



# Dragon Dispatch

December 18, 2023

## Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, December 19	ELA Benchmark
Tuesday, December 19, 6:00 pm	Kindergarten Violin Promotion (at Drachman cafeteria)
Wednesday December 20	Math Benchmark
Friday, December 22	No School – Grading Day
December 25-January 5	No School – Winter Break
Monday, January 15	No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Wednesday, January 24	No School – Staff Professional Learning Day

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## Inaugural Drachman Parent/Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting

We had a fruitful Inaugural Drachman Parent/Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting on December 12! During the meeting, the following actions took place:

- Attendees included Ms. Rhiannon Ward (Parent), Ms. Marjorie Barrera (Parent), Ms. Cynthia Quintero (Parent), Ms. Krystal Enriquez (Parent & Staff), Ms. Amanda Limon (Staff), Ms. Veronique Pardee (Staff), Ms. Lauren Garlovsky (Staff), Ms. Kristen Bury (Staff), & Dr. Celaya (Staff)
- Ms. Rhiannon Ward & Ms. Marjorie Barrera volunteered to take the lead roles to manage the PTA/PTG financial and social media accounts.
- Ms. Marjorie Barrera was elected as the second parent representative on Drachman's Site Council.

- Dr. Celaya will create a group email/message group for PTG communications where PTG business will be discussed such as dates/times for future meetings and ideas for future fundraisers.

Please [email Dr. Celaya](#) if you want to be added to the PTA group email/message group and be on the lookout for the dates/times for meetings in 2024!

## Spirit Week This Week!

Our final Spirit Week of the semester is underway. Show your spirit by joining in the fun the rest of this week:

- Tuesday 12/19: Winter Wonderland – Wear white and blue and some sparkle if you would like!
- Wednesday 12/20: Holiday Cheer Day – Wear your favorite Holiday attire!
- Thursday 12/21: Cozy PJ Day – Wear your favorite cozy PJs!

## Winter Clothes & Hygiene Products Drive Ends Wednesday!

Last call for donations of hygiene products, school supplies, and clothes (including jackets, hats, gloves, and socks)! This drive is being organized by our fifth grade classes, with support from Student Council, and all donations will go to Youth On Their Own (YOTO), a local organization that provides services for teens who are experiencing homelessness in our community. To learn more about Youth On Their Own, [visit the YOTO website](#).

Donations are being collected through this Wednesday, December 20. Please note that donation items must be new. Gently used clothing or other items which cannot be used by YOTO will be donated to other local charities.

## Choose Drachman's Montessori Middle School Experience!

We have started a series of articles sharing some of the things that set Drachman's Montessori Middle School program apart from other middle school programs. In the first piece, we explained why:

Integrated curriculum themes and staying with the same teacher throughout the day lead to deeper learning.

This time, we'll tell you more about how:

Cooperative and project-based learning, integral in Montessori middle school, leads to better learning outcomes for students.

The middle school program is built around collaborative learning. Students work in groups every week to learn more about different subtopics within an overall topic and then together teach the class about their topic in a variety of ways. For example, the teachers present an overview lesson about the history of genetics, the DNA model, and Punnett squares. Then students work in small groups to research topics such as the work of Gregor Mendel, probability and heredity, the cell and inheritance, DNA coding, and mutations and cancer; they then share what they have learned through a variety of styles including PowerPoints, posters, and skits.

Other work is as hands-on and discovery-based as possible. For example, when learning about the periodic table of the elements, students get a set of cards that have a variety of characteristics but one card is missing, and based on the patterns in the characteristics, they have to describe the missing card. (This simulates how scientists were able to predict the existence of elements that had not yet been discovered.)

Research is clear that when students are actively engaged in learning, as opposed to being passive recipients of information, they learn more deeply and retain that learning longer; additionally, to teach material to others, students must build a greater understanding. The collaborative learning and hands-on or project-based work that are fundamental to Drachman's Montessori middle school program increase student engagement and improve student learning outcomes.

## **Reminder: Tax Credit for Drachman**

Please consider giving Drachman a tax credit donation this school year. We use the funds to support field trip costs, our music programs, and student athletes. Married couples filing jointly can donate up to \$400 and individuals can contribute \$200. Donations in lower amounts such as \$5, \$10, and \$25 can also be made. Again, anyone who works in Arizona pays taxes to the state; a tax credit donation to Drachman lets you control where your tax dollars go. The money comes back to you with your tax returns in 2023. The deadline to donate for this fiscal year is December 31st, and you can [donate online](#) or in person at Drachman.

## **Reminder: Register Now for the 2024-2025 School Year!**

Please remember to register NOW for next school year to help Drachman get maximum funding and keep all current teaching and staff positions! We need all returning students/families in grades Kindergarten through 7th grade to do this (by opening your ParentVue account and following the steps) ASAP! If your student will not be returning to Drachman next year, please [email Dr. Celaya](#) to let us know by. Also, if you have a child who will enter kindergarten at Drachman next year, remember to [apply for the lottery through the Smart Choice website](#) and also let us know!

## **Reminder: Yearbooks Available to Purchase**

Yearbooks for this school year are on sale now! They cost \$10 each. If you have any questions, please [email Ms. Amanda Laub](#) or [email Ms. Tenaya Rosmaier](#), who are coordinating the yearbook.

## **Reminder: Non-Perishable Food, Hygiene Items Needed**

We maintain a non-perishable food and hygiene pantry here at Drachman. We are continuously accepting donations of non-perishable food items (for example: canned foods, nuts, dried fruits and vegetables, nut butters, grains such as pasta and rice, jerky, granola and protein bars, cereal and oats) and hygiene items. We would love to see the pantry cabinets full thanks to the generosity of our community, so we can support all of our community members.

## Dragons of the Month for December

This month, we celebrate the following students, who are our Dragons of the Month for December!

Ms. Garlovsky

Ilyana R.V.  
Jennifer S.

Ms. Muñoz

Lucas G.  
Alex L.  
Maddy R.

Ms. Leilue

Roseanne D.  
Mya T.

Ms. Bury

Scarlette L.F.  
Jaydon S.

Ms. Patty &

Ms. Colmenero

Lexi H.  
Aaron J.

Ms. Nye

Andrew M.  
Nitzanah T.

Mr. Haro

Samantha O.  
Alejandro R.O.

Ms. Pardee

Dominiq G.  
Celine L.

Ms. Morola

N.P.

Ms. Christina

Luis H.  
Mariajose L.R.

Mr. Evans

A.T.  
Adam V.

Ms. Russell

Liliana B.  
M.C.

Ms. Rebecca &

Ms. Elisa

Athena B.  
Aubrielle C.A.  
Mario M.  
Arthur M.  
Matthew S.

Ms. Julie

Max M.

Ms. M

Jake T.  
Madelyn W.

Mrs. Barker &

Ms. Chloe

Emiliano L.M.  
Amelia M.

Ms. Tapia

Sebastian A.  
Isabella L.M.  
Gabriella N.C.

Ms. Hemperley

Rylan J.

Star Dragons are students who go above and beyond in being Responsible and Peaceful and following the 3 C's: Care for Ourselves, Care for Others, and Care for Our Environment.

The Star Dragons for November were:

- Scarlett V.E. (Ms. Holly & Ms. Chloe's class)
- Scarlette L.F. (Ms. Bury's class)
- Penelope T. (Ms. Pardee's class)
- Laylah Estrada (Ms. Bury's class)
- Middle School Boys Basketball Team

The Star Dragon for December is:

- A.R. (Mr. Evans' class)

Drachman Montessori K-8 Magnet nurtures the whole child, helps students discover their cosmic task and role as citizens of the world, and guides students to achieve individual excellence.



[tusd1.org/drachman](http://tusd1.org/drachman)

TUCSON UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT