



Monteverde Friends School/Escuela de los Amigos

November 2022

www.mfschool.org

We apologize that some of you received recent newsletters without pictures. The software we use had changed a bit, but we believe (hope!) we have addressed that.

Shared Values



*"Community. Take care of each other, grow together, ensure common welfare, finding in each challenge an opportunity to love."
-- sign on our school office.*

During the month of November our special days focus on values -- both Costa Rican and Quaker values.

One of the reasons that Quakers first settled in Monteverde was that they found Costa Rican values very similar to Quaker values. We work to express those values of community, family, and service to others.

We have celebrated these special days for many years -- except for the last few years, when we could not gather due to the pandemic restrictions. That precluded meeting as a whole school for some events. Other events had to be cancelled because they involved people from outside the school, and there was a risk that such meetings might infect either our students or the community members.

So it is with great gratitude that we gather this year for activities both on-campus and out in the community that celebrate these values.

Another value is generosity -- something we value deeply in our donors.

We hope that we will hear from many of you for Giving Tuesday, November 29, and for end of year donations that shore up our scholarship fund. We also have a special need for our youngest students and will be revealing that soon!

Please Remember us for Year-End Donations!

Our students of all ages have been decorating envelopes and writing messages on the letters to bring a smile to the faces of some of our donors (if we have a physical address for you).

We hope everyone will consider including MFS in your year-end donation. Go to www.mfs.school/donate to make tax deductible donations in the U.S., Canada or Costa Rica.



Family Values



The Torres grandparents with 6 of their 7 grandchildren who attend MFS, from Pre-K to grade 11/12!



Students were eager to show their grandparents or friends what they were doing in their classrooms.

On November 9th, students invited their grandparents or an older friend for our GrandFriends day. Over 70 guests attended, an all-time record for this annual celebration. The larger group probably reflected the fact that it has been three years since we have been able to hold this celebration in person.

In the words of Liza Ewen, Head of School, "Grandfriends Day celebration is the perfect example of one of our core values: we strive to listen to the wisdom within each individual, regardless of age. We are grateful to all who joined us last week, and we are grateful to all of our families for sharing their children and elders with us."

In Costa Rica, the family -- both nuclear and extended -- is of primary importance. It is not unusual for young men and women to live with the family until they marry. Even teens may be seen holding a parent's hand or hugging them in public. Weekends are often spent in extended family gatherings.

While we have ongoing contact with parents, we don't see the previous generation very much, so it makes sense to have a day when we can welcome them to campus for their grandchildren to show them what daily life at school involves. The grandparents start with a small meal, then join the entire school at Mid-week Worship, then proceed to classes with their grandchildren for the morning.

When parents choose to entrust MFS with their children, we feel that as an indication of their faith in us to provide a strong, bilingual education with values that closely coincide with Costa Rican values. When families entrust us with multiple generations, that sends an even stronger message.

We have a number of MFS alumni who have enrolled their students with us. In fact, now that it is 71 years since the school was founded, we even have great grandchildren of the Rockwell brothers who were among the first group of Quakers who came to Monteverde in 1951.



A proud student escorting her grandmother. And below, the breakfast gathering for our guests.



All of the children from the Guindon family, also in that initial group, attended MFS, and 10 of the grandchildren attended as well.

We are delighted to underscore in this way each year the importance of family ties, and the ongoing trust in our school.

Have a student who will be in 11th or 12th grade for 2023-24?

Would they be interested in a study abroad with us?

We anticipate that we will have **1 or 2 seats** available in our combined 11/12 grade classroom for the 2023-4 school year (August to May)

More information, including costs, on our **web page**.

After reading that, please **contact us** if you have a student who is interested

Valuing Service



The word "service" is in a way an umbrella for a few other values -- generosity, community, responsibility, and love. That's why we find doing service outside the school important enough to set aside a day each semester for our students to go out into the community and help organizations, families and individuals.

This semester, our Day of Service fell on November 15th. All students were divided into teams that included students of various ages and grades for a different opportunity to interact. Each team was accompanied by two adults, teachers and staff members from our school.

Their assignments were wide and varied among community organizations. A group of our students painted a long wall at a nearby public school, while others tended a garden at a child development center and a church. One team sorted recycled goods at the area recycling collection center -- learning how much waste there is in our community despite our focus on the environment. Students cleaned outdoor forest trails for two local reserves. One team not only cleaned water springs for our local water and sewer department, they attended an environmental talk on the importance of water management.



In a service day before the pandemic, the focus was on helping older community members with tasks around their houses. A lesson before students headed out made an important distinction between the word "elderly", which often connotes weakness and disability -- needing a cane or wheelchair, having poor hearing and sight -- and the word "elder" which emphasizes instead the knowledge and expertise that older people have from their life experiences.

While each task in our recent service day was hard work, the smiles tell the story that students also enjoyed offering their service.



International Giving Tuesday is coming up on November 29th!

Stay tuned to hear about a special
-- and fun! --
project for our youngest students that your support can make happen!

But you don't have to wait! You can always [Donate Now](#)