

**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!

**Our Classroom...**



Writing work



Reading to a younger friend



Sensorial team work



Math work

**Mitten Drive**

In the spirit of giving, the Children's House Mitten Drive will be collecting new waterproof mittens for needy families who visit Bread and Roses in Lawrence, MA. A basket will be placed in the reception area for you to drop off your contributions. The drive will run from November 25 - December 13. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to continue the concept of graphing, demonstrating how helpful graphs are for organizing information. The children will make graphs by counting and sorting the mittens as they are donated, highlighting both the generosity of ASM families and the importance of helping those in need.



# Curriculum Highlights

## Practical Life

The practical life exercises are the foundation of all the child's other work in a Montessori classroom. Not only do children develop everyday skills such as pouring, scooping, buttoning, sweeping, and food preparation, but the process of completing these activities develops a child's sense of order, gross and fine motor control, concentration, coordination, and ability to complete a sequence of steps. Even the seemingly simple task of moving materials from the shelf to a table without tipping them off the tray is challenging for young children. The ability to focus on and complete a task with multiple steps makes it possible for children to experience success with advanced academic tasks in other curriculum areas.



## Science

During the month of November, the children observed the changes in weather, cooler temperatures, and shorter daylight hours. These changes affect both plant and animal life where we live. The children learned that by migrating animals stay warm, find needed food, water, and a safe place to have their young. The class is moving on to learning more about hibernators. Where do they go? What do they do to survive during the cold winter months? We look forward to discovering the answers to these questions during the next few months!

## Culture and Geography

Our class focused on fostering qualities of giving and thankfulness within our classroom and school community. The teachers and children orally shared what they were thankful for. Some of the responses were their families, friends, homes, school, toys, pets, and teachers. This was followed up with hands-on activities and lessons including making booklets of the parts of a turkey, as well as theme related coloring, cutting, and craft activities.

Students continue to refine their pouring skills while learning the difference between the cape and bay landforms. The children's interest in maps of the continent of the world continues to grow!



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



## Math

After enjoying the polishing of our class pumpkin, we cut it open. The children took out the inner fibers and seeds, then it was on to math. Each child counted out ten seeds to a cup and then glued the seeds to make a counting chart. The final tally was 702 seeds. We listed everyone's guess as to how many seeds there would be. Sebastian was the closest with a guess of 700!



- **Looking Ahead...**

### Upcoming Topics in December:

- Learn about the festivals of light including: Hanukkah, Christmas around the world and Kwanzaa
- Winter birds and landforms

### Important Dates:

- December 13th - Winter Concert

### Reminders to Parents:

- Boots, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants are needed so your child can enjoy the playground activities in winter.
- Please put your child's name on all outside clothing, lunch box and snacks, and carry bags.
- Please check your child's box for appropriate seasonal clothing that fits.

Thank you!

## 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

