



DIYA

the newsletter for Houston's D.A.V. Montessori school



November 2017

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

The holiday season is upon us! Firstly, a very big thank you to the DAVM staff for preparing our students for a wonderful Diwali celebration and for parent volunteers for supporting the Mela. To round out October, the school hosted its annual Trunk-or-Treat. The costumes, decorations and pumpkins created a festive environment in the school.

Celebrations, like the Arya Samaj Diwali Mela and Trunk-or-Treat, are great opportunities to bring together the DAVM family. It gives parents a chance to meet each other and students to interact outside of the school setting. We encourage our DAVM students and parents to volunteer and attend these school functions.

This time of year also is our home stretch for the semester. By now, teachers and students have been working together for several weeks and well into their routines. Parents will have had their first parent-teacher conference – a time to understand and ask questions on your child's progress.

Raising children really does take a village and we are proud that DAVM is part of the system. Parents are encouraged to stay engaged with teachers, and don't hesitate to ask questions and be willing to listen. It takes a partnership between parents, teacher and child to make sure students are successful.

As we head into this holiday season, I encourage each and every DAVM parent to be engaged, help your children explore their world and celebrate the many festivals together.

"Holidays are about experiences and people, and tuning into what you feel like doing at that moment. Enjoy not having to look at a watch."

Thank you for continuing to trust DAVM with your child's education - our staff continues to teach and care for your children at the highest standard.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 13 - 14
Picture Day

Bring your infectious smiles on picture day. Pre-K students will take pictures on November 13 and the rest of the school will take pictures on November 14.

November 13 - 16
Mock IOWA testing

Students in the elementary level will be taking part in mock IOWA assessment tests.

Friday, November 17
Thanksgiving Play

Come watch the KG - 5th grade student put on a performance about Thanksgiving.

Friday, November 17
Student Dance Performance

Students of the afterschool dance class show off their new moves in a dance performance.

November 20 - 24
Thanksgiving Week

No school while children spend Thanksgiving week with their families. Childcare for full day students on November 20th and 21st and until 3PM on November 22nd. School is fully closed on November 23rd and 24th.

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

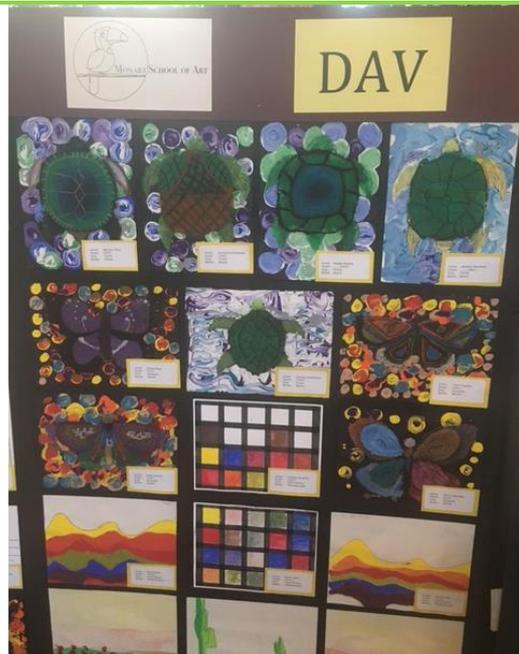
The school has an online presence and we encourage you to go visit our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?

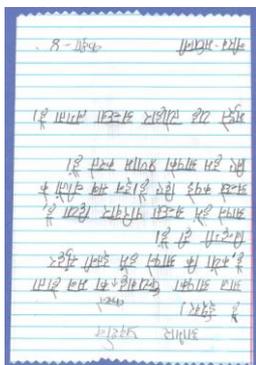
Your input is welcomed and important. Please send your ideas and feedback to [Ankur Kadakia](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: STUDENT WORK EXHIBIT

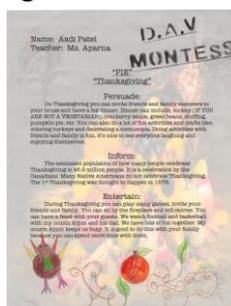
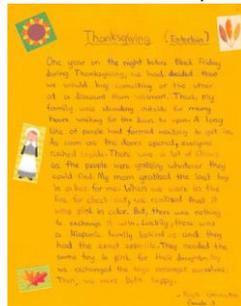
This year, DAVM introduced Art into the elementary curriculum. Instructors from the Monart Academy have been teaching students during the school week, giving students a chance to express themselves in a variety of media.



Monart offered a student exhibit that showcased the work their students have been doing at DAVM and many other schools and programs. It was a fantastic way to give parents a chance to see the hard work that their children put into art. Parents – stay tuned for the next exhibit!



Also, note that students are doing wonderful work in their classrooms – including story-telling. Parents, take time to read your students brilliant work that they bring home.



WEB GEM: THE IOWA TESTS

The Iowa Tests are nationally normed standardized tests that offer educators a diagnostic look at how their students are progressing in key academic areas. Available for K-12, the Iowa tests allow educators to trace student achievement growth continuously.

<http://www.setontesting.com/iowa-tests/>

As in years past, the elementary students in DAVM will participate in IOWA testing during the school year.



In The Community

[CoH Thanksgiving Day Parade](#)
Be mesmerized by the floats, sounds and colors in the 68th annual Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Houston. A free event, the parade has such iconic sights as a turkey float, local school marching bands, and popular children characters.

<http://www.houstontx.gov/thanksgivingparade/>

Look In a Book

[Giving Thanks](#)

The core purpose of Thanksgiving can be overlooked with the parties, shopping and vacations. Take time to discuss gratitude with your children:

[An Awesome Book of Thanks](#)

Dallas Clayton
Bear Says Thanks
Karma Wilson
Gratitude Soup
Olivia Rosewood
Just So Thankful
Mercer Mayer

Riddle Me This

Q: What is a scarecrow's favorite food?

A: Straw-berries!

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: It was the chicken's day off!

Q: What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?

A: Plymouth Rock!