

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!

As November comes to a close, we are reflecting on the experiences and growth we've witnessed in the Birch classroom. The children are thriving and developing academically and socially. Here is a glimpse into what's been happening in the community and a look ahead to the upcoming month.



Focus on Gratitude and Giving

November brought meaningful discussions about gratitude and kindness. Through books, crafts, and classroom activities, the children reflected on and expressed what they are grateful for. The children created turkey placemats with one thing they are thankful on each of the turkey feathers. The children enjoyed expressing what they're grateful for and showing appreciation for one another.



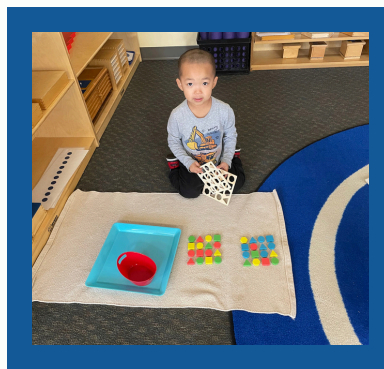
Practical Life

The children continued building independence with our practical life exercises. From pouring and scooping, to folding and cutting paper, the children practiced skills that encourage focus and fine motor development. The children learned to slice a banana and enjoyed munching on it as part of a snack. These activities are essential in fostering self-confidence and a sense of responsibility.



Sensorial

The sensorial area has been lively; a buzz with children exploring activities that encourage them to observe and categorize different shapes, colors, sounds, and textures. This work strengthens their ability to concentrate and observe details in their environment, and supports their language and math skills down the line.



Language and Literacy

Each child is engaging with language materials at their unique pace. Building vocabulary, identifying sounds, and beginning to form words are some of the skills they are developing on the path to reading. It's inspiring to see their eagerness to practice and take the next steps along their path. Read-aloud sessions and sound games have been particularly popular!



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

Mathematics in Motion

Montessori math materials give children hands-on experiences with numbers and quantities. Whether they are working with the Number Rods, Sandpaper Numerals, or counting beads, the children are developing foundational math skills in a joyful and tactile way. You can see the pride and enthusiasm on their faces!



TEXT

Past Events

Open Classroom: We were excited to welcome parents into the classroom on November 1, 2024. The children took pride in showing the materials and giving presentations to their parents. We hope this event helped you understand the experience of your child in the classroom and gave you a glimpse into their days at school.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: It was a pleasure to meet with each family this week. It gave us an opportunity to engage in one-on-one conversations about your child's progress.



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

