

CALENDAR

- 9/30 Andover Day
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Downtown Andover
- 10/5 Pizza Lunch
- 10/6 No School - Professional Development Day
- 10/9 No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
- 10/12 Portrait Day
- 10/12 Andover Parent 2 Parent Speaker
7:00 p.m. in the American Room
Jack Agati presents: Birth order: How Your Place In the Family Affects Your View of the World
- 10/13 ASM Spirit Day and Pizza Lunch
- 10/13 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting
8:15 a.m. (American Room)
- 10/13 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 10/20 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 10/20 Pizza Lunch
- 10/24 Children's House Curriculum Workshop: Part One
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- 10/27 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 10/27 Pizza Lunch
- 10/27 Halloween Fair hosted by the Middle School
3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (American Room)

Our Classroom...

It is hard to believe that the first month of school is already behind us! The children continue to work on building community by making friends and working together. They are settling into the daily routines and practicing the classroom ground rules: be kind, be gentle, and be safe. They are learning to use whisper voices, handle materials with care, and be respectful of others' personal and work space. These attributes will help your child to develop her/his independence, concentration, and self-discipline. The second and third year students continue to hone their skills as role models by exemplifying "grace and courtesy" while helping new friends.



Friends delivering message to Mrs. Belanger



Our class!



Using visual discrimination and care to build the Pink Tower

Curriculum Highlights

Practical Life

The materials in this area offer the child the opportunity to make choices and decisions that will foster more independence. The pouring, scooping, squeezing, and twisting exercises help the child to refine his/her gross and fine motor skills, as well as hand-eye coordination. The child's focus and daily practice of these skills help to build their power of concentration, coordination, independence and sense order. As these skills are mastered, we see less spillage and more self-confidence at daily snack and lunch times.



Refining hand-eye coordination - tweezing



Visual differentiating shades of colors

Sensorial

The children are developing their ability to visually differentiate size, color, and form by using the didactic materials in this area. Maria Montessori acknowledged the natural attraction of the young child to color and order. She used these elements when developing the sensorial materials. These materials provide the children a concrete experience of concepts such as large and small, thick and thin, long and short, rough and smooth, and loud and quiet. Students are also introduced to geometric concepts with two and three dimensional shapes.

Geography

The children have been introduced to the planet Earth, their home. They discovered that our planet has more water than land and that water is represented by the primary color blue. The continent globe shows them the seven continents. Some of the returning children can name them and have created their own continent maps. The class was introduced to the continent song; perhaps you have heard it sung by your child!

The picture to the right shows the results of an independent work of a second year student. The map was created by using the two dimensional puzzle map pieces and a hemisphere tracing template.



Map work as part of a cultural lesson

Science and Math

After a discussion about some of their summer fun experiences, the class learned about the special treasures one can find at the seashore. They enjoyed learning about some of the different seashells and did the seashell sets basket work. After looking at the different oceans on the control map, the class learned about some ocean sea life. The gray whale and the seastar were two of their favorites. The children did their first art project: painting a seastar. The younger ones loved counting and matching the different sets of shells. Their favorite shells were the beautiful Abalone and the giant Conch.



The completed Sets Basket work from our seashore unit



Looking Ahead...

October Topics

- Types of trees and leaves
- Parts of a leaf
- Fire Safety
- An explorer: So the world was not flat!
- United Nations Day
- All about Pumpkins

Other Information:

- Lindsey Insogna and Maria Colon are Red Maple's room parents.
- Spanish class is on Monday from 10:35 -11:05 a.m.
- Music class is on Tuesday from 2:20 - 2:50 p.m.
& Thursday from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Reminders to Parents:

- Layered clothing is best to cover the daily temperature changes. [Update spare clothing]
- Please put your child's name on all outside clothing, lunch box, and carry bags.
- Items for Sharing Days:
 - Something your child has drawn, painted or constructed
 - Something they found in nature
 - A favorite book to share
 - An artifact from a special place
 - Please no toys or stuffed animals