

CALENDAR

- 12/20 School Closed: Professional Development Day
- 12/23-1/1 Winter Break
- 1/2 School Resumes
- 1/3 Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting Sponsored by PACE 8:30 a.m.
All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
ASM Spirit Day
- 1/5 Coats for Kids Drive Ends
- 1/10 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Collaborative Classroom
- 1/14 Looking Ahead to Lower Elementary
Presentation: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Observation: 9:30-10:00 a.m.
- Kindergarten: The Leadership Year (hands-on parent workshop)
- 1/16 Looking Ahead to Upper Elementary
Presentation: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Observation: 9:30-10:00 a.m.
- 1/17 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Collaborative Classroom
- 1/20 School Closed: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/24 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Collaborative Classroom
- 1/31 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Collaborative Classroom

As December comes to a close, we are reflecting on the experiences and growth we've witnessed in the Birch classroom since September. 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.



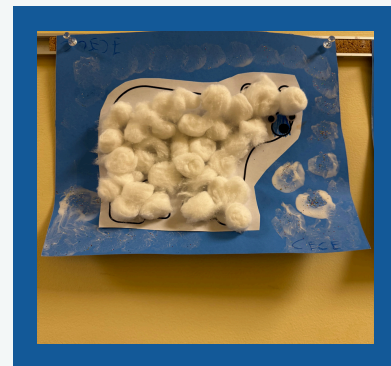
Happy Holidays!

We'd like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a restful winter break!



Seasonal Crafts & Activities:

The children created festive art such as holiday lights collage making, bead necklaces with holiday theme beads, making polar bear and snowflakes with their cutting and gluing skills. They expressed their creativity through winter-inspired projects.



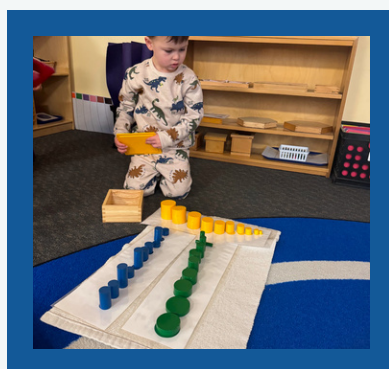
Peace Education:

We focused on themes of kindness, gratitude, and empathy, helping children reflect on what it means to be part of a community. The children spent time at the peace table during breaks during the work cycle. This helps calm the brain and the body, reflect, and resolving conflicts. We read books about grace and courtesy, feelings, and how to be kind to each other. The children have been learning how to identify their feelings using feelings matching cards.



Sensorial Exploration:

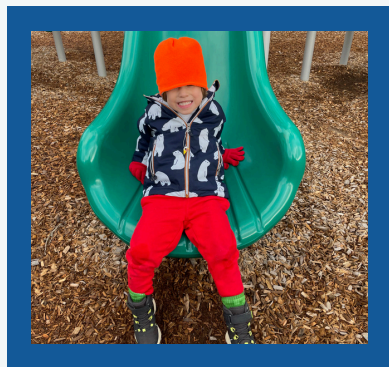
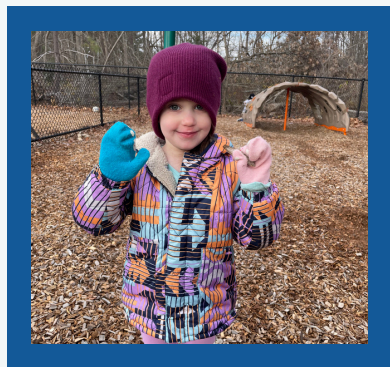
The children engaged in various sensorial activities, refining their senses while fostering concentration and independence. Students practiced grading the Knobless cylinders by matching to the control charts. They have also been learning how to differentiate the sizes of objects using vocabulary such as “large”, “medium”, and “small”. Additionally, some children have been working with the Trinomial Cube. By visually sorting each block by color and shape, they then place each in it’s place to correctly rebuild the cube.



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

Outdoor Play:

Despite the chill, we enjoyed time outdoors, observing nature's changes and embracing the season.



Cultural:

The students explored many topics in the science and cultural areas of the classroom this month. They worked to sort objects by land, air, and water. They learned about the planets of the solar system. Of course, maps of the seven continents are always of interest!



Winter Concert:

Thank you for joining us for our Winter Concert. It was a big success and we are very grateful for your presence.



Special Message from the Director of Children's House

Dear Children's House Parents,

You may have already answered the question, 'Why Montessori?' for your family. The question now becomes 'Why stay in a Montessori school?'

The Montessori journey is a unique one in education. The aims are to help the child build social-emotional awareness and empathy, encourage them to follow their interests along their individual path of learning, empower them to become independent thinkers, and support them in becoming conscious global citizens.

Below are links to videos from our website about our school from the perspective of our parents, students, faculty, and alumni. Enjoy! Thank you for choosing ASM for your Montessori journey!

[Children's House](#)
[Lower Elementary](#)
[Upper Elementary](#)
[Middle School](#)

To learn more about the next program levels at ASM, we invite you to attend our upcoming events.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, from 5:00-6:00 p.m., we will have our preview of the Kindergarten program called "Kindergarten: The Leadership Year (A Hand-On Workshop)" Come hear about what makes the Kindergarten year at ASM unique and try some of the activities for yourself! Following this workshop, there will be classroom observation slots available to see our current Kindergarteners in action on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. *Look for the sign-ups and RSVP in the January 2 TIP!

Also on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, we will have a Looking Ahead to Lower Elementary presentation at 8:30 a.m. followed by observations in the Lower Elementary classrooms at 9:30 a.m.

On Thursday, January 16, 2025, we have our Looking Ahead to Upper Elementary presentation at 8:30 a.m. followed by observations in the Upper Elementary classroom at 9:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, we will have our Looking Ahead to Middle School presentation at 8:30 a.m.

Happy New Year!

Michelle

Upcoming In-House Field Trips and Events:

January 7- Children's House Visit from the Andover Police Department. More information will be sent through email ahead of the event.

January 8 - K In-House Field Trip- NASA - Learn about working and living in space. This is a virtual event that will take place in the Kindergarten classroom.

January 9 - Virtual In-House field trip with author Peter H. Reynolds
Peter H. Reynolds is a children's book author famous for writing the "Creatrilogy" *The Dot*, *Ish*, and *Sky Color*. Peter has also written and illustrated many books encouraging children's confidence, creativity, compassion, interests, independence, and joy. We are very excited to have Peter join us for a book reading, a draw along, and take some questions from our students. If you want to read more, there is a link to his website below.

<https://www.peterhreynolds.com/>

February 4 - Children's House Curriculum Workshop: Part 2, all about the Sensorial and Math areas of the classroom. We hope you will join us! Look for the RSVP in the TIP on January 23, 2025.

