Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Middle School | October 9, 2026
Issue 2

IMPORTANT DATES

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. (Adults only)
10/23	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/23	United Nations Day Celebration
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.
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.
11/16	School Closed: Parent Teacher Conferences (Childcare Fun Day available)
11/17	School In Session: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 5:30 (conference care available)
11/17	Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM



This week, we welcomed our first secondary school admissions representatives from Governor's Academy and Central Catholic High School. Students learned about each school's academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, community life, and the secondary school application process. They also had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the interview process, including the importance of allowing admissions representatives to get to know them as individuals.

These visits give students valuable exposure to a range of secondary school options while helping them become more comfortable and confident with the application process. Throughout the year, we will continue to welcome representatives from area schools, including Pingree, Brooks, Phillips Academy, and others.

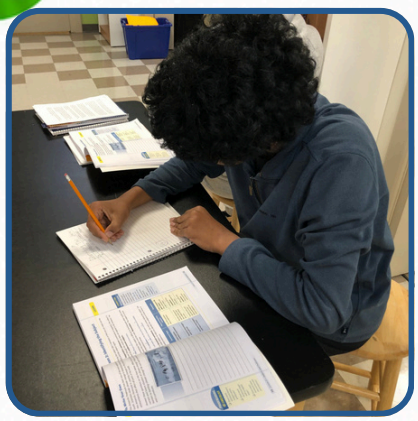
LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Literature Circle



Over the past two weeks in Literature Circle, we read and finished *Children of the Longhouse* by Joseph Bruchac. Students engaged in thoughtful discussions about what they learned about Haudenosaunee culture and lifeways, considering how the novel portrays community, family, traditions, and relationships with the natural world. We also explored the book's larger themes and made connections between the experiences of the characters and the historical context we have been studying. Through reading, discussion, and analysis, students continued to develop their ability to think critically about literature while deepening their understanding of Indigenous societies in North America before European contact.

Grammar and Writer's Workshop



Over the past two weeks in Grammar/Writer's Workshop, students completed our first two vocabulary quizzes and practiced using their new words accurately and meaningfully in context. We also continued our Unit 1 work on sentence parts, focusing especially on identifying less obvious subjects in challenging structures such as inverted sentences and commands. In Writer's Workshop, students selected topics for their first written piece, an explanatory essay, and began researching and gathering information to support their writing. Students are practicing how to take effective notes and identify information that will help them develop and explain their ideas. We will continue working on research and begin organizing our ideas as we move toward drafting our essays.

History



Over the past two weeks in History, students worked in pairs to research the diverse Indigenous cultures of North America and prepare slideshow presentations to teach their classmates about their findings. Students explored the wide variety of Indigenous art, storytelling, architecture, foodways, and other cultural traditions, highlighting the richness and diversity of societies across the continent. Following these presentations, we began our study of the Age of Exploration, examining the motivations that led European explorers to travel westward and the far-reaching impacts of their encounters with the Americas. We have begun exploring the Columbian Exchange and considering how the movement of people, goods, plants, animals, and diseases transformed societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Math



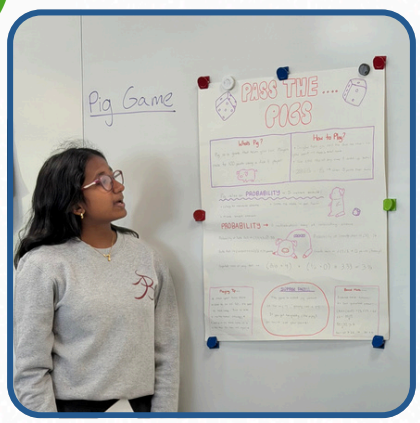
Sixth and seventh grade students ended their review unit on solving problems with decimals and fractions. They worked on solving multistep word problems and created their own five word problems, including answer keys, for their first project. We put their problems together to create a word problem book for other students to solve. At this point, students should be able to fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals and fractions. As you can see in the photo, students enjoy going to the board to solve and explain problems for their peers.

Algebra I



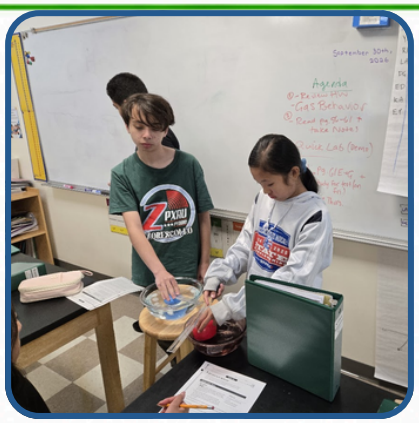
Over the past couple of weeks, Algebra students have been working with Algebra tiles to manipulate various expressions, differentiating between the dimensions of the tiles and the area. This allowed them to apply their understanding of combining like terms to find the simplest expression. They deepened their understanding of what 'minus' and 'zero' means, representing this in different ways using the tiles. They also compared expressions to determing which was greater.

Algebra II



Students shared their Math Beyond the Classroom projects, exploring mathematical ideas that go beyond the topics we typically study in class. Students learned interesting mathematical concepts while making connections to problem-solving, patterns, logic, and strategy. One presentation included an exploration of the algorithms used to solve a Rubik's Cube, looking at how specific sequences of moves can be used to solve the puzzle. Students also learned about John Scarne's Pig game, a dice game that encourages players to think about probability, risk, and strategy when deciding whether to keep rolling or end their turn. These projects are giving students an opportunity to see mathematics from a different perspective and discover how mathematical thinking can be found in puzzles, games, and unexpected places.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS



Science

In the past two weeks, students learned about phase changes of the different states of matter and the difference between Boyle's and Charles' Law and how gas behaves differently with temperature, volume, and pressure. In the picture above, you can see Dylan holding a blue balloon in cold water, and Kathy holding a red balloon in hot water. This quick Demo showed that the molecules, when heated, spread out and move faster. But when cooled, they slow down and move closer together. After taking their first Unit Test, students started the next unit on Atoms and the Periodic Table, where they will dive into all the parts of each element group, including metals, nonmetals, noble gases, etc.



STEM/Land Study

During Land Study, students have been working on weeding the garden and planting a few cold-weather crops including spinach, kale, and lettuce. They have been able to sell some of the vegetables and herbs that were harvested this fall, including potatoes, garlic, onions, and squash. As you can see above, students were in charge planting the spinach seeds (9 per square foot) with the appropriate spacing and depth. Students also continued the Navigation Games, or orienteering curriculum by playing Basketball-O and Clothespin-O and following a series of steps to get through the map.



Business Collaborative

As you can see above, students were in charge of the new Farmer's Market in the lobby. They have been able to sell some of the vegetables and herbs that were harvested this fall, including potatoes, garlic, onions, and squash. Students have also started planning for the Halloween Fair. They began marketing by creating flyers and posters to hang up around the school. We also discussed the different booths to be run at the fair and who will be at each booth.



Looking Ahead

The Halloween Fair, an event put on and run by the Middle School students, will happen on Friday October 30 after school. Students are required to stay after to help run the event and clean up afterward. Hope to see you there!

Donate a cake to the Cake Walk

Donate an item to the Bake Sale

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Digital Citizenship

Recently, we've been exploring digital literacy with a particular focus on digital footprints and being mindful of what we share online. Students have been thinking about how their online choices can leave a lasting impression and discussing ways to make thoughtful, responsible decisions when using digital platforms. They have been incredibly engaged in these conversations and have shared thoughtful ideas about the many ways they interact with technology and online spaces. Our goal is to help students develop the awareness and confidence to navigate the digital world safely, respectfully, and responsibly.

Seeking Support



Our **Open House for Prospective Families** will be held on Sunday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to explore ASM, learn about our many different leveled programs, and discover what makes our Montessori community so special.

Please help us spread the word to your friends and family! We would love to welcome new families to campus and give them the opportunity to learn more about all that ASM has to offer.



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 linkb elow to sign up.

Potluck Sign-Up