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CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Lower Elementary
Hummingbird

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.-1:00p.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

Students began the year with place value using the Hierarchical Material, exploring numbers to the millions place. In Geometry, first years explored solid to point using the blue cube, second years learned about polygons, and third years classified triangles by their sides. It has been a wonderful start to our Math and Geometry work!



Language

In Language, first year students practiced capitalizing names, learning when and why to use capital letters. Second year students explored compound words, learning how words can be combined to create new words. Third year students learned about concrete and abstract nouns, distinguishing between things we can sense and ideas or feelings.



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, then measured and mapped the garden area. Students created simple maps showing the garden beds, pathways, water source, direction of the sun, and other important nearby features.

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 guidelines for Spanish class, such as respecting all accents and cultures, raising a hand to speak, and having fun, all in Spanish. Students read aloud and reviewed prior knowledge, including numbers and the days of the week. They also 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

In Practical Life, students have begun learning how to thread a needle and sew independently, as well as how to sew on a button. These purposeful, hands-on activities reflect the Montessori emphasis on learning through real and meaningful work. As students practice each step, they strengthen fine-motor skills, concentration, coordination, patience, and independence while building confidence in their ability to care for themselves and complete practical tasks they can use in everyday life.

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

This year, our Lower Elementary students will explore Executive Functioning (EF) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in engaging and meaningful ways. Students will learn more about how their brains work, how emotions can affect their day, and the strategies they can use when situations feel challenging. Through stories, games, conversations, and hands-on activities, students will practice important skills such as recognizing emotions, making plans, staying organized, solving problems, and thinking flexibly. Throughout the year, they will build a toolbox of strategies they can use both at school and at home as they continue to grow in confidence and independence.

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]