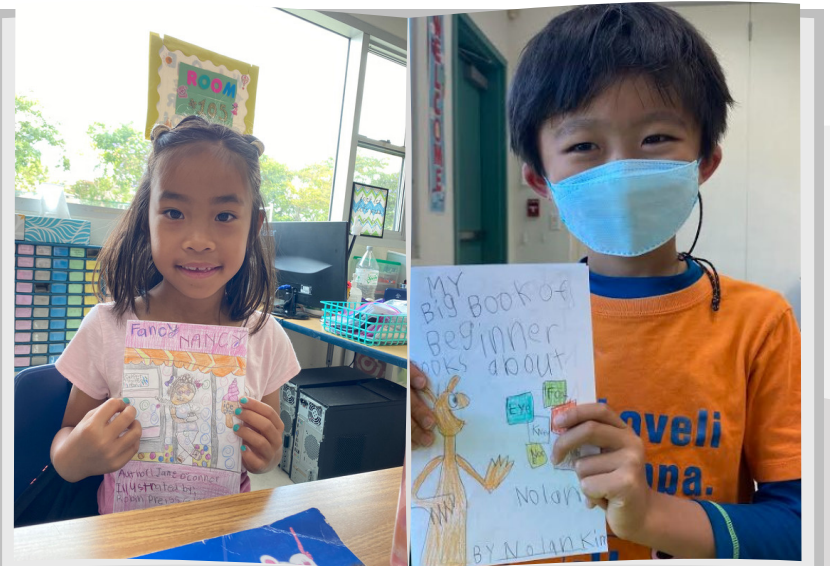
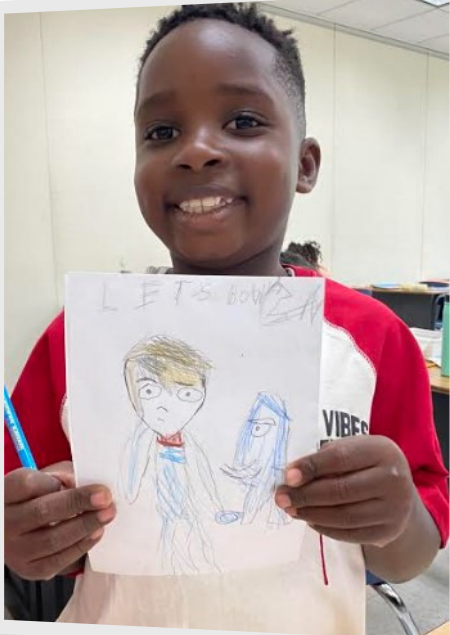
Toddler Corner: Fun Exploration

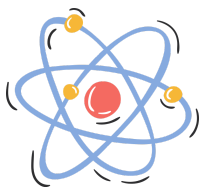


Infant Introduction: Sensorial Development



Book Report Covers

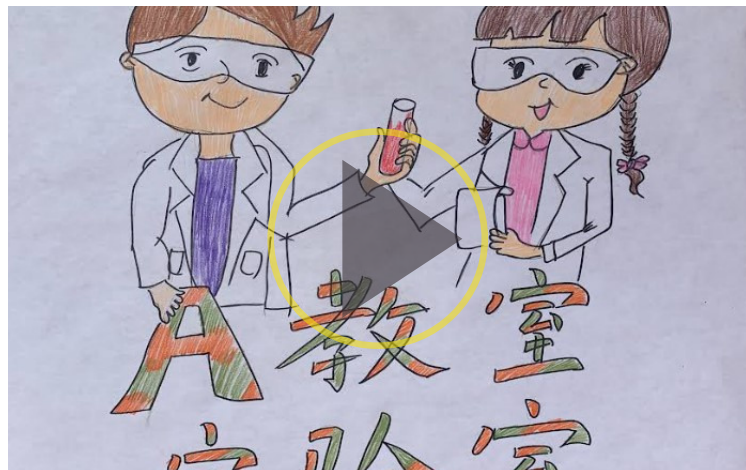




Session I: DIY Science Experiments



Our students became scientists and practiced DIY Experiments, with the supervision of our teachers in the classroom for this exciting session!



Video Feature:

Science Experiments from our Mandarin Primary Dual-Immersion Program.

Top Left:

Safina, Marbella & Amy with their Solar Oven S'mores!

Top Right:

Justin discovered texture w/ a soap experiment

Bottom Left:

Maddie & Elin built a boat with foil and wooden sticks for a STEM activity called 'Surviving a Flood.'

Bottom Right:

Christopher & Josiah studied magnetic reactions.



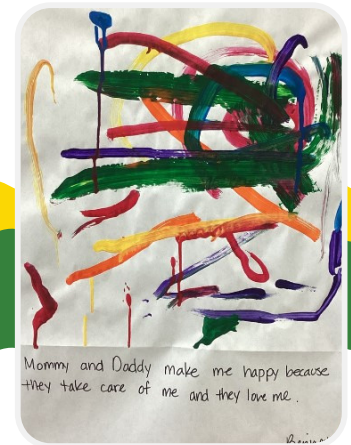
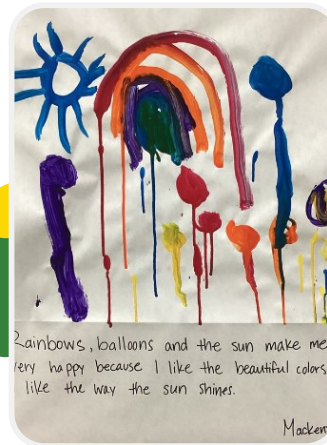
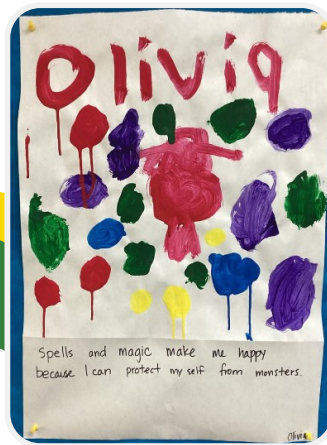


Session II:

Mental Health



Our primary students were introduced to discovering feelings and healthy expressions while our elementary and junior high students learned about the importance of keeping a positive attitude, healthy mind and sharing feelings with friends, families, and teachers.



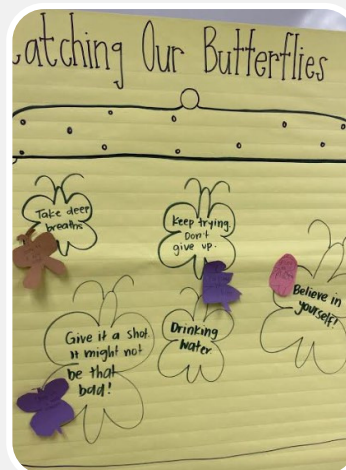
What makes you happy?

Our primary students thought about things, places, and people that made them happy and communicated them through a finger-painting project.

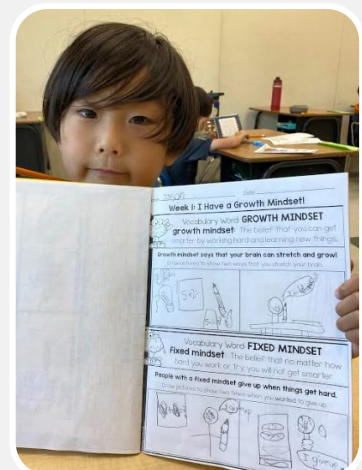
Exploring Feelings & Mindsets



Leilani worked on an emotion-themed picture matching activity.



Lower Elementary students worked on a 'catching butterflies' activity which helped them manage feelings.



Jason learned about fixed & growth mindsets.

Exploring other emotions

On a project based on the Disney movie "Inside Out", our Upper Elementary students dissected their emotions into the characters and wrote about circumstances that would elicit each feeling.



Mental Health Journal Entry by Ryden C.



I think the Mental Health Session has helped me reflect on my emotions. It helped me face my fears when we went to the rope course. It was really scary and tense. But facing fears is good.

On the first day, we had a lesson on mental health. It showed us how to express our emotions. I think this lesson could help us with expressing our emotions, even when we might be afraid to.

At the ropes course, it was scary going on the catwalk. It was scary doing everything. The zipline was also frightening. The idea of jumping off of the platform was terrifying. But, all in all, I would do it again. It was actually a very fun experience.

The Vision Board that we did made us focus on what we cared about. I focused on my roots in Singapore and Hong Kong. I also focused on my hobbies. This helped me to reflect on what I love to do.

All in all, the Mental Health session made me feel better. From facing fears to expressing emotions, I really enjoyed the last session.



Mr. Armando's Famous Beef Stew

This dish is a guaranteed sell-out and a favorite among students and staff. Mr. Armando finally graced us with his recipe so you could enjoy this meal with your children this summer!

Thank you, Mr. Armando!

INGREDIENTS:

(Yields 4 Servings)

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon freshly-ground pepper
1 lb. beef stew meat, trimmed and cut into inch cubes
(alternative: lean ground beef)
5 teaspoons vegetable oil
1 cup red wine - (optional)
3 1/2 cups beef broth (homemade or low-sodium canned)
2 bay leaves
1 medium onion (peeled & chopped)
5 medium carrots (peeled & cut)
2 large baking potatoes (cut into 3/4 inch cubes)
2 teaspoons salt (to taste)

1

Combine the flour and pepper in a bowl, add the beef and toss to coat. Heat 3 teaspoons of the vegetable oil in a large pot. Add the beef a few pieces at a time; careful not to overcrowd. Cook, and turn pieces until beef is browned on all sides.

2

Remove the beef from the pot and add the wine. Cook over medium-high heat, scrape the pan with a wooden spoon to loosen any brown bits. Re-add beef, broth and bay leaves. Bring to a boil, and reduce to a low simmer.

3

Cover and cook, skimming broth from time to time until beef is tender; (about 1 1/2 hours.) Add the onions and carrots then simmer covered for another 10 minutes. Add the potatoes and simmer until all vegetables are tender. Add broth or water if the stew is dry--season to taste.

4

Ladle stew over cooked white rice and serve.

Summer of FUN



Summer



