

CALENDAR

Our Classroom...

- 12/20 School Closed: Professional Development Day (Childcare Fun Day Available)
- 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.
Pizza Lunch
Collaborative Classroom
- 1/31 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Collaborative Classroom



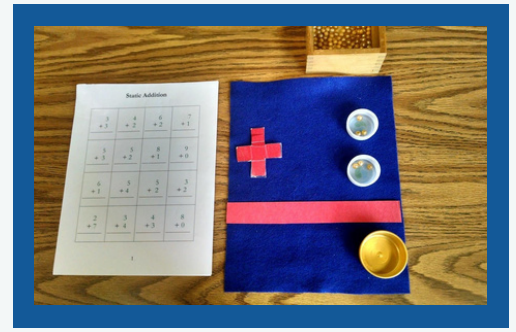
Morning Kindergarten



Afternoon Kindergarten

Math

Dynamic addition is quite a challenge. Our packets move from single digit to four digit equations, some requiring exchanges across three place values. This work challenges one's attention to detail and knowledge of the decimal system place values. The packet does include a couple of surprise "vacation" equations (no exchange needed).



STEM

With much enthusiasm, we finally reached the create step with our Raise the Roof: Designing Shelters Engineering is Elementary Unit. Throughout this unit, we learned that engineers ask a lot of questions when solving problems! Some of the questions we needed to answer were: How can we change the shape of a roof to make more shade? Which materials will work well to shade Penny from the sun? And then, which materials will be included in our shelter and how will we use each one? This has been a wonderful experience that has eloquently balanced learning with fun. In addition to teaching engineering literacy these curriculum kits also foster the development of critical thinking, communication, flexibility, creativity, and learning through failure. All of the EiE Kits are aligned with the Performance Expectations of the Next Generation Science Standards.



Fun Fact

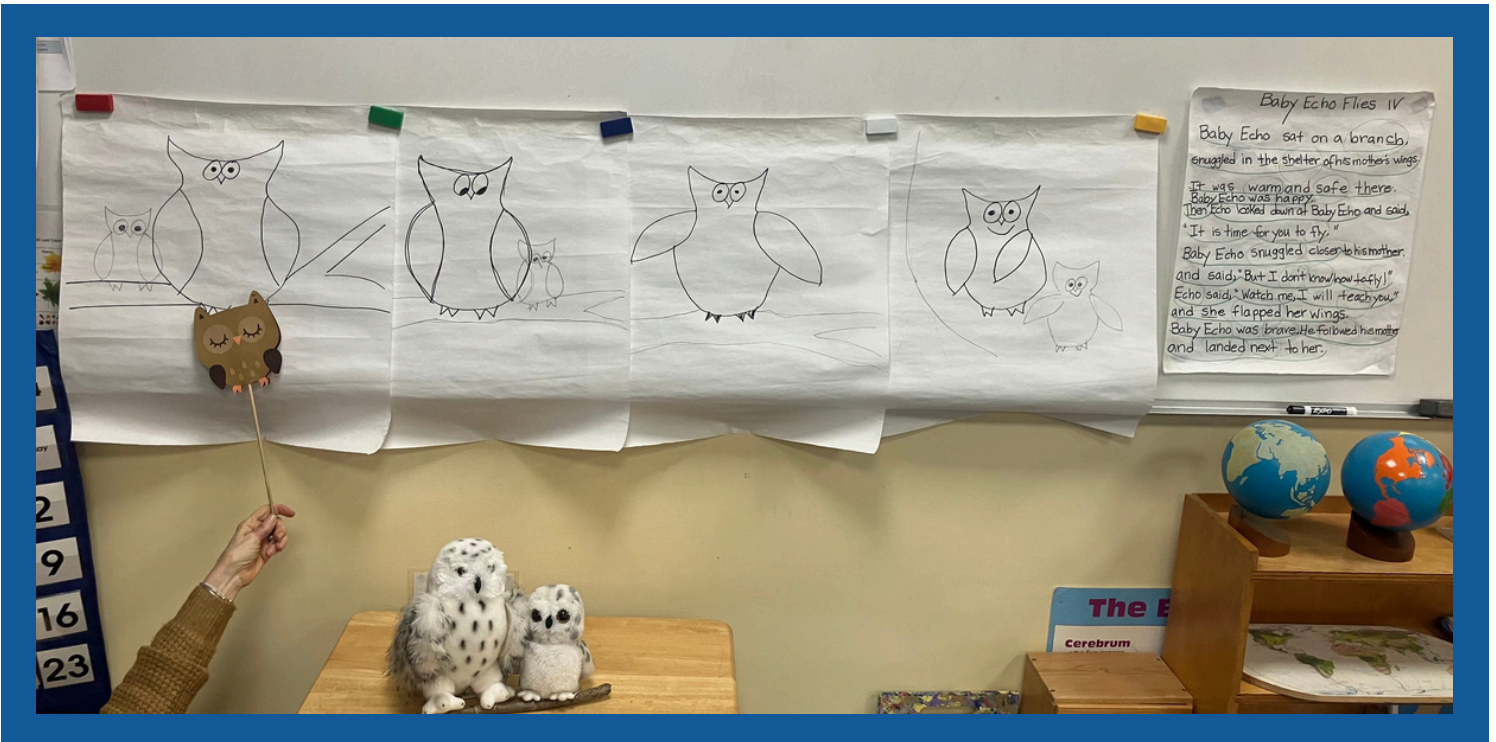
Even the curriculum developers at the Museum of Science Boston use the Improve step of the Engineering Design Process. Pictured here you see the shelter bases used when we piloted this unit for the Museum of Science. If you look closely you will see Percy the Bat (not Penny the dog) whose wings needed to be in the shade. As you know, in the final version of this curriculum unit, the character changed to Penny, the dog who needs shade when she is out on her leash. Maybe, because bats are nocturnal?



Fundations Echo and Baby Echo Stories



In Fundations, the practice of retelling starts at the kindergarten level. Students follow gestures and pictures to assist in the oral retelling of stories. This is done through direct instruction to create mental images and develop listening comprehension. Students learn to retell the story presented in their own words and with such details as; characters, setting, and main events. Initially, stories are acted out using our beloved characters Echo and Baby Echo (stuffed snowy owls) while hearing the story for the first time. Next, the story is acted out with our characters and students retell the story as each action occurs. Then, illustrations are added and students are invited to come up to the board and retell the story using just the illustrations (and an owl pointer). Finally, the story text is presented along with the illustrations. Each sentence is read aloud as we identify the key words in the sentence or the most important words that helped to create the picture in their imagination.

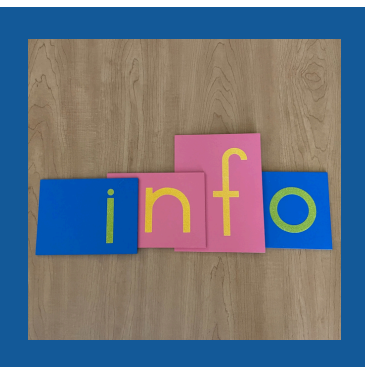


Reminders

- With the cold weather upon us, please note we do try to go outside everyday. Please be sure to send children in outdoor gear that will keep them both warm and dry. We also ask that you label their belongings.
- Kindergartners look forward to afternoon snack each day. Please remember to include a second snack for the PM class.

Upcoming Event

January 8 - Virtual In-House Field Trip; Living & Working in Space from NASA's Goddard Space Center



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

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.

