Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Upper Elementary | 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

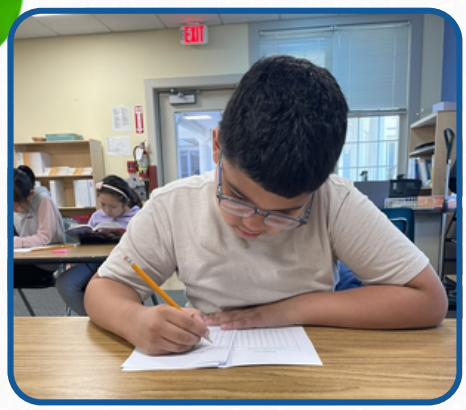


The past few weeks have been busy in the UE classroom! Students are settling into our daily routines and work cycle while building new skills and taking on greater responsibility within our classroom community.

Students have started individual animal research projects, a collaborative class Timeline of Life, and exploring personal narratives.

Students excitedly prepared to present their class Timeline of Life at today's All-School Meeting.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Math

We've been revisiting long multiplication and long division to strengthen students' understanding of the steps involved and build accuracy and fluency. They have been practicing these operations with increasingly complex problems. Students have also been practicing their math facts to build greater automaticity and support their work with more complex mathematical problems.



Language

Daily Fundations lessons are helping students further develop their language skills. They have also been working through the writing process to create personal narratives, developing ideas from their own experiences and learning how to organize these ideas into a clear story.



History

Students have been working together to create a class Timeline of Life. They have been learning how to represent such a vast span of time in a way that communicates scale while remaining clear and accessible to viewers. This project is giving students an opportunity to combine historical understanding with research, design, and collaboration.



Science

Individual animal research, as an extension of our Timeline of Life study, is progressing nicely. Students are learning how to organize their research, take notes from different sources, and identify information that will help them understand their animal within the larger story of life on Earth.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS

STEM



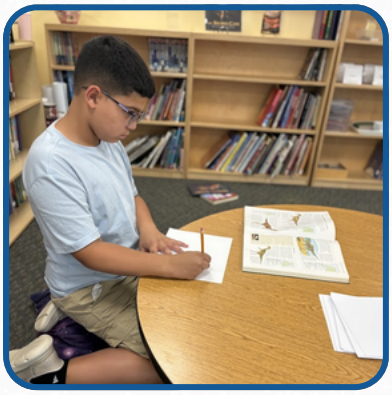
Students have been developing new skills in STEM as they begin building a garden box for their upcoming land study unit. Working together to measure, plan, and construct the box gives students an opportunity to apply math, problem-solving, and building skills to a real project. As we move into our land study unit, the garden box will provide a hands-on way for students to explore soil, plants, ecosystems, and how living things interact with their enivironment. Students are learning that the work they do in the classroom can have a lasting purpose in within our school community.

Practial Life



Over the past few weeks, students have taken responsibility for classroom routines, working together to keep our environment organized and clean through their daily classroom jobs. Additionally, while the middle school students were at Chewonki, UE served pizza to the Children's House and Lower Elementary students. Students were excited to spend time with the younger students and to have the opportunity to give back to their school community.

Looking Ahead



Looking ahead, the UE students will begin a United Nations research project. Each student will select a country to study in depth. Students will explore the country's culture and contributions to the global community. Students will practice gathering and organizing information, as well as putting together a final presentation to share on October 23rd.

INTEGRATED ARTS

Art

The Upper Elementary students are exploring the Op Art movement of the 20th century. They studied how artists such as Bridget Riley (b. 1931) use line, pattern, and repetition to create the illusion of movement and three-dimensionality. Inspired by Riley's work, students created their own dynamic Op Art waves. They also experimented with shading with colored pencils to create the illusion of a three-dimensional hand. Through these projects, they are discovering how artists can use color, line, and value to make two-dimensional artwork appear to move and come to life.



Music

Upper Elementary had a dynamic start to the year, beginning with our ukulele unit. Students learned about the history of the instrument and its anatomy, including the names and pitches of each string and the different parts of the instrument. They practiced properly handling the ukulele, strumming, and playing their first chord, C major. Excitement continues to grow as students become more comfortable and confident on the instrument.





Physical Education

Upper Elementary has started each class with running and pacing, gradually adding speed as we build endurance. We've enjoyed lots of team-building games and have been working on basketball dribbling skills. We will continue strengthening our basketball skills while building teamwork and coordination.

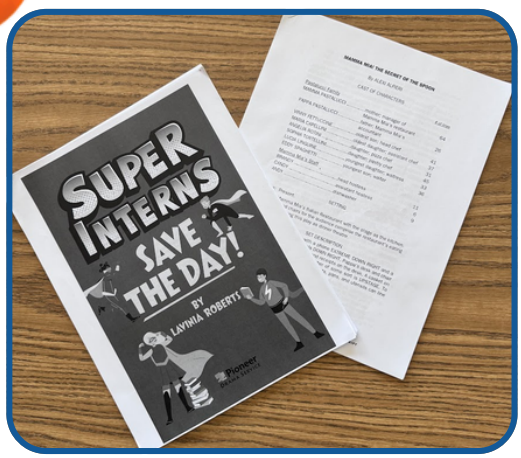
INTEGRATED ARTS

Spanish

Upper Elementary students began the year with reviewing the weather and the proper clothing for each season. We all agreed in the 'Acuerdo Comunitario' (Community Agreement) setting the guidelines to follow in Spanish class. We agreed to respect each other's personal bubble, raise our hand to talk, and respect all the cultures and accents. They read it all in Spanish and introduce themselves saying 'Yo me llamo...' (my name is...).



Theater



It's been an exciting beginning to the school year in Upper Elementary theater. After playing some workshop games designed to engage students creatively and prepare them for acting, students read through potential scripts for their play in May. After reading through "Super Interns Save the Day" and "Mamma Mia: The Secret of the Spoon" in various roles, students decided which play they would like to prepare and hit the ground running. Throughout the month, students have been practicing important theater skills such as projecting their voices and listening for cues. It's shaping up to be an exciting school year!

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

This year, our Upper 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



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



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. Please use the links below to sign up.

Potluck Sign-Up