

## CALENDAR

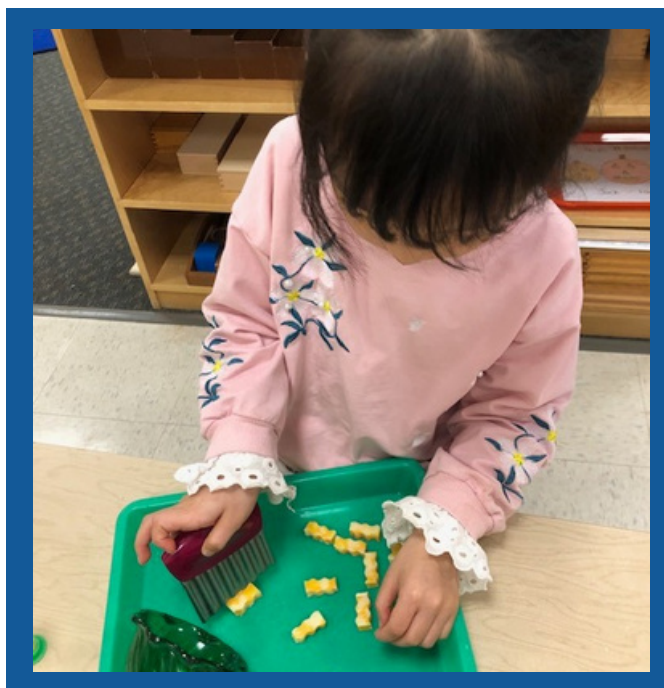
- 11/26 Pizza Lunch
- 11/27-29 School Closed:  
Thanksgiving Break
- 12/5 Portrait Retake Day and  
Sibling Portraits
- 12/6 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup  
and Meeting 8:30 - 8:45 a.m.  
All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.  
ASM Spirit Day  
Pizza Lunch
- 12/10 ASM Board of Directors'  
Open House 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Casey Room
- 12/11 Head of School Coffee with  
returning Children's House  
Parents
- 12/13 Pizza Lunch  
Children's House Winter  
Concert 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.  
Lower and Upper Elementary  
Winter Concert 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- 12/19 Pizza Lunch
- 12/20 School Closed: Professional  
Development Day  
(Childcare Fun Day Available)
- 12/23 - 1/1 Winter Break!

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

## Our Classroom...

### Practical Life

Food prep has been a wonderful experience for the children this month. We learned how to cut cheese. The main goals of the practical life area are to develop a sense of order, concentration, coordination, and independence. Thank you to the many families who supplied cheese sticks. The children enjoyed using a crinkle cut knife to cut the cheese into bite sized pieces. They showed their responsibility by safely using the knife. They all did a great job!



### Open Classroom

It was wonderful to have so many parents attend for Open Classroom! The children loved being able to show their hard work and progress to you all. They all picked their own works and did a fantastic job sharing these to you.

## Giving Thanks!

This month we focused on giving thanks and being grateful for all we have, including the wonderful friends and community we have fostered in Dogwood. The children practiced giving thanks to friends in their class. They also created beautiful hand turkeys as a keepsake for this Thanksgiving! There were several November crafts the children enjoyed! We are all grateful for the students, teachers, and parent community in Dogwood!



## Vertebrates/ Invertebrates

This month we focused on elements that make an animal a vertebrate or an invertebrate. The children learned about how they need food, water, and shelter. What separates a vertebrate from an invertebrate is that a vertebrates has a backbone. They enjoyed exploring this through many lessons such as sorting, drawing, or cut and paste. We also read stories about these animals during circle time. We love these multi-sensory materials!

## Indigenous Studies/ North America

This month we focused on the map of North America. Our library was full of books about North America, it's geography, and its people. We also had several books about Indigenous people for the children to explore. They enjoyed doing puzzle maps and some crated their own to take home.





## Looking Forward...

### Next Month's Topics

- Winter Celebrations
- Migration
- Birds

## Other News

Feel free to reach out about any art projects for Winter or talking about Winter Celebrations around the world!



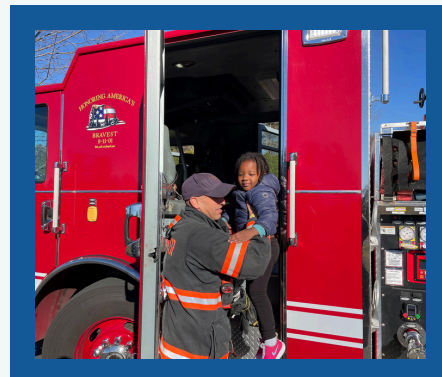
## Happy Birthday!

Amelia: 3 years old on 11/05  
Marcus: 4 years old on 11/06  
Elena: 4 years old on 11/06  
Charlie: 7 years old on 11/18

**Upcoming Birthdays**  
December No Birthdays!

## A Visit From the Andover Fire Department!

On Thursday, November 14, we had a visit from the Andover Fire Department. All of Children's House came out to the fence by Pedini Field to greet the firefighters. They brought their special gear, tools, and clothing to show the children what they might look like in an emergency. They showed the many parts of the truck and various sized hoses. The children asked great questions like "What do the hoses connect to?", "Where does the water come from?", "How do you start the engine?", and "Why do you need to wear a mask with oxygen?" A favorite part for most of the children was the opportunity to climb (or be lifted) onto the firetruck! A huge thank you to the Andover firefighters who took time out of their day to visit with us.



## Special Message from the Director of Children's House

Dear Parents,

Thank you for joining us for fall parent-teacher conferences. Hopefully, you got a glimpse into your child's day, preferred activities, developing friendships, and goals moving forward. With each child in their own place, how do we manage the many happenings from moment to moment?! The dynamics within a Montessori classroom environment are framed within key 5 components. Attached is an overview of these 5 components from the American Montessori Society's website. All of our Montessori trained teachers are certified through this organization and our school is also accredited by them. This holds us to certain standards as individual teachers and as a school, showing our dedication to Montessori philosophy and principles.

I hope you enjoy some time with family and friends as we head toward the holiday season and into the winter months. If you find yourself with a few moments, I hope you will read about these 5 components, as you reflect on your child's experience at ASM.

With gratitude,

Michelle Toppi

