

CALENDAR

- 4/5 PACE Coffee Meetup and Members Meeting
8:15 a.m. (American Room)

- 4/5 All-School Meeting
Middle School presents:
MMUN trip
8:45 a.m. (American Room)

- 4/5 Pizza Lunch
ASM Spirit Day
(wear ASM gear or school colors)

- 4/5 Movie Night
Sponsored by PACE
6:00 p.m.

- 4/9-12 Scholastic Book Fair
(American Room)

- 4/15-19 No School - April Break

- 4/26 Pizza Lunch

- 4/26 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)

- 4/26 Earth Day Celebration
Sponsored by PACE
3:30-4:30 p.m.

- 5/1 Student Art Show Opening

Our Classroom...



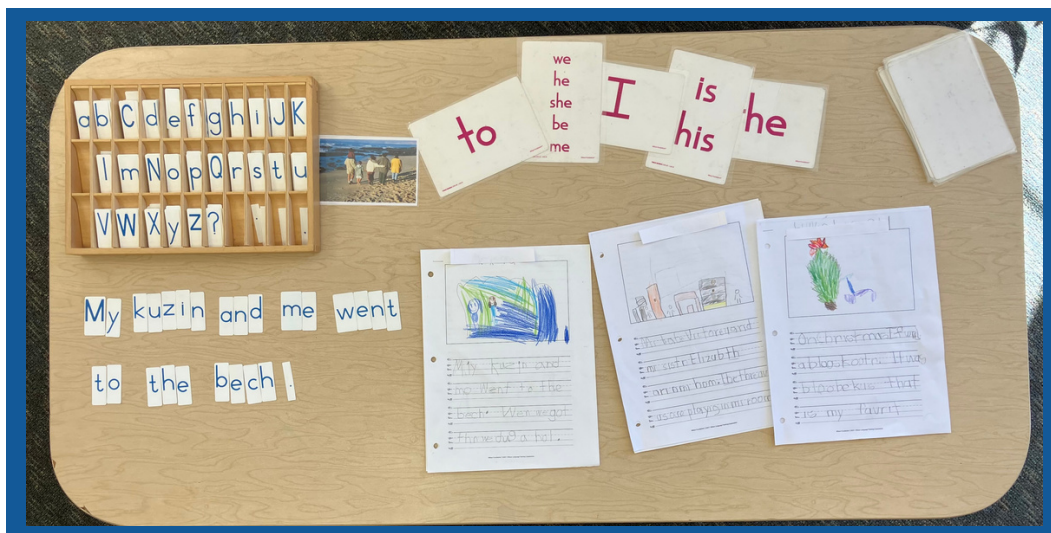
Morning Kindergarten



Afternoon Kindergarten

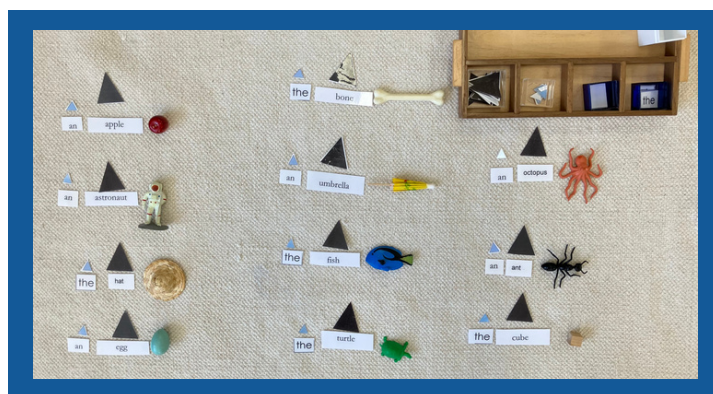
Language - The Movable Alphabet

The Movable Alphabet is an important and versatile Montessori language material. After learning to compose phonetic words one letter at a time with this material or our letter box, students move on to build sentences. A collection of picture cards are used as story starters. Students compose a story that is either true or made up (fiction/non fiction) with a required number of sentences. We have learned that a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period. Once the initial sentences are built, we go through an editing process. Spelling is not corrected, we simply sound out the words. When it comes to trick words (words we can not sound out) we refer to our *Foundations* trick words as a resource. The child then writes their story and illustrates it. The illustration includes the elements of their story. The pictures here show the varied stages of development met using the same material.



The Noun Family Continued

The mystery article “an” was revealed. It is used when the noun starts with a vowel.



Our grammar lessons continued and we were introduced to the last member of the noun family; the adjective.

Adjectives are words that tell something about a noun. Simply put; they are describing words. We enjoyed an interactive introductory lesson. This lesson will be followed up with other fun activities that match adjective cards to noun cards.

STEM Class - Leprechaun Traps

In STEM class we had a challenge; to use all of the steps of the Engineering Design Process (ask, imagine, plan, and create) to create a Leprechaun trap. Below you will see the details of the challenge.

Intro to the challenge - As we know, Leprechauns are very tricky and hard to catch! So to get started, we asked ourselves what Leprechauns like?

- Gold
- Pots of gold
- Shamrocks
- Rainbows

Our Directions - Create a trap to catch a Leprechaun on the base provided. Be sure to include some of the model items of things (from the “materials store” pictured below) that Leprechauns like in order to attract a Leprechaun.

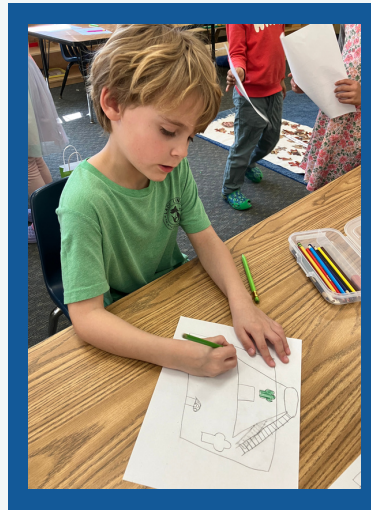
- Have a look at the materials you have available.
- Sketch your design and note how you will use the materials.
- You must show your completed plan to the store manager before visiting the materials store.
- Use only materials from the store (not the shopping bags). There is a number telling how much/many of each item you can take.

Our Guiding Questions:

What shape can I use for my trap?

How will my design allow the leprechaun to get in BUT not let him out?

This challenge was met with much enthusiasm and we all had so much fun! In the end everyone created a Leprechaun Trap to take home. Much anticipation was expressed about whose trap might catch a Leprechaun.



Science

Our unit of study on the human body continues with the digestive system; currently the stomach. Located in the upper left side of the abdomen it connects with the esophagus or food tube. The stomach is a muscle that can stretch to hold the food we eat. The muscle structure allows it to mix and churn its contents into a pulpy liquid. To demonstrate this concept, we used a large plastic bag as our model stomach. Then we fed our stomach banana and cracker pieces. A little water was added for stomach juices. After closing the bag securely, we made digestion happen! Like the muscles in our stomach that squeeze and mix our food, we did the same by squeezing the bag while passing the model stomach around the circle. As the bag made its way around the circle, we watched the banana and crackers turn from solid to liquid. Not everyone wanted a turn with this one and we heard varied comments from “that is so disgusting” to “cool.” Now, in addition to listening to our heart beat, we can also use the stethoscope to listen to our stomach sounds.



Women's History Month

The focus on women gives us an opportunity to talk about Dr. Maria Montessori. What a wonderful role model for young girls and women. She was an entrepreneur, mathematician, scientist, doctor, and engineer. She was also a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. We have Montessori Schools on every continent except Antarctica.

We also learned about Katherine Johnson as a nod to our space unit and a wonderful example of women in STEM. Katherine always loved numbers and would later be affectionately called the human computer. Her very important work at NASA as one of the first black women to work there is highlighted in the 2017 movie *Hidden Figures*. She helped calculate the first space mission to the moon while facing challenges around race and gender. Katherine would continue to help NASA send their astronauts to the moon and return home safely until 1986. In 2015, Katherine was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. It is considered to be the Nation's highest civilian honor.



Upcoming Events

In house field trip - Part two of the Amazing Organisms with the Mass Audubon on Thursday, April 11, 2024. The focus will be on Backyard Birds in the Northeast.

The time for AM Kindergarten will be 10:15-11:15 a.m.
The time for PM Kindergarten will be 12:45-1:45 p.m.