

CALENDAR

- 12/8 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 12/8 Edible House Decorating
Social sponsored by PACE
3:30 p.m. (American Room)
- 12/14 Children's House Open
Classroom: AM Kindergarten Parents
8:45-9:30 a.m.
- 12/14 Children's House Open
Classroom: PM Kindergarten Parents
2:15-3:00 a.m.
- 12/15 Children's House
Winter Concert
9:00 a.m. (American Room)
- 12/18 Winter Concert Make-Up Day
- 12/21-1/1 Winter Break: School Closed
- 1/2 School Resumes
- 1/5 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup
and Meeting
8:15 a.m. (American Room)
- 1/5 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
ASM Spirit Day
- 1/8 Winter Enrichment Begins
- 1/12 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 1/15 School Closed: Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
- 1/19 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)

Our Classroom...



Morning Kindergarten

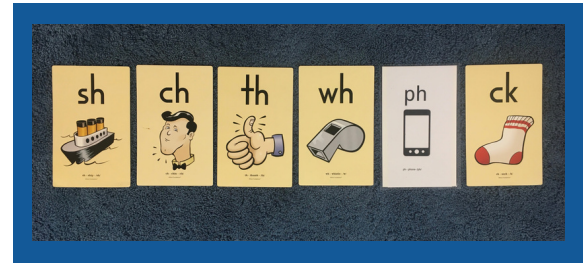


Afternoon Kindergarten

Language

Our classroom is filled with digraph detectives and daily reports of a new digraph discovery in a word.

A consonant digraph is two consonants that "stick together" to make one sound, such as "s" and "h" together making the /sh/ sound. Additionally, because a consonant digraph makes one sound, it only gets one tap when we are tapping out sounds and when we are labeling a digraph in a written word, it gets one underline. The following are the digraphs we cover in Foundations: ck, th, wh, sh, ph, and ch.



Practical Life

Learning to tie shoes is a rite of passage for Kindergarten students. It takes time, patience, and PERSISTENCE. The book pictured here gives students an opportunity to practice as they read along.



In House Field Trip

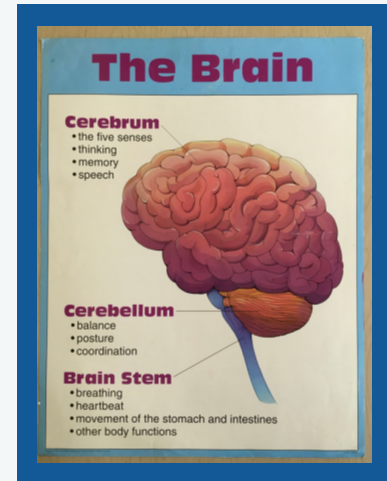
We had a lot of fun in our Force & Motion Workshop while learning about these concepts. After watching a demonstration of the effect of force on a variety of objects (balls, ramp walkers, and spinning tops) we explored a basket of items on our own. We experimented with how to make each of these objects move and control the movement. Then, we talked about the effects of outside forces such as gravity and friction and the impact these forces have on movement. Our adventure ended with an engineering challenge. We were asked to make a toy with the materials provided that had some form of motion.



[Click here for more classroom photos!](#)

Unit of Study

Our life science unit of study on the human body continues with a focus on learning about the brain. We have learned that it is a very important organ as it is the body's control center. Mr./Mrs. Bones, our resident skeleton model, shows us where the brain is located and that the skull protects this important organ. Our learning has covered the three major parts of the brain. The cerebrum, the largest of the three, is responsible for thinking, the senses and memory. Along that line, memory games have become a classroom favorite! Next, the cerebellum controls our balance and coordination. Finally, the brain stem manages breathing and the heart's pumping even when we are asleep. Tying in with the brain stem is the spinal cord, a message highway sending information throughout the body and back to the brain. Again, our resident skeleton model shows us where the spinal cord is located and that the backbone protects the spinal cord! We have had fun with a hands-on experiment, puzzles, and brain mazes. All of which engage our cerebrums for thinking and memory.



We also learned the following Brain song to the tune of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”:
Twinkle, twinkle brain of mine, how I think you're mighty fine,
Up above in my head so high, like a diamond in the sky,
Twinkle, twinkle brain of mine, how I think you're mighty fine!

Thanksgiving Fun

We had a wonderful time making butter in Kindergarten. We had three butter making stations with four students and one adult at each. Then, a finish table for putting filled butter containers into the festive bag and closing it up with a pipe cleaner that had our name tag on it. Hopefully, everyone's made it home safely to be shared with their family for Thanksgiving or otherwise. We are so thankful for the support we received from Monica Commerford and Liz McCaffery to make this activity such a success. Please be sure to check out the pictures in our shared photo folder; thanks to Ms. Toppi for taking the pictures.



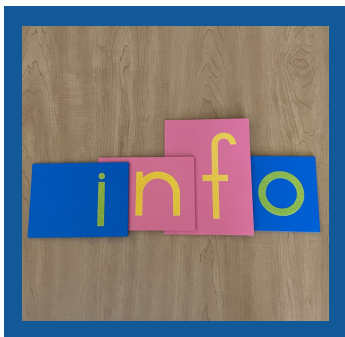
Upcoming Events:

Thursday December 14- Open Classroom:

- AM Kindergarten 8:45-9:30 a.m.
- PM Kindergarten 2:15-3:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15 - CH Winter Concert - 9:00 a.m.

Reminders



- With the cold weather upon us, please note we do try to go outside everyday. Please be sure to send children in outdoor gear that will keep them warm. We also ask that you label their gear. Some of us have the same hats, similar coats and boots. In Kindergarten, we can not rely on size as a differentiator as many of us share the same size.
- We still have empty change of clothing bins. They are located on the shelf above your child's coat hook. Please be sure there is an extra set of seasonal appropriate clothing just in case.