

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

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

Our Classroom...

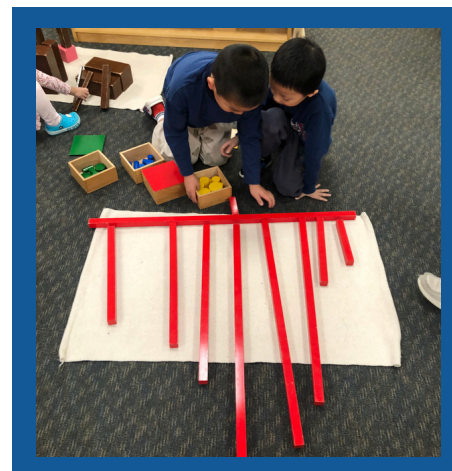
Celebrating Holidays

During the month of December we focused on the many holidays celebrated in winter including: Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We talked about how each holiday is celebrated around the world. We did art projects and read many books about these celebrations. They had a great time!



Sensorial Fun

The Red Rods have many different way to build upon the lesson with extensions to the work. Two of our favorites in Dogwood are to create a Christmas tree or a Menorah with the Red Rods and Knobless Cylinders. It makes the room feel very festive!



Pin Pushing Fun

An enjoyable pre-writing activity is Pin Pushing. The children used a big pin push to poke out the shapes of an evergreen tree and a deer. The children experience the satisfaction of popping out the shape around its edges without ripping the paper. This work requires a large amount of concentration and fine motor control, plus it is quite fun!



Animal Adaptations

This month we focused on animal adaptations as the weather gets colder, such as hibernation and migration. The children sorted, wrote, and colored the different animals that hibernate, migrate, and adapt. They also learned about where these animals live in the winter months and how they get there.

Map Fun

The children have been interested in exploring the maps of all 7 continents. Making a map requires that each piece is placed onto the control map. Then, the child places the puzzle piece on the paper and traces. Next, they glue the piece where it belongs. It requires spatial awareness and a great deal of concentration! The maps are beautiful once complete and the children are so proud!





Looking Forward...

Next Month's Topics

- Animals in Winter
- Birds
- Geography

Other News

Thank you for all the lovely gifts and thoughtful comments from everyone this winter season!

We will be performing at the All School Meeting January 10
Positive Affirmation January!



Happy Birthday!

Ms. Toppi 12/10

Upcoming Birthdays:

- Madelyn: 3.5 years old on 1/03
Roy: 6 years old on 1/06
Leo: 4 years old on 1/12
Colette: 5.5 years old on 1/12
Ava: 4.5 years old on 1/16
Owen: 6 years old on 1/17
Luna: 5 years old on 1/30

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.

Here 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*, *Isb*, 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.

