

## Our Classroom...



Each year, our Middle School students are proud to welcome visitors from Bridges by EPOCH, a local memory care community, as part of our Community-Based Service program. This meaningful partnership gives students the opportunity to build connections across generations while serving others with empathy and intention. During their visits, students and residents enjoy time together through shared crafts, conversation, and joyful performances. Our LE students play a special role by helping prepare and present performances, adding creativity and energy to the experience. The residents love participating, and the smiles, laughter, and engagement shared by all make these visits a highlight of the year.



Our students loved welcoming their parents into the classroom for Bring a Parent to School Night! Students shared the work they've been practicing, demonstrating lessons, explaining materials, and showing just how much they've grown in independence and confidence. In a Montessori environment, showing one's work is an important part of the learning journey. It allows children to reflect on their progress, strengthen communication skills, and take ownership of their learning. Sharing this experience with parents deepens the home-school connection and helps families truly see the care, concentration, and joy that go into their child's daily work. It was a wonderful evening of connection, confidence, and celebration.

FEB

3

Head of School Breakfast  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Casey Room

FEB

6

Collaborative Classroom Ends  
All-School Meeting 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.  
Pizza Lunch  
ASM Spirit Day!

FEB

9

Red Gate Farm Parent  
Information Session  
9:00-9:30 a.m.

FEB

13

In House Field Trip:  
Engineering/Technology Workshop  
Pizza Lunch

FEB

16

School Closed: Presidents' Day

FEB

17

School Closed: February Break  
2/17-2/20

FEB

27

Pizza Lunch

MAR

5

Science Fair 6:00-7:30pm

MAR

6

No School: Professional  
Development Day

## Math

We are continuing our exploration of money in math this month as well. During Collaborative Classroom, it has been wonderful to see our excited first-year students doing their best to share their newfound knowledge of coins and their values. Second- and third-year students have been enthusiastically working on their main lesson of adding up change in exchange for goods, and they have also been practicing these skills by playing the Money Game with one another. In this game, students race to roll the dice and collect coins that add up to one dollar, strengthening their change-adding skills along the way. Third-year students have also been hard at work applying their money skills to buying goods and budgeting for a trip.



## Cultural

After learning about inverted land and water forms, students have been working to identify real-world examples of each type. We are continuing our study of landforms by exploring the parts of a mountain and learning about different mountains around the world. Using a clay model in the classroom, students will practice identifying and labeling the different parts of a mountain while making connections between the model and mountains they may have experienced through skiing, snowboarding, or hiking.



## Language

Our language work continues, with different components practiced at various times throughout the week. Students work on parts of speech using the farm and grammar boxes twice a week. Everyone completes at least one word study each day, often enjoying working together, as this can be a great opportunity to pool their knowledge of words and support one another.

We are also continuing our work in persuasive writing, with students considering how they can convince someone that a game they enjoy is fun to play or why a show they enjoy is worth watching. In addition to developing a clear reason, students must provide an example that supports their thinking, encouraging them to thoughtfully distinguish between a reason and an example.



## STEM



We would like to thank those of you who were able to join us at the All School Meeting on the 23rd for our STEM presentation. If you were unable to attend, a video of the presentation is included in the album linked at the bottom of this newsletter.

We are continuing our STEM studies with further exploration of mechanical engineering and machines as we move into the next stages of the Engineering Design Process. This work connects directly to our science curriculum, as students apply problem-solving skills, test ideas, and refine designs while exploring how simple machines help solve real-world challenges.

## Practical Life

As students continue to work steadily on their globe pillows, they have also begun exploring new projects that involve needle and thread. Some students are making bookmarks or pictures using embroidery, while others are challenging themselves to learn cross-stitch. Across all projects, students are doing their best to continue developing their needleworking skills. This work supports practical life development by strengthening fine motor skills, concentration, perseverance, and independence as students take responsibility for their materials and progress.



## Looking Ahead...

Our students will be celebrating with a Valentine's Day Exchange on Friday, February 13th! On this day, students may bring in Valentine cards to exchange with their classmates. Please be sure your child brings enough cards for every student in the class so no one is left out. A link with a list of student names is provided below to help with addressing the cards.

To support school guidelines, candy is not permitted as part of the exchange. However, small non-food items such as pencils or erasers are welcome.

We're looking forward to a wonderful day full of love, kindness, and smiles!

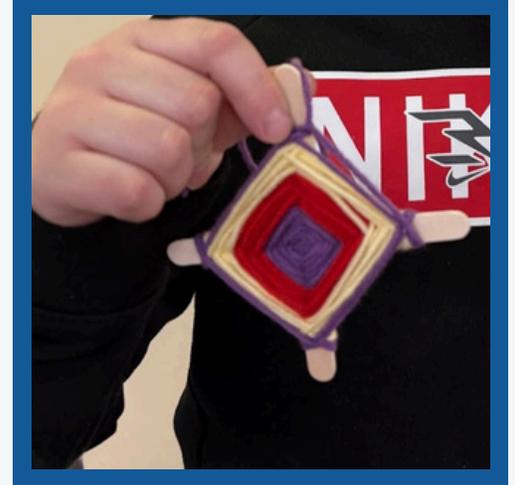
[Click here to view the Class List](#)

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

# Integrated Arts Update

## Art

Lower Elementary students began a unit on Pre-Columbian art by learning about the Huichol culture and their tradition of creating God's Eyes, or Ojos de Dios, as symbols of protection and care for young children. Students explored the cultural meaning behind the designs and colors before carefully weaving colored yarn around craft sticks to create their own versions. This hands-on project encouraged focus, fine motor development, and an appreciation for art as a form of cultural expression.



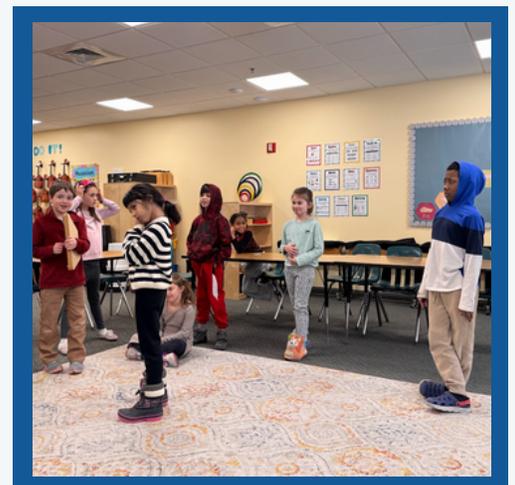
## Music

Lower Elementary students kicked off January by exploring Boomwhackers, colorful pitched tubes in which the length determines the pitch. After learning about the history of the instrument and watching a performance, students experimented with rhythm, pitch, and teamwork as they played together. In later lessons, students created and performed class compositions using Chrome Music Lab, a program that color coordinates with the Boomwhackers and supports visual understanding of musical patterns. Students practiced listening, timing, and collaboration as they brought their original compositions to life, and the play throughs were both intuitive and engaging.



## Theater

Lower Elementary students continued working on blocking in theater class this January, focusing on listening carefully for cues, using purposeful movement on stage, and practicing their lines to improve the overall flow of the performance. They also began memorizing their lines and participated in their first rehearsal without scripts at the end of the month, building confidence, expression, and collaboration with their peers. Their plays are beginning to come to life off the page as students bring character and energy to their roles.



# Integrated Arts Update

## Spanish

During January, students explored parts of the body and clothing in Spanish. We began by learning the parts of the face and basic body parts through a hands-on, creative activity in which students built their own person step by step as each body part was introduced. As the month progressed, we expanded to the full body and winter clothing. Students created a movable paper person, adding winter clothing items while practicing new vocabulary in a playful and engaging way.



## Physical Education

Lower Elementary students have been enjoying a variety of movement activities, including line dancing, free dance, and indoor hockey, using a “choice is yours” approach that encourages independence and student voice. This structure allows students to select activities that match their interests while staying active and engaged. Classes continue to begin with jump rope warm-ups, helping students build coordination, stamina, and a love of movement while having fun together.



## Looking Ahead...

We are thrilled to announce several exciting opportunities to witness the culmination of the hard work put in by our Integrated Arts faculty as they support students in preparing for key events at ASM. Below are the important dates for these events. Additional logistics will be provided as we approach each date.

- May 6.....Art Show Opening
- May 21.....Lower Elementary Theater Performance
- June 1.....Field Day



# Elementary Summer Program

This summer, we're offering a diverse array of programs tailored to students from kindergarten through grade 8, designed to spark creativity, inspire curiosity, and provide meaningful enrichment. Many of these dynamic programs are led by our talented ASM faculty and enrichment teachers, providing students with an engaging and high-quality experience. Whether a student is interested in exploring technology, diving into creative arts, or embarking on new adventures in science, there is something for everyone this summer! Students from ASM and the wider community are welcome to join us. We're excited to open our doors to all who are eager to learn and grow with us during this exciting season. Please feel free to share ASM's summer program offerings with your friends and family.



Visit our [Summer Program 2026 website](#) to learn more about the programs and to register!