

CALENDAR

- 3/6 Science Fair Grade 3-6
6:00-7:00 p.m.
All families encouraged to attend!

Pizza Lunch
- 3/7 School Closed: Professional Development
- 3/13 No Enrichment
- 3/14 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
- 3/19 Pizza Lunch
- 3/20-21 School Closed: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Childcare Fun Days available)
- 3/24 Spring Enrichment Begins
- 3/28 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Pizza Lunch

As February comes to a close, we reflect on a month filled with exploration, growth, and joyful learning in our Birch classroom. The children have been engaged in a variety of activities that encourage independence, curiosity, and collaboration.



Celebrating Black History Month in Our Classroom:

February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and rich cultural heritage of Black individuals throughout history. In our classroom, we honor this by sharing stories, songs, and scavenger hunt that highlighted inspiring figures and their achievements. Through age-appropriate discussions, we help children appreciate diversity, resilience, and the importance of inclusion in our community. We encourage families to engage in the conversations at home by exploring books, music, and cultural experiences that celebrate Black history. Thank you for partnering with us in fostering an environment of respect, curiosity, and understanding!



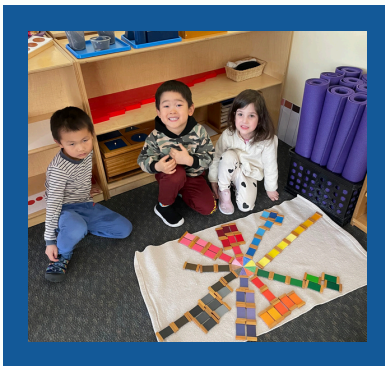
Practical Life and Art:

As the activities in the practical life area increase in difficulty through the year, many children have shown great progress in refining their fine motor skills through sewing, buttoning, shelf cleaning, and dish washing activities. These tasks not only build independence but also foster a sense of responsibility. Making a color wheel intrigued the children in Art area.



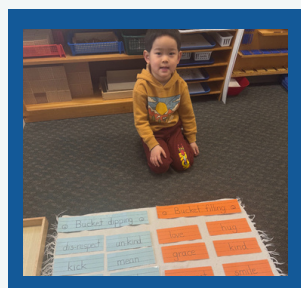
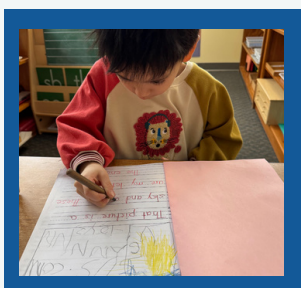
Sensorial Exploration:

Children have been working with materials that help them develop their ability to classify, compare, and refine their senses—such as Color Box, Sound Cylinders, and Trinomial Cube. Having mastered many of the materials, some children have taken the next step and are receiving new lessons using familiar materials in a more challenging way.



Language Development:

Many children are excited to expand their vocabulary, practice letter sounds and letter writing patterns using the Movable Alphabets, and engage in storytelling with journaling. Older children who have mastered their pencil grip have been engaged in a new activity, tracing control maps and copying the labels, to further develop their writing skills. During the month of February, we learned the importance of Grace and Courtesy, where the children engaged in act of kindness towards the peers and adults. We read books, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* and *All We Need is Love* and the children engaged in the activity of matching cards that relate to filling and dipping into the bucket. We encourage you to read the books on kindness which will help them model and cherish the positive behavior.



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

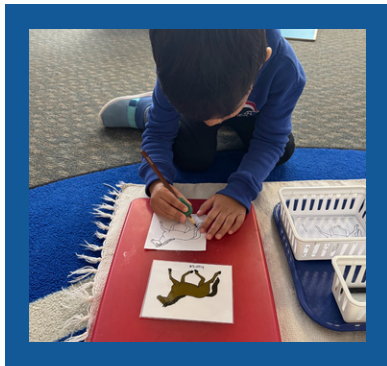
Math Concepts:

Hands-on experiences with Number Rods, the Spindle Box, and Golden Beads continue to strengthen the children's understanding of numbers, quantity, and early mathematical concepts. Through the Fetching Game, they are deepening their ability to connect numerical symbols with corresponding quantities. This month the children were introduced to the concept of physical currency. The children are learning about the Penny, Nickel, Dime and Quarter and how much each coin is worth. The children engaged in matching cards and relating the real coins to each picture. The children were happily engaged in the coin rubbing activity.



Cultural Studies & Science:

This month, the children explored 3-part cards featuring the frog and the horse. As they learn about different body parts, they are creating their own booklets by coloring and either tracing or copying the names, depending on their skill level. In science, they were introduced to the concept of Sink and Float, discovering which objects float and which sink through a hands-on activity.

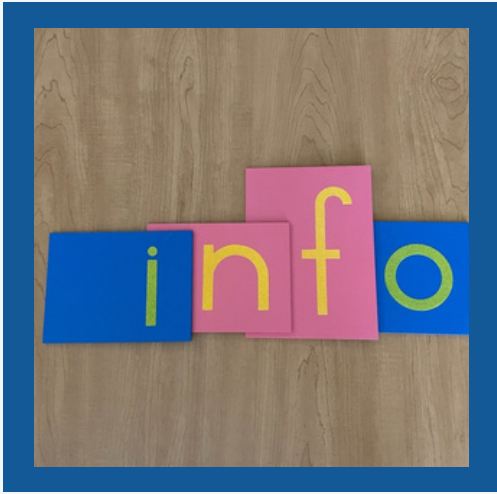


Social & Emotional Growth:

February has been a wonderful time to focus on kindness, patience, and peaceful interactions. Through grace and courtesy lessons, the children continue to develop respectful communication and problem-solving skills. The children learned to be kind and respectful by sharing the valentines with their peers.



Reminders:



- Sneakers are now required footwear for all students while using the American Room for indoor recess and Physical Education classes.
- AM & PM Kindergarten classes have PE on Tuesday.
- All CH classes will have the opportunity to go to the American Room at scheduled times on days when the temperature is too cold to go outside.
- With the snow and wet weather we have needed quite a few clothing changes. We kindly ask that you refill spare clothing bins with seasonal clothing. Please keep their clothing bin stocked with at least 1 full set of clothing.
- If you have borrowed extra clothes from ASM, please wash them and return them to ASM as soon as possible so they can be used for other students when needed.

Follow Us! ASM's new Facebook page and Parents' Facebook Group

ASM's former Facebook page will no longer be utilized. Join our new school Facebook page to stay up to date on classroom experiences, school events, school closings, and highlights from ASM's history as we celebrate our milestone birthday!

School Facebook Page: [facebook.com/asm.andovermontessori](https://www.facebook.com/asm.andovermontessori)

Looking to connect with other parents? Join the parents Facebook group managed by our parents' association (PACE).

Parents Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1326441978548746>

Special Message from the Director of Children's House

Diversity and Visual Discrimination in a 3-6 Classroom

Dear Children's House Parents,

As we near the end of Black History Month, we have an opportunity to speak with our children about a developmentally appropriate awareness of differences and similarities in our world. The sensitive period for refinement of the senses takes place from birth to 6 years old, particularly from the ages of 2.5 to 6 years. In Montessori classrooms globally, the Sensorial shelves offer a variety of materials designed to enhance the refinement of all senses, including visual, tactile, olfactory, auditory, and taste.

In addressing the visual sense, Montessori lessons, or "works," provide children with opportunities to refine their perception of size, color, and shape. For example, the use of the Montessori materials such as the Color Grading Tablets (noticing subtle differences in shades of color) or the Geometric Solids (children sort objects by their shape and match them to the corresponding 3D solids) helps children refine their perception of color and form. During the early childhood stage, children naturally recognize the diverse array of differences present in our world, and these activities are designed to enhance that innate awareness.

While focusing on using the sensorial materials in the classroom, we are also able to use these lessons as a springboard to engage in discussions about diversity and inclusion, extending the conversation beyond the Sensorial shelves. Children at this age will begin to notice variations and differences in our bodies and appearances. At school, if a child notices differences in appearance such as eye shape, skin color, height, or body shape, we acknowledge their observation. "Yes, that is true, and isn't it wonderful that we are all unique?" Then we might ask, "Do you know why?" or they might ask why. Rather than telling them not to talk about how people look, we talk about the beauty of diversity. We talk about families, ethnicity, and countries of origin. These observations are a normal part of this developmental stage. Our goal is to acknowledge, validate, and accept these differences as part of the beauty in our world. How boring it would be if everything were exactly the same!

Though there are many more, I want to recommend a few books I read at home with my daughter, who loves them! Please see the photo below if you are curious about these books.

We're Different, We're The Same, And We're All Wonderful by Bobbi Kates

Anti-Racist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi

Bodies Are Cool by Tyler Feder

I hope you enjoy!

In continued partnership,

Michelle Toppi