

SEPT

**16**

Lower Elementary Curriculum  
Overview 5:30–7:00 p.m.

SEPT

**26**

Lower Elementary Field Trip:  
New England Botanic Garden at  
Tower Hill  
\*pizza will be held the day before  
for LE students

OCT

**3**

Pizza Lunch  
All-School Meeting

OCT

**10**

No School - Professional  
Development Day (Childcare  
Fun Day available)

OCT

**17**

No School - Indigenous  
Peoples'/Columbus Day

OCT

**11**

Portrait Day  
Pizza Lunch  
All-School Meeting

OCT

**23**

United Nations Day: Lower  
Elementary UN Day Potluck

OCT

**24**

Pizza Lunch  
All-School Meeting  
Halloween Fair 3:30–5:00 p.m.

[Click here to see the full  
ASM calendar!](#)

## Our Classroom...



The first weeks of school are all about getting to know students and helping them to get acquainted not only with the classroom environment, but also with one another. We spent time making our All About Me collages, working on projects where students shared their interests, and playing games which allowed them the space and time they needed to learn about one another.



Dove and Hummingbird always work together when possible as a whole to learn and to play and the first week of school is one of the best opportunities to create that bond early on. We came together to challenge the students to work as a whole and in groups which mixed the classes for some games outside before coming inside and seeing just how much everyone had in common by playing a game of Four Corners which involved answering questions and sharing commonalities between students in both classes.

## Math

We begin each year in math by checking in with students on their prior knowledge before diving into each individual students mathematical path. Using the Hierarchical Material, all students are given a chance to think about how numbers work and why place value builds off of knowing how to count and write numbers starting from the smallest number in order to get to some really big numbers! This is one way in which we get students thinking about and working with place value.



## Cultural

What better way to start off the year than with a bang? The First Great Lesson on the Big Bang and how the universe was created is always a fun and important event. Just as the universe began, our studies in Cultural all stem from the creation of the universe. The other Great Lessons which follow all evolve from there. Without this beginning, we would never be able to learn about the parts of the flag or the parts of the pine tree or Africa, which are the other studies we have also begun in the first three weeks of the school year in Cultural.



## Language

We start every school year off with a personal reflection on the summer in the Dove classroom. This year, students were tasked with coming up with summer memories which they will treasure in the future. Each student was asked to consider three events or describe one event in detail about their summer. We did an activity together which served as the planner then began a rough draft and finally colored our treasure chests and wrote final drafts on an index card to place in the chest. This will serve as the first writing sample created by students this year.

Students have also begun to work on Word Studies already which help them to work with words to learn mechanics such as capitalization, punctuation, and compound words.



## STEM

We start off STEM every year by peering into the Bag of Technology and finding out that any tool made by humans to solve a problem, is considered technology. Students this year were so smart, they caught onto this immediately and were even able to give a wonderful definition for what technology is. As the T in STEM stands for technology, students are already off to a great start this year in STEM. We also started the story which goes with our STEM kit about Civil Engineering and building bridges.



## Practical Life

In the Dove classroom, students work with needles and thread to create all sorts of pieces which relate to different parts of the curriculum, especially Cultural. As we are currently studying the continent of Africa, students used felt and traced the outline of Africa and then stitched along the outline in green, which matches the color of the continent of Africa on the puzzle maps students use. Needlework is a great Practical Life skill as it helps students develop fine motor skills, perseverance, and focus.



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

## Looking Ahead...

We invite all Lower Elementary parents to join us for our Curriculum Overview Night on Tuesday, September 16 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Montessori curriculum your child will be engaging with throughout the school year. Our teachers will walk you through the key areas of study, classroom routines, and how we support your child's academic and personal growth. We look forward to sharing this journey with you!

