

CALENDAR

- 11/1: PACE Coffee Meetup and Meeting 8:30 a.m.
All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Children's House Open Classroom 9-9:45 a.m. and 2:15-3:00 p.m.
Spirit Day
Pizza Lunch
- 11/8: All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
- 11/11: School Closed: Veteran's Day
- 11/15: All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
- 11/18: No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/19: No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/22: All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
Grandparents and Special Friends Day 9-10 a.m. and 1:45-2:45 p.m.
- 11/26: Pizza Lunch
- 11/27-29 School Closed: Thanksgiving Break

Our Classroom...



Science

Autumn begins in September, but the seasonal changes outside began late this year. We began our study of the two types of trees, deciduous and evergreen, by taking an observation walk outside. During our exploration we counted two varieties of evergreens and five deciduous trees. The children noted the differences between each tree by feeling the bark and shapes of the leaf blades or needles. As the evenings began to cool down and the daylight shortened, the leaves began to lose their chlorophyll and the muted parade of colors began. The children also learned about the parts of a leaf and leaf shapes: simple, lobed, and compound.



[Click here to view ASM's calendar!](#)

Curriculum Highlights

Geography and Culture

The children listened to stories and learned who discovered that the planet Earth is not flat, but a sphere traveling through space. It orbits around the sun taking 365 days. When your child celebrates their birthday walk, they walk this journey around the sun for each year of their life.

During the week of October 21-25, the class celebrated their diversity by enjoying the parent-child presentations of many cultures that are represented in our classroom community. These included Japan, Vietnam, Uganda, Italy, Greece, and Native American.

The children had the opportunity to color the flags of their heritages. We would like to give a huge “Thank You” to the parents of Noah, Riley, Edith, Leonidas, Alex, Aria, Carter, and Joseph.



Food Preparation

The children did apple polishing and cutting. They washed them and then cored, sliced, and cooked the apples in a crock pot with a splash of water to make yummy applesauce. The use of five varieties of apples was our secret to making the best, all natural applesauce. Almost everyone wanted seconds and before you knew it the pot was empty.

Sharing

Every morning and afternoon six students have the opportunity to present something special with their classmates during circle time. After their sharing, the speaker will respond to three children’s questions. This is public speaking Children’s House style. It is amazing to watch their growth in confidence, listening skills, and enthusiasm for their next presentation.



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

Math

To quote Michael Duffy, a noted Montessorian and author, “One of the most basic principles of Montessori mathematics is that the students always learn new concepts with concrete materials.” Montessori materials are designed to lead your child step by step from the most concrete to pure abstraction. When working with the materials, the child engages in mathematical thinking with all their senses. The Children’s House student begins with numeration materials: Sandpaper Numerals, Number Rods and Number Cards, sets baskets, Spindle Box, Teen, Tens, and Hundreds Boards, and Squaring and Cubing Chains.

Once conservation of numbers, quantity and sequence are established, the young child is able to perform complex mathematical operations; addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division. These operations are done using the Golden Beads materials, Stamp Game, and small and large bead frames.



Looking Ahead...

November Topics

- Migration
- Parts of a Canada Goose
- The story of settlement in Massachusetts
- Parts of a Turkey
- Winter birds
- Land forms continued

Open Classroom: We are excited to welcome you into the classroom on November 1, 2024. If you haven't yet done so, please use the sign-up sheet sent by Michelle Toppi so we know when to expect you.

Reminders to Parents:

- Remember that your child needs inside shoes AND outside shoes or boots when the weather requires!
- Please put your child's name on ALL outside clothing, lunch box, snacks, backpacks, and boots.
- Layering clothing is best to cover the daily temperature changes.
- Please update spare clothing for the seasonal change.
- 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

Special Message from the Director of Children's House

Dear Parents,

As we gear up for Halloween, I realize the Thanksgiving holiday is just around the corner. Heading into November is the perfect time to begin conversations with your children around gratitude and appreciation. Some of us share the story of the first Thanksgiving as a family. There is so much to be thankful for beyond this, taking the lesson deeper. We have family and friends, neighbors and community members, and of course, our teachers. We can be thankful for food, clothing, water, and the Earth and sun.

A wonderful activity to work on with children at home is making a tree with leaves of fall colors. On each leaf is written something they are thankful for. Or you could make a turkey and each feather is something they are thankful for.

Below is a link to a list of books speaking to these topics with a short description of each one. Perhaps you already have some of these on your bookshelf! Reading books is a lovely segue into open conversations with children. You can start by asking "What was your favorite part of the story?" or "What did you like about this story?" You could also ask about a particular part you would like to dive into further.

However you celebrate or appreciate, I wish you a November filled with peace and joy. I am grateful for each family collaborating with us here at ASM!

With gratitude,

Michelle Toppi

<https://www.thekidlitmama.com/home/food-family-community-gratitude-10-picture-books-to-enjoy-this-november>

