

## CALENDAR

- 12/3 Looking Ahead to Kindergarten:  
Observations 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- 12/4 Portrait Re-takes and Sibling  
Portrait Day
- 12/5 All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.  
ASM Spirit Day  
Pizza Lunch
- 12/9 Children's House Curriculum  
Overview: Part 2 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 12/12 Children's House Winter  
Concert 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.  
Pizza Lunch
- 12/15 Snow Date for Winter Concert
- 12/17 Kindergarten Open Classroom  
8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.
- 12/23 School closed: Professional  
Development (Fun Days offered)
- 12/24- School Closed - Winter Break  
1/5

## Our Classroom...



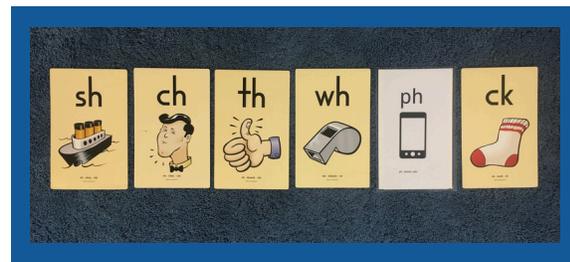
## *Morning Kindergarten*



## *Afternoon Kindergarten*

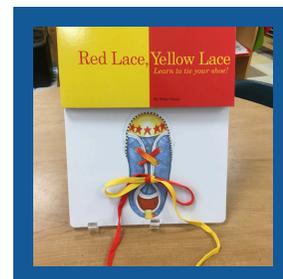
## Language

A consonant digraph is two consonants that "stick together" to make one sound, such as "s" and "h" together making the /sh/ sound. Additionally, because a consonant digraph makes one sound, it only gets one tap when we are tapping out the sounds in a word and also when we are labeling a digraph in a written word, it gets one underline. The following are the digraphs we cover in Foundations: ck, th, wh, sh, ph, and ch. Every year, around this time, as we are learning our last digraph, the classroom and lunchroom are filled with digraph detectives. The Kindergarteners are looking for digraphs everywhere and we get daily reports of a new digraph discovery in a word.



## Practical Life

Learning to tie shoes is a rite of passage for Kindergarten students. It takes time, patience, and PERSISTENCE. The book pictured here gives students an opportunity to practice as they read along.



## In House Field Trip

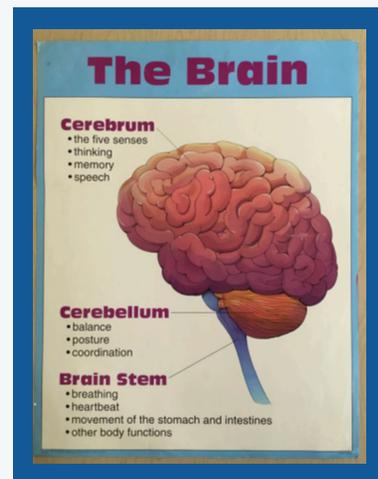
We excitedly welcomed the Mass Audubon to Kindergarten for the first in our three-part series; Signs of the Season. Thankfully, the weather cooperated so that we could enjoy this outdoor event! While outside, we used our science eyes, noticing different types of trees and that evergreen trees are still very green with their needle-like leaves, while other trees have lost all of their leaves and have bare branches. Utilizing our science senses, we listened for different types of birds that have not migrated, and also noticed many animal holes in the ground, likely made by chipmunks. As we went further along the path toward the bridge, we used our observation skills to look for signs of red or gray squirrels, both of which are native to this area. Our event leader, Miss Rebecca, explained that gray squirrels are neat and tidy eaters. Red squirrels are the opposite and eat like Cookie Monster. As we made our way back to school, our event leader gave each of us a pom pom acorn, then we channeled our inner squirrel and hid the pom pom where we would be able to find it. Unlike squirrels that will forget where they hid some of their acorns, we found our pom pom acorns and returned them to our event leader. Our final activity was in the open space by the middle school garden. Miss Rebecca squeezed in a quick lesson on different types of clouds. Then, using our science eyes, we observed the sky. We learned that the low-level, gray clouds that covered the entire sky like a sheet were stratus clouds. We had so much fun, and now, we are really looking forward to our winter visit!



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

## Unit of Study

Our life science unit of study on the human body continues with a focus on learning about the brain. We have learned that it is a very important organ as it is the body's control center. Mr./Mrs. Bones, our resident skeleton model, shows us where the brain is located and that the skull protects this important organ. Our learning has covered the three major parts of the brain. The cerebrum, the largest of the three, is responsible for thinking, the senses, and memory. Along that line, memory games have become a classroom favorite! Next, the cerebellum controls our balance and coordination. Finally, the brain stem manages breathing and the heart's pumping even when we are asleep. Tied in with the brain stem is the spinal cord, a message highway sending information throughout the body and back to the brain. Again, our resident skeleton model shows us where the spinal cord is located and that the backbone protects the spinal cord! We have had fun with a hands-on experiment, puzzles, and brain mazes. All of which engage our cerebrums for thinking and memory.



We also learned the following brain song to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star":  
Twinkle, twinkle brain of mine, how I think you're mighty fine,  
Up above in my head so high, like a diamond in the sky,  
Twinkle, twinkle brain of mine, how I think you're mighty fine!

## Thanksgiving Fun

On Monday, November 24th, we will be making butter in Kindergarten. This wonderful tradition has always been so much fun! We will have three butter making stations with 2-3 students and one adult. After taking turns shaking the contents of our jar (at each station) into butter, we start filling the containers, one for each student. Then, as a finishing touch, we attach a festive name tag (with ingredients listed on the other side). On our end, we will do all we can to make sure everyone's butter gets home safely to be shared with their family for Thanksgiving or otherwise. We are so thankful for the support of our room parent, Michelle Toppi, for helping us make this activity such a success. Please be sure to check our November picture folder afterward.



## Upcoming Events:

December 9: Curriculum Workshop  
Part Two: Sensorial, Math, and Science  
5:00-6:00 p.m. [RSVP](#)

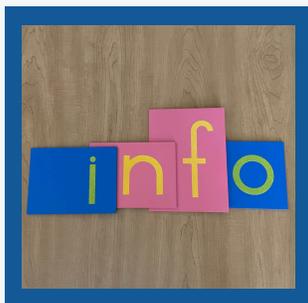
Friday, December 12 - CH Winter Concert  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17 - Kindergarten Open Classroom:  
• AM Kindergarten 8:45-9:30 a.m.  
• PM Kindergarten 2:15-3:00 p.m.

December 18 - Looking Ahead to Lower Elementary  
8:30-9:30 a.m. [RSVP](#)

## Reminders

- With the cold weather upon us, please note that we do try to go outside every day. Please be sure to send children in outdoor gear that will keep them warm. We also ask that you label their gear. Some of us have the same hats, similar coats, and boots. In Kindergarten, we can not rely on size as a differentiator, as many of us share the same size.
- We still have empty change of clothing bins. They are located on the shelf above your child's coat hook. Please be sure there is an extra set of seasonally appropriate clothing just in case.



# Integrated Arts

## Art

In November, our Kindergarteners learned that some artists make art from found objects. They used dried seeds and beans to create Harvest Collages, while building fine motor skills, and will enhance the backgrounds with imaginative landscapes.



## Physical Education

Kindergarten has had a great time with this month's mission to learn the basics of kickball. We began by practicing kicking and running the bases, played a great game of pillow polo (floor hockey), and even spent a day zipping around on seated scooters and a fun game of Wreckers and Builders with bowling pins and balls. There's been plenty of movement, and lots of fun all around.

## Music

Children's House and Kindergarten students are embracing the chill in the air as they begin preparing seasonal songs for their Winter Concert performance. While exploring themes such as "wind," the students moved expressively with scarves, responding to musical cues. They also investigated how size and length influence pitch by observing the function of a capo while singing "Hot Chocolate." Kindergarten students enjoyed an extra treat by exploring auxiliary percussion through the playful "Five Little Pumpkins" rhyme.

