Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Lower Elementary
Hummingbird

October 23, 2026
Issue 3

IMPORTANT DATES

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.
10/30	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. LE Field Trip: Museum of Science
11/16	School Closed: Parent Teacher Conferences (Childcare Fun Day available)
11/17	School In Session: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. (conference care available)
11/20	Grandparents and Special Friends Day
11/24	Pizza Lunch
11/25-27	School Closed: Thanksgiving Break
12/1	Giving Tuesday
12/2	Portrait Re-take and Sibling Portraits
12/4	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM



The students had the exciting opportunity to participate in an in-house field trip with The Discovery Museum, where they explored the concepts of force and motion through hands-on learning experiences. They learned about different types of forces, including pushes, pulls, balanced and unbalanced forces, gravity, and friction. To investigate friction, the students participated in an experiment using various types of socks. They also explored a variety of toys, discovering how different forces were needed to make each one move. To bring their learning together, the students designed and created their own toys that demonstrated how forces work to create motion. This engaging experience encouraged curiosity, creativity, and scientific thinking as the students explored the ways forces affect the world around them!

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Math

In Geometry, students continued to build their understanding of geometric concepts through hands-on Montessori materials. The first-year students explored curved and straight lines, as well as the differences between lines, rays, and line segments. The second-year students learned the names of regular polygons with multiple sides and explored the parts of a circle, including the radius, center, diameter, and circumference. The third-year students used the Geometry Sticks to investigate the parts of a right triangle, identifying the legs, hypotenuse, and altitude.



Language

In Language, students continued to develop their grammar skills and deepen their understanding of written communication. The first-year students explored the difference between statements and questions and were introduced to exclamatory sentences. The second-year students learned about apostrophes and contractions, as well as how to identify singular possessives. The third-year students continued working with adverbs, using the Adverb Grammar Boxes to reinforce their understanding of how adverbs describe verbs. They also learned to identify and use plural possessives.



Cultural

In Cultural, the students received an impressionistic lesson on the First Great Lesson, The Timeline of Life. This Montessori lesson introduces the history of life on Earth and how living organisms have changed over millions of years. The students also explored the Paleozoic Era, learning about the plants and animals that lived during this time, including early marine life, amphibians, and the first reptiles.



STEM: Land Study

In STEM, the students continued their Land and Gardening study by exploring the plant life cycle, cool- and warm-season plants, and photosynthesis. They also learned about the role flowers play in producing seeds and participated in a hands-on activity examining flowers to discover their seeds.

INTEGRATED ARTS



Art

The Lower Elementary students learned about power shields that were popular among many tribal communities from the Great Plains. The shields were made of leather and meant to protect a warrior using symbolic imagery to ward off harm. The students selected traditional pictographs to cover their paper versions of the shields, ornamenting them with twine, beads, and feathers.

Music

Lower Elementary continued their recorder study this month in music class. Students learned the new notes C and high D, practicing the fingerings for these notes and playing through several songs that incorporated them, including "Sweet Caroline" and "Ode to Joy." Students engaged with the music in a variety of ways, including echoing patterns they heard, playing from standard notation, and playing along with videos. We have been focusing heavily on identifying notes on the treble clef and reading standard notation. Students have been playing "Mad Minute," a game where we work together as a group to identify as many notes as possible on the treble clef in five minutes. Students also learned about the Boomwhackers this month, exploring the origins of the instrument and participating in a mixed-instrumentation play-along with both Boomwhackers and recorders.





INTEGRATED ARTS

Physical Education



Lower Elementary has been warming up by running around the field, followed by a fun planking activity with Macarena moves and music! Students have enjoyed playing field games like Ghosts and Guards and a memory game, both of which encourage running, quick thinking, and teamwork. They had a great time being active together and also enjoyed playing a game of kickball. One class also had the opportunity to enjoy an open gym because of their love of dance, while the other half of the class played hockey. Students had fun moving to music, practicing their dance skills, expressing themselves through movement, and learning the Cotton Eye Joe dance.

Spanish

In Lower Elementary students acquired new vocabulary. Introducing the days of the week with a song called 'Hay siete días en una semana' and the months of the year. Slowly but steadily we are writing the date on the whiteboard every class. They are learning other ways to greet and say goodbye such as 'Buenos días, buenas tardes, buenas noches' or 'Hasta pronto'. Along those topics, farm animals have been the main theme to speak in Spanish, learning the names and associate them with the noises they make.



Theater

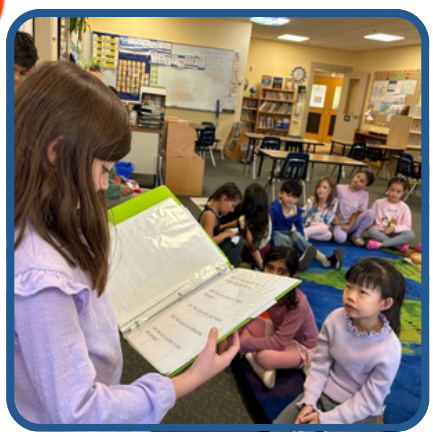




This October in theater class, Lower Elementary students continued their exploration of folktales, reading stories from different cultures and identifying each as a fairy tale, legend, fable, myth, or tall tale. The stories we read included Two of Everything, The Very Hungry Lion, Roadrunner's Dance, and an unconventional class favorite returning from Children's House music, Abiyoyo. This South African folk story combines a lullaby with a monster story and does not fit neatly into any one category of folktale. We then began previewing scripts, with students reading through several different scripts multiple times and taking on a different role during each read-through. Students also identified the type of folktale each script represented. Throughout these activities, they practiced listening for cues, projecting their voices, and reading their lines with appropriate emotion as they explored the different characters and stories.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS

Practical Life

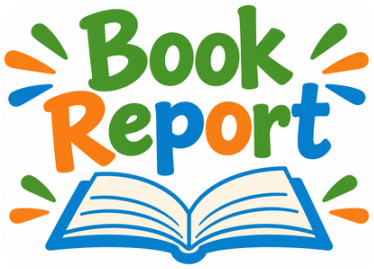


In Practical Life, the students have begun holding weekly Community Meetings to discuss challenges they notice in their classroom community and brainstorm solutions together. The third-year students take on leadership roles as facilitator, timer, and scribe, helping guide each meeting. These meetings strengthen important practical life skills, including communication, problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, and conflict resolution. Students learn to listen respectfully, share ideas, and work together to create a positive and supportive classroom community.

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

In EF/SEL, we've been focusing on respect and what it looks like in our everyday interactions. Students have been exploring ways to show respect for themselves, others, and our shared environment through kind words, active listening, following directions, and making thoughtful choices. We've also discussed how our words and actions impact others and how small acts of kindness and consideration can help create a welcoming, supportive classroom community. As we continue this work, we're encouraging students to be mindful of how they treat others and to practice respect especially when situations feel challenging.

Looking Ahead



Fiction Book Reports are due on Thursday, October 29! Students will have the opportunity to present their reports to the class, sharing information about the books they have read. These presentations help strengthen public speaking skills, build confidence, organize thoughts, and develop reading comprehension. Students will also practice listening respectfully to their classmates and sharing their ideas with an audience.