Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2014!

We are excited to return to school and continue on the path of Montessori learning. We hope your holiday season was filled with moments of joy and laughter!

The second semester at TMA/TR begins quickly as we dive right back into the curriculum and course of study. This issue of *Tiger Tales* will highlight activities, events, field trips, and more! Please be sure to share this with your child.

Inside This Issue!

- Faculty Highlight:
- Mrs. Judy Phillips
- Alumni Highlight
- TMA Happenings
- And More!

Find us on: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)
Focus on the Faculty: 
Mrs. Judy Phillips

This month’s Focus on the Faculty highlights Mrs. Judy Phillips. Mrs. Phillips has been with TMA for many years as the afterschool piano and vocal teacher. Mrs. Phillips is our Lower Elementary Music teacher. She began the school year by sharing the love of music and musical study with the Lower Elementary students, and culminated the fall semester with an amazing performance at this year’s holiday program. Mrs. Phillips is excited to explore the different levels of music with her students. She is a lover and protector of nature, pushing along her passion to her students every day.

Alumni Highlight: 
Melody Lin

This month’s Alumni Highlight is Ms. Melody Lin. Melody is one of the original members of the TMA Alumni Group. She continued her studies at St. Petersburg High School, graduating with honors and entering Georgia Tech University. Melody graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Systems and Industrial Engineering, and now is a Senior Business Analyst at Capital One.

We are proud of Melody and all of her accomplishments!
Come cheer on your TMA Odyssey of the Mind teams at this year’s Regional Tournament! Saturday, February 15 at Lake Highland Preparatory School! Team performance times to be announced soon. Let’s show the Magic Center Region that TMA supports our teams STRONG!
TMA Happenings

January 17: Lower Elementary Field Trip-Fort Christmas
January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day-School Closed (No childcare)
January 26: Open House @ Main Campus
January 28: Science Fair (Upper Elementary)
January 30: Spelling Bee (Upper Elementary)
February 1st: Open House @ Twin Rivers Campus
February 11: Lower Elementary Field Trip: Orlando Rep Theatre
February 17: President’s Day-School Closed (No child care)

For the latest events and information, please visit our website at www.tuskmont.org.

President’s Day-School Closed

TMA/TR will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2014 in observation of President’s Day. There will be no childcare available.

Science Fair: Upper Elementary

Our Upper Elementary students will be having their annual Science Fair on Tuesday, January 28 All boards will be displayed in the classrooms.

Famous Faces in Montessori

Will Right
Video Game Designer: The Sims

Will Right is the avid game designer and visionary behind the famous “Sims” series in the video game industry. He has been noted as the pioneer of blending both the digital realm and the realm of creativity that allows users to create their own endings. He told the Wall Street Journal, “Montessori taught me the joy of discovery”, and attributes his Montessori education as the spark to the remainder of his career and success.
We are so excited to tell you about the events the PTA is planning for the coming months.

On February 21st we will have our Valentine’s Dance. This event is open to children K and up and their families. It is free of charge for all to attend. Stay tuned for more information.

We're collecting JEANS for Families in Transition this February. Bring any size new or used clean jeans in good condition to your child's classroom to help our PTA help families in our very own community. (If you love to walk and run, FIT is having a fundraiser run on February 1st. Visit www.seminolehomelesskids.org for details).

As our children embark on their Terra Nova Testing, the PTA is again providing a celebratory snack to wrap things up and congratulate them on their hard work.

At Field Day this year the PTA will be providing a caricature artist. Keep an eye on your child's backpack so you can see the fun portrait they bring home.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9th. The PTA is showing the TMA/TR teachers and staff how much we value and appreciate them by taking them out for dinner on May 7th. Stay tuned for information on how you and your children can each individually celebrate your teachers and staff as well.

This year after our students' graduation ceremony, the PTA will celebrate our graduates and their achievements with a PTA-sponsored reception. Graduation is on Monday May 19th at Trinity Prep.

At this mid-point in the year, it's a great time to look back and remember the events that the PTA has brought to our school.

The Trunk or Treat event in October was a huge success and we’ve already had numerous requests to do it again next year.

The PTA was delighted to sponsor the Santa Claus visits to TMA and to TR this year. We hope your children loved having Santa visit them at their very own school.

The Drop and Shop event was a fun-filled time for all. The kids decorated gingerbread houses, had snacks, played games and did many other fun activities. If you missed it this year, keep it in mind for next year!

We’ve had several successful Spirit Nights this year and look forward to more in the 2014-2015 school year.

Thank you so much for the energy that you, the parents and teachers, bring to the PTA events. We couldn’t do them without you!
Upper Elementary Spelling Bee

The Middle School and Upper Elementary students will participate in the annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, 1/30 in the TMA Library. Come watch as our students display their love for global geography!

Baby DJ Toy Drive

Another great year for TMA/TR’s Baby DJ Toy Drive. We were able to collect several loads of toys and goodies for Central Florida families. A special thank to XL 106.7 for allowing us to be a part of their amazing charity.

Interactive Calendar available on TMA Website

The hardest part of being able to offer our students so many afterschool/in-school opportunities is the ability to keep them on schedule! To aid in the organization, TMA/TR provides an interactive calendar on our website, www.tuskmont.org. Although our newsletter provides a medium to highlight the month’s events, the online calendar is most up-to-date source for information, reschedules, etc. You can visit the calendar by clicking on “TMA Calendar” on the left-side navigation bar. The Interactive Calendar link also has instructions for RSS Feed sync, smartphone sync, and more.

School Safety

Please keep the following rules in mind while on TMA/TR property:
1. Speed Limit is 5MPH
2. Please do not keep car parked in car line. If your child is not ready to leave, please park your car and wait for a teacher to bring him/her out to you.
3. Any and all visitors to campus must sign-in in the front office prior to entering a classroom.
4. To volunteer at TMA/TR, you must complete a Fingerprint/Background check through Seminole County.
5. Main Campus: Traffic flows in ONE direction from 8:15-8:45 in the mornings, and 2:45-3:15 in the afternoons (1:45-2:15 on Wednesdays). It flows from the Dike Road entrance.

Yearbook Orders

It’s that time of year! The yearbook is well underway and we are excited to show you this year’s book of memories and fun. One of the greatest parts of our yearbook is the personal pages and advertisements from parents to students! Interested? Email Mrs. Garner at SGarner@cfl.rr.com for more information.
Preschool/Kindergarten

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a nice Winter Break! We want to thank all of you for all of your amazing presents and holiday cards and for all of your help during the holiday festivities. We will begin the month of January studying bears and other mammals. We will talk about winter and learn about Martin Luther King Jr. Later during this month, we will be studying reptiles and dinosaurs. If you have any books related to these topics, please send them with your child to share with the class.

Looking forward to an amazing year!

Lower Elementary

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the spring semester! We would like to thank everyone for an amazing first semester. A special thanks to all of our volunteer parents who helped make our fall term a complete success. On February 7, 2014, our classrooms will display a collection a fascinating scientific research and experiments. We know your child has been eagerly anticipating Science Day, and you have been a big part in encouraging them to become great scientists. We welcome you to our classrooms on this day from 8:30AM-10AM to witness and hear their amazing discoveries. If you have any questions due dates or your child's board, please contact your child's teachers. This month's field trip will be on Friday, January 17th to Fort Christmas State Park. We will learn about the history of Florida during the Second Seminole Indian War between 1835-1842. We are excited for our students to see history come to life as they learn about the history of our home state. Please note that report cards will be going home on Monday, January 13th. Additionally, our classroom pets continue to be an integral part of our classroom learning. Our rabbits, Shadow and Magic, continue to be cared for by our very own students. As communicated at the beginning of the year, we rely on our community of parents to help the children care for the animals with food and other pet-related items. If you can donate these items to our classrooms, we would gladly appreciate it. Please email us for more information.

Upper Elementary

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. We are back in the classrooms and starting off with a flurry of activities and happenings. The month of January brings us strong into the second semester, beginning with our Science Fair (1/28), Spelling Bee (1/30), and the remainder of our Winter Projects. The students have all been introduced into the Advanced Reader program in our classroom, and can now include AR in their course of study and reading program. Our students are exploring the world of naming, equivalent, and simplifying/reducing fractions. Children continue to work at their level of study in all areas of our classroom. We are also approaching our annual Book Float event, as well as the introduction to the Poetry unit of study. The end result will be the child’s personal Poetry Anthologies. The students continue to excel in Beginning and Concert bands as they prepare for the end of the year performance at our Graduation Commencement.

Middle School

The middle school is studying genetics in Science throughout January. Students will develop a family pedigree chart, work with the Punnett Square, and build a DNA model. Additionally, students will complete three experiments in the field of genetics. The class will also work with a computer program to discover how genetics determines certain characteristics in the offspring.

Personal World reflections are introducing students to a win / win approach in dealing with other people. Students will explore areas such as competition and conflict to gain a better understanding of working with others so that everyone benefits.
A message from your TMA/TR Faculty and Staff

“Another fresh new year is here . . .
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest . . .
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing joyful songs!”-William Arthur Ward

We are excited for 2014 and all of the amazing opportunities that follow. We hope your holidays were warm and bright! TMA/TR begins 2014 with a rededication of our mission: *We are committed to providing an enriching and challenging environment where each child is encouraged to develop to his or her fullest potential academically, socially, and emotionally.*

-Your TMA/TR Staff

Happy New Year 2014

Discover the Montessori difference
www.tuskmont.org