

GET INVOLVED AT ATHENA

How do I find out about important school news, events and activities at Athena?

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Each year we will provide you with a hard copy of our annual School Calendar containing important dates related to school, such as parent conferences, holidays and other school closures. The calendar is also accessible on the CALENDAR page of our website and copies are available in our front office.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Our monthly school newsletter and calendar are emailed to all families, both current and prospective, at the beginning of each month. Newsletters include program updates, policy reminders, birthday announcements, community event details, parent workshop info, important dates and deadlines, and more! Included in the monthly newsletter is a link to our monthly calendar. Each calendar announces important dates, including events, special activities, school closures, and parent meetings, as well as extracurricular schedules, and drop-off and pick-up times.

GOOGLE CALENDAR for PARENTS

To access and view events listed on our School Calendar *online*, visit our Google calendar maintained specifically for parents by following the link in our monthly newsletter or visit the CALENDAR page of our website.

WEBSITE (www.AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com)

Our annual school calendar, monthly calendars, newsletters, and information about upcoming events are all available on our website. Details can be found on the CALENDAR page of our website. Look in the right hand column for monthly NEWSLETTERS as well as information about COMING EVENTS.

FACEBOOK PAGE

LIKE us on Facebook and you will receive articles and notifications on fun family events and workshops.

WHITEBOARDS, FLYERS, AND PARENT ROOM FOLDERS

Administration and guides will put whiteboards outside classrooms and at school entrances with important and timely information for current families. We also encourage current families to check their parent folder, located in their child's classroom, daily, and to keep an eye out for flyers on our Parent Board posted in the office and near entrances around campus.

What kinds of school events happen at Athena?

We host several events at Athena throughout the school year for both current and prospective families to build community and have fun. Our goal is to keep community building and fundraising efforts separate, so that we can gather as a community and have fun without the continual pressure of fundraising. There may be some charges at community events, which go towards covering the costs of the event. These charges typically include entry fees and ticket sales for food and drinks.

Each year, we also host one large, adult-only, fundraising event, specifically designed for the adults in the community to not only have fun, but also to raise money which is applied to our fundraising goal for the year. Our annual fundraising letter will outline our needs and goals for fundraising each year so that if you have the means and desire to help us reach our goals, you will know how to do so with an understanding of where your dollars are spent.

Each year we host a series of events for our community, including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Cultural Fest**, a potluck held annually in the Fall for current families and recent graduates, is our first event of the year. We ask parents to bring a dish or beverage to share that represents their family's heritage. We typically offer fun activities for the children and a bar for the grown ups.
- **Casino Night** is an adult-only fundraiser for all families in our community including dinner, drinks, casino games, music, and a silent auction.
- **Owl Fest** is a family-style picnic and festival, held towards the end of the school year for all families, with music, games and activities for the children and a bar for the grown ups.

How do I volunteer for events?

SIGN UP GENIUS

To coordinate volunteer efforts for each community event, we typically utilize SignUp Genius, an online volunteer service which allows you to view and sign-up for specific shifts at each event. To volunteer to work the day before or the day of an event, keep an eye out for the SignUp Genius link in our monthly newsletters preceding each community event.

Are there other volunteer opportunities at Athena?

If you are interested in volunteering your time or if you have an area of expertise you feel would be of interest or benefit to the children, we encourage you to speak directly with your child's guide or contact a member of our administrative team. If you are interested in sharing your expertise with the community by presenting a workshop for staff and/or parents, please contact a member of our administrative team directly.

We also encourage you to consider becoming a Room Parent for your child's classroom community if your child is currently enrolled at Athena. Responsibilities are outlined below.

What is the role of the Room Parent?

Room Parents help cultivate community in their child's classroom in collaboration with the guides in addition to working with the guides to organize classroom support, including recruiting library and laundry angels; helping to make materials for the classroom; and, organizing classroom community building events like picnics, potlucks and play dates. Room Parents may also help promote and recruit parent volunteers for community events and festivals, as well as coordinate staff appreciation efforts within their community. Each year one Room Parent also serves as the Room Parent Coordinator. The coordinator serves as a liaison between the Room Parents and the administrative team and assists with the organization of Room Parent meetings. If you are a current family, we encourage you to talk to your child's guide if you are interested in learning more about becoming a Room Parent or a Room Parent Coordinator.