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CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Lower Elementary
Dove

September 25, 2026
Issue 1

IMPORTANT DATES

10/2	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/6	Head of School Coffee 8:30-9:30 a.m.
10/8	Portrait Day Pizza Lunch
10/9	School Closed: Professional Development Day (Childcare Fun Day available)
10/12	School Closed: Indigenous Peoples' Day
10/16	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/21	Screenagers: Generation AI showing 6:30-7:30 p.m.
10/23	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/23	Lower Elementary United Nations Day Luncheon 12:00-1:00 p.m.
10/25	Open House for Prospective Families 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
10/30	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m. Halloween Fair 3:30-5:00 p.m. (no Enrichment)
11/6	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
11/11	School Closed: Veterans Day
11/13	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m. Lower Elementary Field Trip: Museum of Science

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM



The students had a wonderful start to the school year! They got to know the teachers and one another through fun "Getting to Know Me" activities, while also learning and practicing our classroom and school routines.

We have also begun classroom assessments to help us better understand each student's individual strengths and areas for growth.

It has been wonderful to see students making new friends, building connections, and becoming comfortable in their new classroom environment.

They are doing a fantastic job acclimating to the new school year, and we are so proud of the positive start they have made!

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Math

Starting the year with math assessments helps us determine how well students remember the math skills they have learned in the past. As we begin reviewing these skills, first-year students are focusing on odd and even numbers, while second- and third-year students are reviewing place value.



Language

We also start off language with assessments. Our reading assessments help us to see what reading level students start off the year at so we can be sure to target their reading level when working on skills and comprehension. We also wrote about what students did over the summer as a working record of where they are starting off with their writing skills this year.



Cultural

In Biology, students have been learning about the parts of seaweed through an impressionistic lesson, hands-on observation, and nomenclature cards with pictures and labels. They had the opportunity to deepen their learning and explore seaweed firsthand during our field trip to Castle Hill!



STEM

In STEM, students began their Land Study and Gardening Unit! They worked together to build a garden bed in which we will be able to plant and observe how plants grow throughout the year. It is great to be able to link this with what we learn in our biology lessons.

INTEGRATED ARTS

Art

The Lower Elementary students are discovering how art has been used to express stories, traditions, and beliefs across several Native American cultures. They analyzed the pictographs used by Pueblo communities to communicate stories and ideas, then created their own pictographs to tell stories and decorate images of pottery. They also learned about the migratory lifestyle of some cultures who lived in the Great Plains and how the tepee provided a portable home. They put their learning into practice by designing and decorating their own miniature tepees with traditional imagery using cardstock, wooden skewers, and paint





Music

Lower Elementary had an exciting start to music this school year, kicking off with recorder study. Students reviewed how to care for their instruments, hold them correctly, and use proper breath support and finger placement to produce a clear sound. We played songs using their first three notes, B, A, and G, and practiced playing them in different patterns while reviewing how to read music notation and match the notes on the page to the sounds they played. Additionally, we focused heavily on rhythm and beat this month, practicing beat competency by bouncing a ball to a steady beat along with the song “Bounce High, Bounce Low.”



INTEGRATED ARTS

Physical Education



Lower Elementary is off to a great start! We reviewed class expectations and jumped right into running the field, focusing on pacing and endurance. We have also been enjoying games that build coordination and teamwork, while beginning to work on basketball dribbling and team building skills.



Spanish

In the first lesson with Lower Elementary students we agreed on the 'Acuerdo Comunitario' (Community agreement), in which we set the guidelines to follow in the Spanish class, such as respect all accents and cultures, raise the hand to speak and have fun, all in Spanish. They read out loud and we review previous knowledge like numbers and days of the week. They enjoyed introducing themselves by saying "yo soy..." (I am...) .



Theater



Lower Elementary has had an exciting beginning to the school year in theater class. Students engaged in several workshop games that sparked creativity and got them thinking about different forms of communication, including facial expressions, body language, words, and tone. Students played the improvisation game "What Are You Doing?" where they acted out one thing while saying they were doing something completely different. The activity challenged students to think creatively and respond to one another while also considering the meaning behind their movements. Additionally, students learned about folktales and their different categories, reading through "Tony's Bread" by Tomie dePaola and categorizing it as a fable, myth, fairy tale, legend, or tall tale. Looking ahead, students are excited to begin previewing scripts!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS]



Practical Life

Part of Practical Life is learning to take care of your environment. In Lower Elementary, students are tasked with jobs in the classroom that they complete at the end of each day. Their job changes each week and they generally involve cleaning and maintaining our classroom as well as taking care of our plants.

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

This year, our Lower Elementary students will learn about Executive Functioning (EF) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in fun and meaningful ways. We will talk about how our brains work, how our feelings can impact our day, and the different tools we can use to help ourselves when things feel tricky. Through stories, games, conversations, and hands-on activities, students will practice skills like recognizing emotions, making a plan, getting organized, solving problems, and thinking flexibly. As the year continues, we will build a toolbox of strategies students can use at school and at home as they grow into confident, independent learners.

Ways to Help

ASM Group Snack

Our Group Snack program begins Tuesday, October 6! Students will practice food preparation, following directions, cooperation, grace and courtesy, independence, and responsibility, all while contributing to our classroom community.

Families who would like to donate snacks can sign up using the link below. Thank you for helping make Group Snack a meaningful and enjoyable experience for our students!

[Group Snack Sign-Up]

United Nations Day

We are excited to celebrate United Nations Day on Friday, October 23! Students will celebrate cultures from around the world through their research, food, and family traditions. Students are also encouraged to wear traditional clothing that represents their family's heritage.

Families can contribute a cultural dish to our potluck luncheon or volunteer to help with event setup and cleanup. Parents are invited to attend. Please use the links below to sign up.

[Potluck Sign-Up]