

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

Culture

December is a busy month. The children learned about the festivals of light including; Christmas around the world, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. All of these events include the symbolic representation of light in living peaceful lives and looking towards the future. They have common ritual processes; prayers of thankfulness, use of candle light, unity, and gift giving. They have heard the story of the oil in the temple that burned for eight days. The menorah is symbolic of this. They learned about the tradition of Christmas trees being brought indoors in Germany. It was here the tradition of lighting candles on the tree began. The class was introduced to the African American celebration of Kwanzaa which started in 1966. It is a week-long celebration of African American culture and heritage that takes place from December 26th to January 1st. It is based on African harvest festivals and uses the Swahili phrase which means “first fruits”. The name Kwanzaa honors African American history, culture, and values and celebrates family, community and unity.



Curriculum Highlights

Science

During December, the students have been observing and feeding the local birds that do not migrate; the tufted titmouse, cardinal, blackcap chickadee, dark-eyed junco, white-breasted nuthatch, and others. Do you wonder how these little creatures stay warm in winter? It is all that trapped air in their downy feathers, the protection of evergreen trees, nesting in protected areas, and eating suet that renders fat, which is high-energy food for birds, especially in cold weather.



Language

The first year students are showing more perseverance in practicing formations often doing rainbow tracing and writing of our letter and sound for the week and numeral tracing.



The second and third year students are expanding their knowledge and continue to work on handwriting to improve their letter and numeral formations through guided writing lessons.

They are then able to record their works more easily.

Math

Students expand their understanding of place value as second and third-year learners, and practice proper placement and quantity recognition using bank materials for place value and with their Number Rolls. They explore the concepts of thousands, hundreds, tens, and units.



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

Art Activities

Our youngest friends continue to work on their cutting skills using a variety of activities. They cut tree shapes, a menorah base, and candles to create Christmas trees, Menorahs, and a Kwanzaa wooden candle holder. All students also worked on weaving a mat using colors that represent the holidays we have been studying.



Looking Ahead...

- Continue our study of hibernation and winter birds
- Begin our study of the Arctic and Antarctic
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Snowflakes and photographer Wilson Bentley
- Landforms continued

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!

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, 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.

