



## February Newsletter 2022

Dear MSA Families,

A warm greeting to you on this cold, snowy day! Nature gave us a fun surprise as it delivered about 2 inches of snow on this numerically fun day 2/2/2022!

Please note that Progress Reports for Semester 1 were emailed out yesterday. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you for all the fun we had during our Spirit Week! We introduced our Positive Behavior Plan where children can SHINE at school and are given colored raindrops. When sun and water meet they create a rainbow and we are collecting these SHINING drops and building an MSA Rainbow in our multi-purpose room. The students have already done so many good acts and our rainbow is quickly forming! We experienced lots of "School Spirit" and enthusiasm and appreciate the students' participation.

Good news! We are hoping to get our swing sets delivered at the end of this month! As mentioned previously, the order for these were placed in June but there have been several delays on delivery time due to the COVID pandemic. We're looking forward to receiving these and getting them installed soon for our students to use!

Our gardening program is quickly expanding! We now have two additional greenhouses and the first radish greens are already sprouting! We're planning to bring in chickens soon and are creating a space for that. Also, thanks to a grant we received from Whole Kids Foundation, we will be able to build a beehive and teach students about the importance of bees in connection with gardening. Students are currently creating their own herbariums and there are other educational projects planned. A special thank you to Caleb Warnock, our gardening teacher and Aspen Meeks, our gardening assistant, for their excellent work and sharing their expertise with us.

We have some exciting events planned for February. We're looking forward to hearing from our amazing school social worker, Clorissa Bascom, who will be talking about relationships! We hope you can join us for a fun and informative parent evening!

We also have two fieldtrips this month to the State Capitol for 6th and 7th grade. 4th and 5th grades attending last month and Mrs. Perry's 5th grade class was pictured and featured in Senator Anderegg's weekly General Legislative Session review! (Pictured below). We were also favored with Representative

Maloy coming to speak to our students at an assembly for grades 4-7.

Mrs. Perry's class will also be putting on their class play this month! Our best wishes to them as they continue their preparations!

We hope your children are participating in the "Love of Reading" Bingo this month! We look forward to the fun reading activities and giving out a book to each student! A special thank you to our Library Committee and all the work and time they have put into this to benefit our students here!

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day as a school on February 14th. Please see the guidelines below. This is an opportunity to express our love and appreciation for one another as teachers, students, parents, community, and as a school!

May your month of February be filled with Love and Kindness!

Warmly,  
Krystelle Rose MBA, MA Ed.  
Executive Director  
Founder  
Mountain Sunrise Academy



## *Upcoming Events - Save the Date!*

### **FEB 7 & 22 - Capitol Field Trips**

2/7 - Monday - 6th Grade

2/22 - Tuesday - 7th Grade

Thanks to a grant, we will have buses for these field trips!

### **FEB 10, 6:30 PM - Parent Evening**

Join us for a parent evening with school social worker, Clorissa Bascom! She will be sharing tools for improving relationships with everyone in your life, including yourself.

### **FEB 14 - St. Valentine's Day**

St Valentine's Day is an annual festival to celebrate love, friendship

### **FEB 15, 6 PM - Mrs. Perry's 5th Grade Class Play**

Mrs. Perry's class is performing a

and admiration. Every year on February 14th people celebrate this day by sending messages of love and affection to family and friends.

Greek play called Demeter and Persephone. Friends and family are welcome to come on February 15 at 6 PM. The class is very excited to perform for you!

## **FEB 16**

Planetarium Fieldtrip - 6th Grade

## **FEB 21 - President's Day, NO SCHOOL**

Presidents' Day, or Washington's Birthday, is a holiday on the third Monday in February honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The day is sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.

# *Valentine's Day Exchange Guidelines*

Students are encouraged to decorate and bring Valentine's boxes for a class valentine exchange! This is an opportunity to showcase creativity!

Due to COVID, if your child is bringing food as gifts, only store-bought items should be given. Our focus is on the giving and making of gifts as acts of kindness, rather than the focus being on receiving copious amounts of sugar (candy). Students are to bring no candy (including chocolate) for the Valentine exchange. Class parties may have other treats besides candy.

Students are encouraged to make items to share with their classmates (some examples include cards, origami, nature crafts, painted rocks, kind sayings, paintings, etc.) but we know that's not always practical, so store-bought cards are also welcome. Other optional items could include stickers, small pieces of fruit such as tangerines, raisins, pencils, crafts, etc.

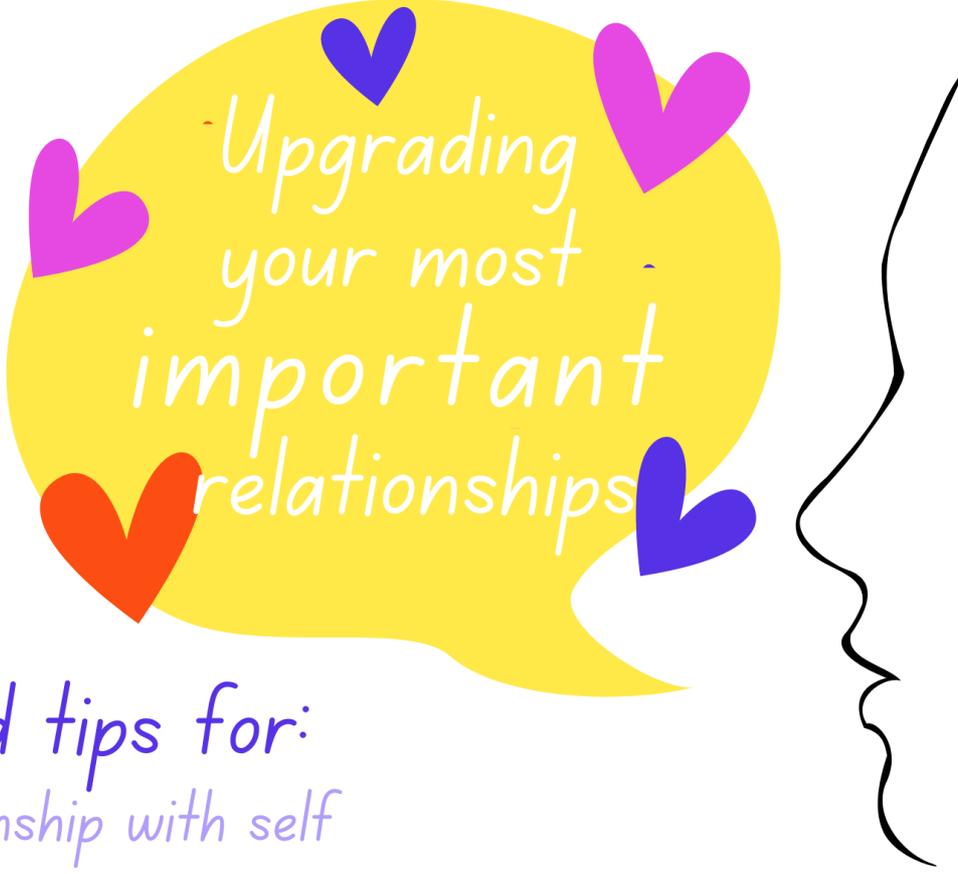
Please bring in blank (un-named) valentines with your child's signature according to the number of students that is in your class to facilitate an easier exchange or reach out to your teacher if you want to include first names.



Senator Anderegg visiting with 5th Graders from Mountain Sunrise Academy

# PARENT NIGHT!

With Clorissa Bascom, School Social Worker



Upgrading  
your most  
important  
relationships

## Tools and tips for:

- 1- Relationship with self
- 2- Relationship with significant others
- 3- Relationship with those you influence
- 4- Relationship with your life purpose

Using positive and solution focused models to create hope and change



**MOUNTAIN  
SUNRISE  
ACADEMY**

Feb 10 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

MSA Auditorium

Spirit Week Fun!

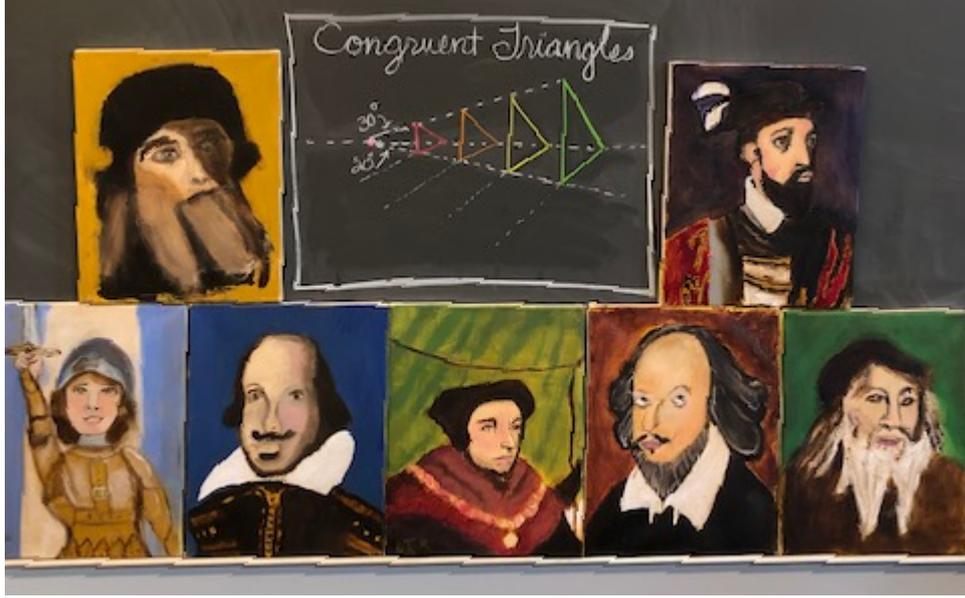


We loved seeing everyone celebrate the school's birthday with creative hat and hair day, class colors, and kind acts of service last month!

## *7th Grade Oil Painting*

Mrs. McDonald's class recently learned to oil paint! It appears we have some Rembrandts and Da Vincis among us!





## *Valentine's Day Story*

### **A Gathering of Love**



## By Malissa McClintock for Happy Hedgehog Post

It was a chilly February morning, just as everyone expected it to be. The light dusting of snow that had fallen the night before was glistening from the branches and boughs of the trees in the forest. The sun made the cold, white blanket of ground sparkle like diamonds. And the air makes everyone's breath curl in little puffs of white clouds.

Most mornings were the same- everyone in the village would pass one another during the start of their daily journey, nodding hello in the chilly air. They were cordial to one another while they continued on their way, eager to begin their day of work and craft.

For you see, their village was a working village of gnomes. Each one had a very specific job to do for the village. Some would gather wood for fires in the homes. Some would check the pantry of food to be sure that everyone had enough stored for the duration of the winter. And some would simply check on the animals around the village in the forest, to be sure they were safe and warm, and fed. All of the gnomes worked together for each other and with each other to be sure that everyone was safe, cared for, and loves.

However, this particular February morning started a little more slowly. Each gnome arose and took care of their household chores and took a few extra minutes to drink their tea and eat their breakfast. For today was February 14th- Valentine's Day- a very special day in the village. It was a day where instead of rushing by one another, they paused together in the square. Rather than doing jobs and merely nodding to their friends, they would slow down and walk with one another.

Valentine's Day was important to the gnomes. If you watched them carefully, you would see their lunch baskets, usually tucked neatly with their snacks and tea, were instead overflowing with bursts of colors- mostly red, white, and pink. As they all trickled into the square- as they spent time chatting instead of bustling about - they gathered around the tree in the center of the square. Each gnome then placed their basket beneath the Gathering Tree and then spread blankets upon the square.

They waited every so briefly for the mayor of their village to climb the small set of stairs to the stage next to the Gathering Tree. He wore his special Celebration hat that was extra red and extra pointy as well as his handsome black full-length coat. As he stood at the center of the stage, all of the gnomes applauded him and then fell silent as he began to speak.

"As you all know," the mayor began, "today is a very important day for our town. It is a day not only to slow down in our business and talk to one another, but it is a day to see that the white and cold of winter will not last forever. We have all presented before the Gathering Tree baskets of colorful decorations. Each of us has taken the time to craft these ornaments with love and generosity in our hearts- for we all know that each of us is very important to all of the others in our village. Without one of us, others can suffer. And thus, we celebrate, appreciate, and dedicate these ornaments to one another for all that we do and all that we mean to our village!"

All of the gnomes once again applauded the Mayor as he walked down the stairs, picked up his own basket, and placed heart ornaments and garlands up the Gathering Tree. When his basket was empty, he turned to the village once again.

“My friends- thank you! From my heart thank you for being my friend, my neighbor, and my companions. I appreciate and love each and every one of you! You will find a heart on this tree for each of you! For I know to be a village, we must ALL be a part of the whole! Now, please, Gather! Decorate our tree! And then come to my house for cakes and tea!!”

All of the Gnomes cheered and began to place their ornaments and garlands upon the Gathering Tree. As they did so, each was able to see their own name placed on the tree by others. The love they felt for one another was so great that they all began to sing songs of love, winter, and friendship. When the last basket was empty and the blankets were all folded neatly and tucked underarms, the gnomes made their way the short distance to the edge of the forest where the Mayor lived. They placed their baskets outside the doorway and entered to the sweet smell of cake and hibiscus tea. There was no formal seating or place of honor, for EACH gnome was the honored one and the most important person there.

This celebration was one of their favorites, for winter was long and often dark, and it seemed to take a very long time to pass. Even though they saw each other daily as they set about their work, they hardly took the time- whether from the chill in the air or the list in their pockets – to really be with one another in friendship by this time of year. Valentine’s Day gave them a reason to pause, and to honor, and to laugh. But mostly it reminded them to LOVE above all things. Nothing was ever too important or too necessary that they couldn’t stop for one day and love one another.

So, when you are feeling cold and the winter is long and dark- find some bits of red and pink, gather with your village, and remember to LOVE one another. You will find a warmth that will carry you to the first signs of Spring, the warm days that follow, and the friendships that will be awaiting the time to shine together.



# For the Love of Books!

The library committee is excited to announce this year's school reading challenge: For the Love of Books! We will be starting February 1st and will focus on reading all month long. Each student will receive a bingo card with reading suggestions that they can mark off when they complete an activity. On Tuesdays, they can bring their bingo cards to the library to receive a free bookmark for each bingo they complete! Every week we will have a special reading focused activity they can participate in at school culminating in a pajama day read-a-thon where every student will receive a free book! We really want to instill a love of books in every student at our school and can't wait for this fun event.



## Mountain Sunrise Academy

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