

CALENDAR

- 1/30 Looking Ahead to Kindergarten: A Hands-On Workshop for Parents
5:00-6:00 p.m.
- 1/31 Looking Ahead to Kindergarten: Classroom Observation
9:00-10:30 a.m.
- 2/2 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 2/2 ASM Spirit Day
Pizza Lunch
- 2/2 Chinese New Year Celebration
Sponsored by PACE
3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (American Room)
- 2/7 Portrait of a Graduate
7:00 p.m. (American Room)
- 2/8 Kindergarten In-House Field Trip
MA Audubon
- 2/9 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 2/16 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 2/16 Pizza Lunch
- 2/16 Re-enrollment Agreements Due
- 2/19-23 School Vacation Week
- 2/26 School Resumes
- 2/26 Founders' Day Celebration
Breakfast
8:15-8:45 a.m.

Curriculum Highlights

Arctic Unit of Study

We started a unit of study about the Arctic region by finding it on the globe. Did you know there are three continents: Europe, Asia, and North American and seven countries: Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, United States of America, Canada, within the Arctic Circle?

The Inuit people of North America and the Sami people of Europe live within the Arctic Circle. Our Red Maple students have become familiar with the names of many of the land and water animals of the Arctic by matching the animal models with their picture cards. They learned about the tundra and which Arctic animals migrate, hibernate, or stay on the snow and icy lands or leave for the Boreal forest or warmer waters to survive the extreme wind, snow, and ice. Do you know why trees do not grow on the tundra?



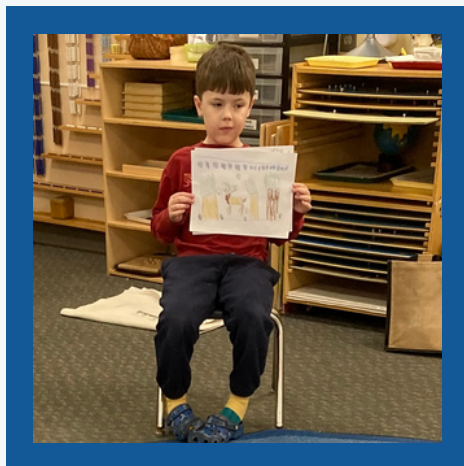
Curriculum Highlights

Language - Writing to Reading

We use a phonetic approach to writing and reading. Phonics is a method of teaching writing and reading by developing the ability to hear and identify the sounds of the English language. So the reading process starts with writing - one letter at a time. It is not your ABC's but the phonetic sounds that create the building blocks for reading. The use of the senses with the Sandpaper Letters enhance the total process. Each sound, each letter is slowly marinated into the child's senses - audibly, visually, and tactilely. This is fun, not pressure. Recognizing letters and signs outdoors while walking the street adds to the child's delight in the process!

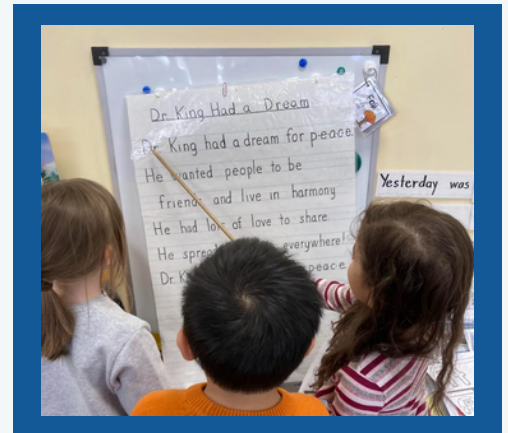
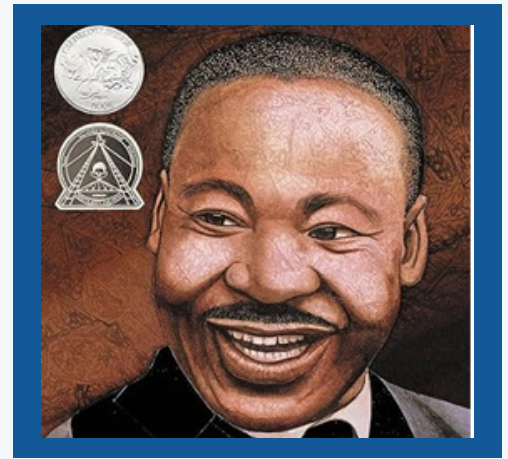


The children begin to put the cut out letters of the Movable Alphabet together to compose a word one letter at a time. What starts as a few sounds put together turns into a few words, which then become a sentence, and then a paragraph, and pretty soon you have a story! Then, we give copy writing sentence lessons using lined paper. They begin to read their writings because, they have had a long gestation period for building concentration in practical life, differentiation exercises through the sensorial materials, and letter writing exercises using the Montessori Sandpaper Letters and the Wilson Foundations materials. The children enjoy the wonderful simple stories written by their classmates as they read them from the author's chair. One day we may be reading their words from a book.



Culture

The children were introduced to a peacemaker, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The students heard about his peaceful way of solving problems through stories and an echo song about his dream for “PEACE”. We talked about how actions speak louder than words. So, when you lend a helpful hand, you can build stronger and perhaps longer friendships. A favorite book for sharing was *Martin’s Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport.



Looking Ahead...

February Topics

- Presidents: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln
- Science: Magnetism
- Landforms: continue study
- Language: Nouns and Verbs
- Math: Measurement
 - Nonstandard units - Mittens
 - Standard - Inches



Founders' Week Auction

During Founders' Week (February 26 through March 1), ASM will host an auction! This event will help our school raise funds for our Founders' Fund for Teaching Excellence; which is an endowment focused on continued professional development opportunities for ASM faculty and staff. The students have been working on our classroom's auction item and it has been exciting to see them working together to create a unique item for one lucky family to take home. We can't wait for you to see!

Get ready to bid on this exclusive creation representing the 2023-2024 Red Maple class!

