Sunstone Class
2019-2020
Back-to-School Night

1st/2nd/3rd Grade
Teacher: Ms. Judith Ortiz
Teacher Assistant: Ms. Anna Maita
Teacher Assistant: Ms. Judith “Ms. J” Castaneda
Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Sunstone Classroom! We are pleased to welcome back many of our returning Sunstone students, and send a warm welcome to our new Sunstone students and their families. We look forward to working with your children this school year.

Below are the teacher’s emails to send us any messages. You may also leave a message for us in the office by calling (916)714-9702. If you would like to meet in person, please schedule a meeting, either before or after school. Thank you!

Sincerely,  Ms. Judith, Ms. Anna, and Ms. J

jortiz@cacmp.org   amaita@cacmp.org          jcastaneda@cacmp.org

California Montessori Project

The Mission of the California Montessori Project is to provide a Quality, Tuition-Free, Montessori Education that challenges our students to reach their full potential.

California Montessori Project Students:

Make safe, respectful, and responsible choices for themselves and empower others to do so as well.

Are Montessori Learners who work independently, demonstrate initiative, utilize the power of concentration, think critically, and are life-long learners.

Are ambassadors of grace and courtesy who celebrate the diversity in our global community.

Are agents of change, who have a strong sense of community, are socially responsible, connected to their environment, advocate for themselves and others, and are empowered to be problem solvers.

How to help your child to have a successful year in the Sunstone Classroom:

• Establish a means of regular communication. We are available by phone, email, and appointment.
• Inform the teacher of any events or life changes that occur at home that may influence your child’s behavior in class.
• Have positive conversations at home about the importance of learning.
• Set high goals and support the goals set by the teachers.
• Encourage reading every day and let your child see you reading at home.
• Provide access to age-appropriate reading materials and/or educational games at home.
• Set aside quiet time and a special quiet place for homework. Ensure all homework is completed each night.
• Take the time to go through any paperwork that are sent home and return any paperwork to school in a timely manner.
Communication:
• Contacting Ms. Judith
  o The best form of contact is via email at jortiz@cacmp.org.
  o Schedule a time to meet via email, school phone, or in person.
• Parent Communication
  o Read the Sunstone Newsletter and School Montessorigram.
  o ParentSquare Portal
  o Read and review information sent home in child’s communication and homework folders. Return any forms/paperwork to the classroom/office by the due date.

Daily Schedule:
Monday, Thursday, & Friday
8:05 Classroom Door Opens/Morning Meditation
8:15-8:30 Class Begins/Morning Meeting
8:30-11:15 Work Time
11:15-11:45 Recess
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-12:45 SSR/Teacher Read Aloud
12:45-1:30 Writing Rotations
1:30-2:15 Cultural Rotations
  Sunstone: Art History        Ruby: History
  Emerald: Geography          Amethyst: Botany
2:15-2:30 Care of Environment
2:30-2:45 Final Meeting
2:45 Dismissal

Tuesday
8:05 Classroom Door Opens
8:15-9:25 PE
9:25-9:45 Group Snack
9:45-11:15 Reading Groups
11:15-11:45 Recess
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-2:15 Work Time
2:15-2:30 Care of Environment
2:30-2:45 Final Meeting
2:45 Dismissal

Non-Early Release Wednesday
8:05 Classroom Door Opens/Meditation
8:15-8:30 Class Begins/Morning Meeting
8:30-11:15 Work Time
11:15-11:45 Recess
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-12:45 SSR/Teacher Read Aloud
12:45-1:30 Writing
1:30-2:40 PE
2:45 Dismissal

Early Release Wednesday
8:05 Classroom Door Opens/Morning Meditation
8:15-8:30 Class Begins/Morning Meeting
8:30-11:15 Work Time
9:40-10:00 Library
11:15-11:30 Care of Environment
11:30-11:45 Final Meeting
11:45 Dismissal
Lunch & Recess:

We are a mango-free school. Please do not send your child with mango or products containing mango/mango flavoring.

- Recess will begin at 11:15 am each day
- We will eat lunch at 11:45 am each day (There will be no lunch on ERD’s)
- Warm-ups:
  - Make sure everything is pre-cooked so the warm-up process only takes a minute to heat up. Do not send your child to school with frozen meals.
  - Lunches need to be microwave ready with proper utensils.
- Healthy Lunches:
  - We ask for your support by providing a healthy and well balanced lunch for your child. We also require that students eat healthy choices prior to any ‘treats’.

Dress Code:

Our Montessori classroom has been prepared for your children to work at their level in a peaceful environment. Part of creating and maintaining a peaceful environment is to remove as many distractions as possible. For this reason, we are asking that all students are in dress code at all times. If your child is found to be out of dress code compliance, a friendly reminder will be sent home asking that your child returns to school the following day in dress code. Students who are not in dress code will not have the opportunity to wear Free Dress on Fridays. Your child earns Free Dress Fridays by:
  - Attending school all week and on time (no tardies)
  - Dress in uniform dress code all week

Birthdays:

On your child’s birthday, or as close as possible, we will have a “Birthday Circle”. Your family is also invited to participate in this celebration. The child will walk around the “sun” one time to represent one year of his/her life. Each time the child completes one circle, the parent(s), child, and/or teacher will discuss a milestone story from that age. We encourage you to send in photographs from each year of your child’s life.

If you would like to send in a birthday treat for the class, please let us know prior to the Birthday Circle. There would need to be enough birthday treats for 23 students. The Birthday Circle is best done around 2:30pm, before dismissal time. If this does not work with your family, please let us know and we can arrange a different time. Weekend birthdays will be celebrated the Friday before or Monday after. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the last week of school.

Me Museum:

Each child will have a week this school year to have his/her own “Me Museum”. This is an opportunity for the students to share a little about themselves and practice speaking in front of the group. There will be a Me Museum calendar sent home to show the week each student will be sharing.

- Your child will be responsible to bring in five (5) items that are special on the Monday of his/her week. The items will be on display in the Me Museum case for the entire week. At morning circle each day, he/she will be given the opportunity to share one item.

Person of the Day:
Person of the Day is different from Me Museum. Person of the day is responsible for:

1. Bringing a healthy snack for the class the day they are assigned.
   a. Please see the ‘Person of the Day Schedule’ to determine which days your child will be responsible for.
   b. Please make sure the snack represents **two food groups**
   c. The snack that is sent to school is considered a donation and can be used for parent participation hours; therefore, we will not be sending home leftovers
2. Leading some specialized activities throughout the day
3. Being the line leader for the day

**Toys:**
Students should not be bringing toys to the classroom from home or storing toys in their backpacks. They are a distraction during the school day and often become lost or broken. Toys that are allowed at school are donated communal sand and playground toys that the students can use at recess. Please limit the amount of key chains hanging from your child’s backpack as they also are a distraction. Students may bring in books from home to read during SSR. However, students are not allowed to exchange books or any items from home at school.

**Homework/Friday Folders:**
Homework will consist of the following:
- Reading Log
- Practical Life Skill

**It is the expectation that your 2nd and 3rd graders are completing the reading log themselves.**

Homework folders are sent home on Fridays and are to be turned in the following Thursdays.

The following content will be sent home. These are not required as homework, but to serve as additional practice for your child at home:
- Sight Word Lists – tests on Thursdays
- Spelling Lists – tests on Fridays
- Rosetta Stone

Every Friday your child’s homework folder will contain paperwork and information from the school. Please read through the content inside the folder and return the folder or any forms in the “Important Papers” section the following Monday. Please remove any student work in the “Keep at Home” section before returning folders.

Daily classroom announcements and information are posted in our classroom newsletters and easel outside our classroom. Please check them for up to date information regarding our classroom.

**Friday Letters:**
Your child will be writing a letter to you each Friday to tell you what they have learned and done in school. Please respect that this is an unedited piece of writing, whose purpose is both to help your child think about the week’s learning and to communicate with you. **The Friday Letters will be found in your child’s Homework/Friday Folders.** It will be your homework over the week to write back to your child on the reverse side of the letter and return it to school in
your child’s Homework/Friday Folder the following Thursday. At the end of the school year, you will receive a collection of letters filled with memories and examples of your child’s growth.

**Projects:**
Students will be assigned 3 art projects during the school year that corresponds with the three writing types taught at school. These writing projects will be done at home to support students with the writing process. Instructions and guidelines will also go home with each project.

**Parent Volunteers:**
When the normalization process is complete (approx. 8 weeks from the start of school), we will welcome parent volunteers into our classroom. If you have a special talent such as art, yoga, sign language, or another language, we would love to have you share it with the students. Please make sure you’ve completed the following to volunteer in the classroom:

1. Livescan – once for CMP
2. TB Test – every 4 years
3. 7 Habits Training Course – attend once

   o Volunteering in the classroom working with students
     - Sight Word Tests (Weekly)
     - Spelling Tests (Weekly)
     - Handwriting Lessons (Weekly)
     - Social Studies Weekly Lessons (Weekly)

   o Volunteering at school events
     - Harvest Festival
     - Gratitude Feast
     - Science Expo
     - Fun Run

If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, please contact me to schedule a time.

**Field Trips:**
Field trips are essential towards a student’s learning. In order for our field trips to be successful, we need many parent volunteers to help with driving and chaperoning. You need to have:

1. Livescan - once for CMP
2. TB Test – every 4 years
3. Copy of your Driver’s License - yearly
4. Copy of car registration (the car that will be driving on the field trip)- yearly
5. DMV record (3 year record) - yearly
6. 7 Habits Training Course
7. Appropriate Insurance to drive on a field trip

There is a hard deadline for drivers and chaperones. You will need to be cleared when returning permission slips. If not, you are not considered a driver or chaperone. You will be contacted with a confirmation that you will be participating on the field trip.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Principal’s Café @ BR 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Maria Montessori Assembly at 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Homework Starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Governing Board Meeting @ BR 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Family Picnic @ EG 5-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Peace Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Principal’s Café @ BR 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Harvest Festival @ BR 4-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>Red Ribbon Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Principal’s Café @ BR 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>B Street Field Trip</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Veteran’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>EG Gratitude Feast</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Watch Me Work Night 4-6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Movie &amp; Pajama Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-31</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Winter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Winter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ MLK Day</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>100th Day of School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science Expo @ BR</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Principal’s Café @ EG 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ President’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Art Walk @ BR 4-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Fun Run @ BR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-13</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Family Picnic @ EG 5-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL ~ Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Release Day ~ 11:45am Dismissal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd Grade Fling ~ 9:30am</td>
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California Montessori Project - Elk Grove
Sunstone Class Field Trip Dates
October 15 – Effie Yeaw: Nature in the Class (On-Campus Field Trip)

October (TBD) – Elk Grove High School Homecoming Parade (Walking Field Trip)

November 8 – B Street (Off Campus Field Trip)

January 24 – Science Expo at BR (Off Campus Field Trip)

February 13 – Crocker Art (Off Campus Field Trip)

March 26 – Fun Run at BR (Off Campus Field Trip)

April (TBD) – Effie Yeaw (Off Campus Field Trip)

April (TBD) – 3rd Grade Zoo Overnight Field Trip (Off Campus Field Trip)

May 26 – Middle Ceremony at BR/Splash Day at Derr Okimoto (Off Campus Field Trip)