Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI
CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF EDUCATION

Kindergarten Classroom Newsletter

December 2025

CALENDAR

12/23 School Closed - Professional Development Day

12/24-1/2 School Closed - Winter Break

1/5 School Resumes

1/9 ASM Spirit Day
All-School Meeting
Pizza Lunch

1/13 Kindergarten: The Leadership Year (A hands-on workshop for prospective Kindergarten parents)

1/16 All-School Meeting
Collaborative Classrooms begin (K-8)
Pizza Lunch

1/19 School Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/21 Portrait of a Graduate
7:00 p.m.

1/23 All-School Meeting
Collaborative Classrooms (K-8)
Pizza Lunch

1/30 All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
CH Dismissal from the main entrance
Around the World Cultural Festival 3:30-5:30 p.m.

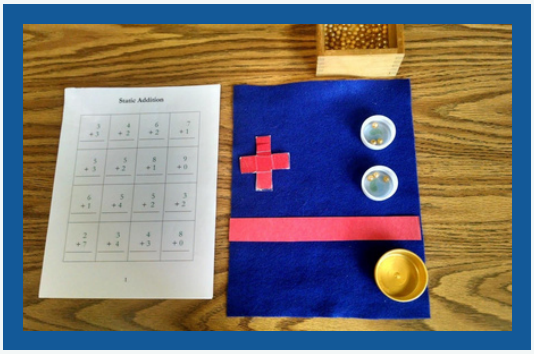
Click here to view ASM's calendar!

Our Classroom...

Morning and 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) along the way.

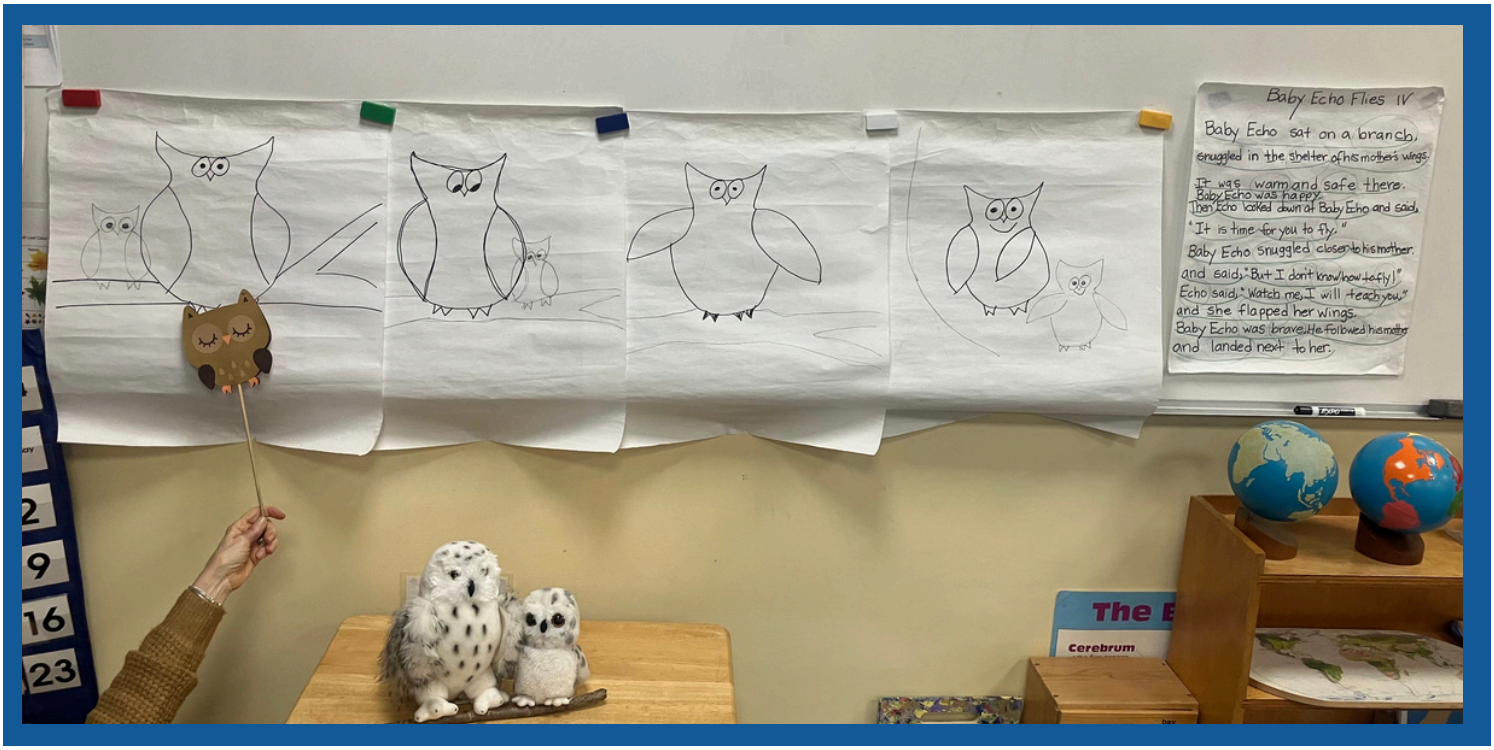


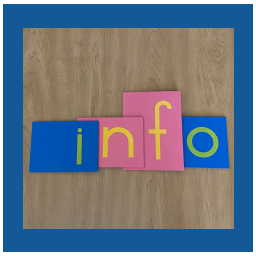
STEM

With much enthusiasm, we started our Engineering is Elementary Unit for Kindergarten. "Here's the Scoop; Designing Trash Collectors". In this unit we meet the characters; Yumi and Dev; who are in Kindergarten and live in the same apartment building. They spend a lot of time playing in the neighborhood park across the street. A favorite activity at the park is feeding the resident duck they have named Danny. One day when visiting the park, Yumi and Dev are very upset to find trash in Danny's pond. They are worried about the trash harming Danny or making him sick. So, the problem we are going to work on solving through this series of seven lessons is how to clean up the pond. The goal, once we get to the create step, will be to build a trash collector on the handle provided that takes the trash out of the pond while leaving the water behind. In our work with this unit, we have learned that engineers ask a lot of questions when solving problems! Some of the questions we needed to answer focused on the materials; what shapes work best to pick up trash and which ones worked best when wet. So far, 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.

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.





Upcoming Event

January 16 - Virtual In-House Field Trip; Living & Working in Space from NASA's Goddard Space Center

[Click here for more classroom photos!]