

# Bruno Blast

**Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy**

## Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

December, 2018

I am always excited to see how the children embrace the many activities that emerge during the holiday season. The children come together to practice for the holiday music show as a form of “gift” to share with their parents! They support our Middle School with purchases from the “Holiday Store” and exchange stories with teachers and peers about their upcoming travels over the Winter break. In the spirit of the season, the lower elementary students give amaryllis bulbs to the respected residents at Shelby Ridge.

They also pass on their joy by singing holiday songs to the residents as well.

The faces of our JBMA students radiate their enthusiasm and joy for life and learning! As we conclude 2018, I express to you my heartfelt gratitude to all who help make Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy such a wonderful place to learn for children and adults alike.

I wish you all Peace, Joy and Happiness during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!

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## Strings Festival

Shahin Kooshlar, Tessa Tremblay-Cox and Leilah Kooshlar attended the American String Teachers Association Honor Strings Festival Oct. 26-28, 2018 at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

## Middle School Field Study in Washington DC

Our Middle School ventured up to our nation's capital to explore the roots of American History and Culture. Washington DC offers so many things to see and do, so it was hard to narrow down the most relevant activities that relate to what we have studied in the classroom. Following long preparation in the classroom, our students traveled to DC ready to learn and explore.

### *Essential Questions:*

The preservation of our history was the key concept that the students worked with during their study. They grappled with essential questions like:

- How do we make sure we remember our past and learn from it?
- What does it take to keep our most valuable artifacts safe and protected while still keeping them accessible?
- How do museums and memorials help us learn about what it means to be an American?

These ideas were at the center of conversations and activities that

students participated in throughout their time in the city.

### *Preparation*

Each student was prepared with a packet of readings, lessons, reflection spaces, and sketch pads. They were encouraged to interact with all aspects of the environment around them. They discussed the importance of protecting our founding documents (The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution) with new engineering technology, they sketched the Capitol Building, and created questions in preparation for a conversation with our Alabama Congressman, Mr. Gary Palmer. While learning about our capital is important for the next generation, field studies also expose students to valuable life skills that can only come from leaving the classroom. Students carefully planned and executed traveling by public transportation throughout the city, even learning how to interpret metro rail maps and distinguish the signage within different stations. They learned responsibility through keeping track of their own money

and budgeting appropriate amounts for their own meals. They learned to keep track of their belongings, and how important it was to be prepared each day for what lies ahead.

Even after all of this, the most important part of a field study is building and fostering positive community. Maria Montessori herself intended this to be an essential part of an adolescent's education. More important now than it ever has been before, our middle school abandoned their devices and screens to opt for fun, engaging, and thoughtful conversations about the world around them. They learned how to love each other and learn through shared experiences about who they are and where they belong.

At JBMA, field studies are a cornerstone of education for all of our students. Small or large, they help students explore their local, national, and global world. Learning experiences such as these are incredibly impactful for our students, and we are so grateful for a school community that supports and encourages these opportunities.



## Lower Elementary & Amaryllis Bulbs

Each year the lower elementary students plant Amaryllis bulbs, care for them and watch them grow.

Before the Holiday Break the students will load up the bus with their Amaryllis and travel to Shelby Ridge where they will perform some songs for the residents. Each child will then present their Amaryllis and a card which they have made to one of the residents.



## Peace Ceremony/Food Drive

The November Peace Ceremony included a food drive. Each classroom was assigned a specific type of non-perishable food item and on the day of the Peace Ceremony they brought perishable foods to school. After the Peace Ceremony the students loaded the food on the bus. The teachers and a few of the students went to The Catholic Center of Concern where they unloaded the food and helped stock the shelves.



# Toddler & Preschool Holiday Program

The evening began with a performance by the Strings students:

Hannah Helm, Leilah Kooshiar, Annelise Nordlund, Tessa Tremblay-Cox, violins  
Reece Payton, Shahin Kooshiar, cellos  
Samuel and Caroline Nordlund, directors



The Toddler Class



Preschool Classes



The Kindergarten Students wrapped up the evening.





## *Why Music?*

- I. Music is a Science.
- II. Music is Mathematical.
- III. Music is a Foreign Language.
- IV. Music is History
- V. Music is Physical Education
- VI. Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.
- VII. Music is all these things, but most of all,  
*Music is Art*

## **2019 Allstate Orchestra**

JBMA 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, Elijah Stallworth, tried out and was accepted to play violin in the 2019 Allstate Orchestra.

The Allstate Orchestra will be held in Tuscaloosa in February.



## Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy

### Mission Statement

The community of the Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy provides the opportunity for all students to grow to their fullest potential:

- Cognitively
- Socially
- Emotionally
- Spiritually
- Physically
- Aesthetically

### Vision Statement

The vision of Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy is to provide children and families with an education according to the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. Our focus is not only to provide cognitive education for our students, but to also model a commitment to creating peace and care for the environment for years to come. In theory and practice, we will explore how the traditional Montessori curriculum can be combined with current best practices in education as well as technological advances in order to develop a successful group of 21st century learners. At JBMA we treat each child as an individual, building on their strengths and abilities to become life-long global learners.



### The Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy's Core Values Statement:

**Respect-** We embrace with respect all students regardless of racial, cultural or religious background, gender or the physically or mentally challenged.

**Peace-** We create an atmosphere that will promote the development of peaceful individuals. All students will become committed to creating peace, and taking care of the environment in their homes, school, and communities.

**Collaboration-** We provide each child a foundation for a lifetime of learning by having multi-age classrooms and multi-level collaboration.

**Independent Thinker-** We foster students' development of positive self-esteem; so they will become independent thinkers and accept leadership roles in the world of tomorrow.

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We're on the Web!  
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## Upcoming Events in January

- 3 Students Return
  - 7 Talent Show Auditions 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades
  - 8 PTO Meeting 6:00 – 7:00
  - 11 Talent Show 6:30
  - 14 Play Auditions 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades
  - 21 MLK Day -No School
  - 24 Parents' Night
  - 30 – Feb. 1 Upper Elementary to Space Camp
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