

CALENDAR

Our Classroom...



Morning Kindergarten

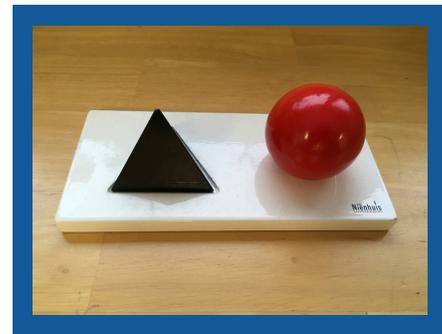


Afternoon Kindergarten

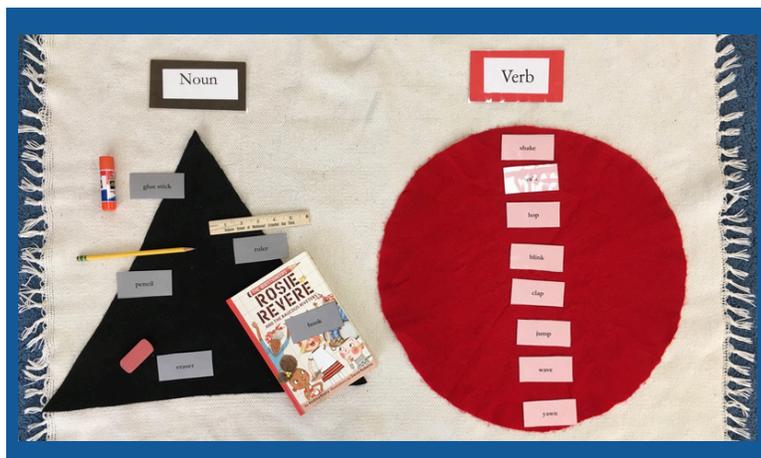
- 2/3 Head of School Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Casey Rom
- 2/5 In-House Field Trip:
Mass Audubon Society
- 2/6 ASM Spirit Day!
All-School Meeting 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.
Collaborative Classrooms
Pizza Lunch
- 2/13 Re-enrollment Agreement Early
Return Discount deadline
All-School Meeting 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
- 2/16 School Closed: Presidents' Day
- 2/17-20 February Break
Childcare Fun Days available
- 2/27 All-School Meeting 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.
Pizza Lunch
- 3/5 Science Fair: Grades 3-7
- 3/6 School Closed: Professional
Development Day
Childcare Fun Day available

Language

In language, we are learning about grammar; the structure of language. We were introduced to the noun and verb. Dr. Montessori used a black, square based pyramid to represent the noun as the pyramid is symbolic of stability. For the verb, she chose a red sphere which rolls and demonstrates action. We learned that a noun is a word that names a person, place or thing, whereas a verb is an action word.

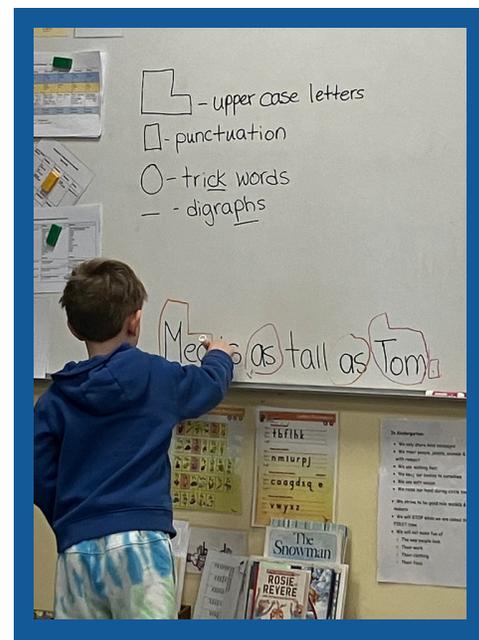
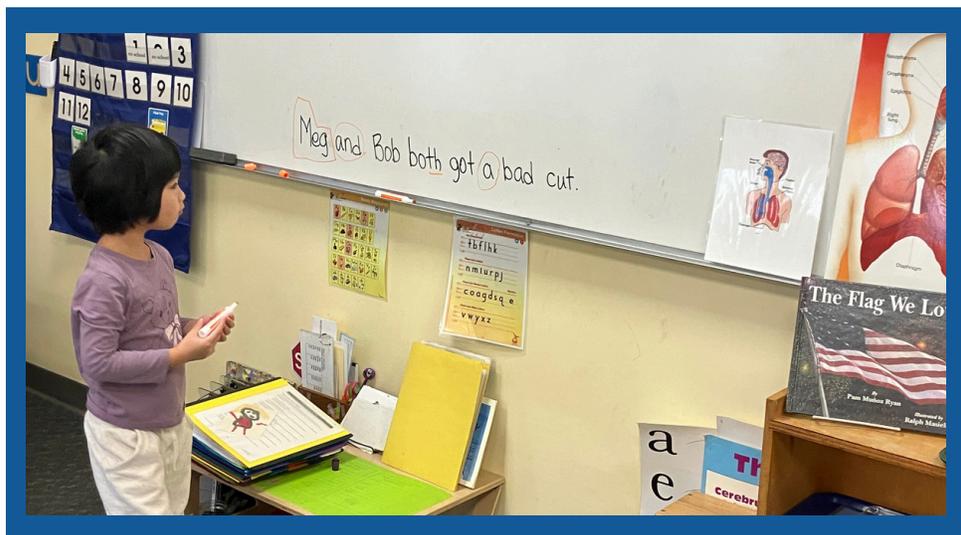
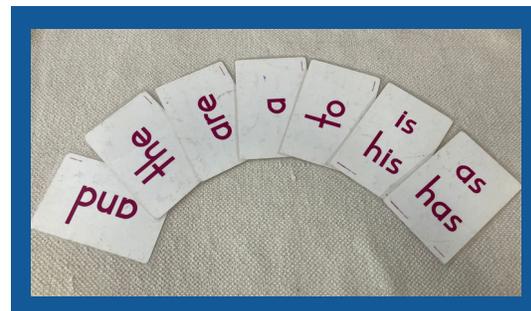


Pictured here is the two-dimensional representation of the noun and verb. It is also an activity on the shelf. The noun is a black equilateral triangle and a red circle is used to represent the verb. We have been enjoying a naming game (nouns) and the verb activity where participants act out the action words.



Fundations Trick Words

Throughout the Kindergarten year, we will learn twenty-seven trick words. Trick words are words that can not be tapped out phonetically and are used constantly in the English language. Knowledge of trick words brings us from reading on a word level to reading on a sentence level. The goal is to learn these words to a level of automaticity, or quick and automatic response. When introduced during circle time, trick words are embedded in a sentence. Then, students come up to the board one at a time to help label the sentence in the following way. We use a tall frame for each word with an uppercase letter, put punctuation marks in a box, underline digraphs, and circle trick words. This system of labeling continues into Lower Elementary. Soon, we will start adding grammar symbols and consonant blends to our sentence labeling too!



Science

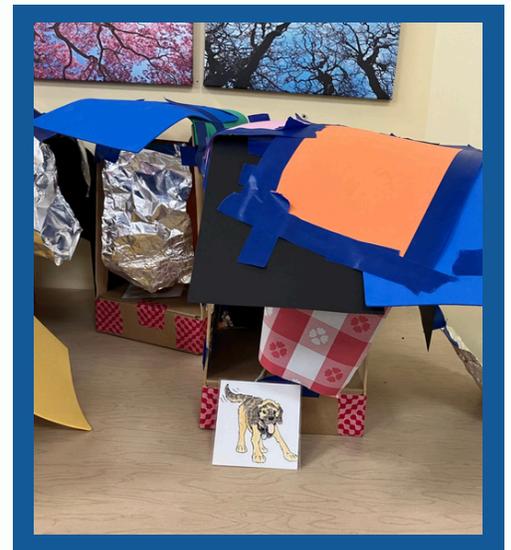
As our unit of study about the human body continues we are now learning about the respiratory system. This unit started with an overview of the lungs. Then, our focus shifted to the diaphragm. The diaphragm is a muscle that separates the chest cavity and abdomen and also moves with the breathing process. Pictured here is an activity we are having fun exploring. The knotted balloon at the bottom represents the diaphragm and the balloon inside the container represents a lung. When the balloon with the knot is pulled down, the balloon inside fills with air. When the knotted balloon springs back in place, the one inside deflates. The straw at the top is meant to represent the trachea or windpipe.

We also learned a Lung Song
(to the tune of “Row, Row, Row your Boat”)
Breathe, breathe, breathe in air
And your lungs will grow.
In and out
In and out
That’s the way it goes.



STEM

With the start of the New Year, we enthusiastically began our second Engineering is Elementary Unit for Kindergarten. Raise the Roof: Designing Shelters. Once again, throughout the unit, we will ask a lot of questions when solving our given problem. Our main character is Penny the dog. Some of the questions we need to answer are: How can we change the shape of a roof to make more shade? Which materials will work well to shade Penny from the sun? And then, which materials will we include in our shelter and how will we use each one? Students will explore and design roof models that provide shade and are waterproof, to protect Penny from the sun (and rain). This unit further develops our understanding of environmental factors like sun and water.



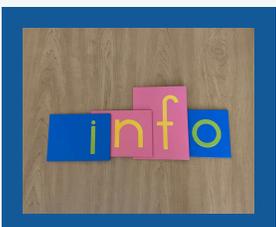
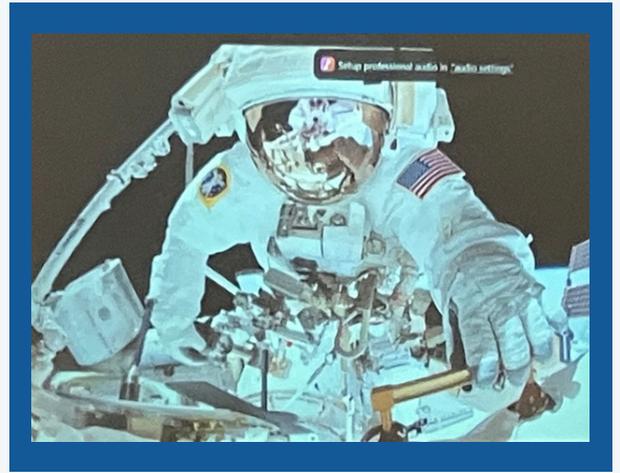
Fun Fact

Even the curriculum developers at the Museum of Science Boston use the Improve step of the Engineering Design Process. Pictured here you see the shelter bases used when we piloted this unit for the Museum of Science. If you look closely you will see Percy the Bat (not Penny the dog) whose wings needed to be in the shade. As you know, in the final version of this curriculum unit, the character changed to Penny the dog who needs shade when she is out on her leash. Maybe, because bats are nocturnal?

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

In House Field Trip

NASA's Goddard Visitor Center is located on the main campus of the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. We were so excited to have the opportunity to participate in their virtual field trip. Our presenter; DJ was quite skilled at making the information understandable for this age group. Did you know astronauts prepare for space for two years and that some of that preparation takes place in a pool? The floating sensation (in water) and the use of oxygen tanks for breathing (under water) prepares them for living on the International Space Station. The demonstration of the space suit was a favorite for all. From the mini computer on the chest of the upper part of the suit to hearing that putting on the suit pants is a two person work!



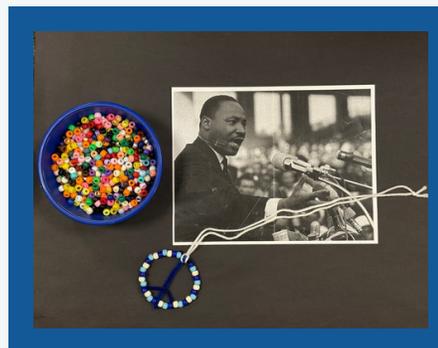
Reminders

- Sneakers are preferred for PE class. Kindergarten PE classes are on Mondays.
- 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.

Integrated Arts

Art

In January, the Kindergarten students refined their drawing skills by creating snowy owls. Through this activity, they developed their ability to break down complex forms into simple shapes and practiced using light, sketchy lines. Additionally, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the students created patterned peace sign necklaces.



Physical Education

Due to winter weather and the holiday schedule, kindergarten classes met only once in January. Despite the limited time, students remained active and engaged, participating in indoor warm-ups such as jumping jacks and enjoying indoor soccer activities. We look forward to continuing to build skills and enthusiasm in February, highlighted by up rope activities in celebration of Heart Month.

Music

This January, Kindergarten students continued their study of rhythm and pitch by exploring Do and Sol on the Orff xylophone. They improvised their own four-beat phrases and practiced echoing back their classmates' ideas. Students also played a rhythm game called *Poison Pattern*, using rhythm sticks to echo a variety of four-beat rhythms while carefully avoiding a designated "poison" pattern written on the board. This activity supported the development of rhythmic accuracy, listening skills, and musical memory.



Spanish

During January, children expanded their vocabulary for wild animals and learned additional adjectives and nouns to describe them. They are now able to describe these animals using longer, grammatically correct sentences, stating what the animals have and do not have. For example: "El león corre rápido y no tiene alas"/"The lion runs fast and has no wings". Later, sea animals were introduced. Kindergarten students learned the months of the year through more songs and games and continued practicing counting to 100 by ones.