Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Upper Elementary | 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.
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



Over the past two weeks, students have been diving into their United Nations country research projects and exploring the question, "what makes a country a country?" Students are gathering information from books and classroom resources to learn about their chosen countries, including its geography, culture, history, and traditions. They have also begun a planet research project and learning about the unique characteristics of the planets in our solar system. Through both projects, students are practicing important research skills, including note-taking, organizing information, and using nonfiction texts to build their understanding of the world around them.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Math

In math, students are strengthening their understanding of multi-digit operations through hands-on work with Montessori materials. Students are using the checkerboard to practice long multiplication and the racks and tubes to explore the steps of long division. As they build confidence with these skills, some students are moving on to fraction operations and equivalency.



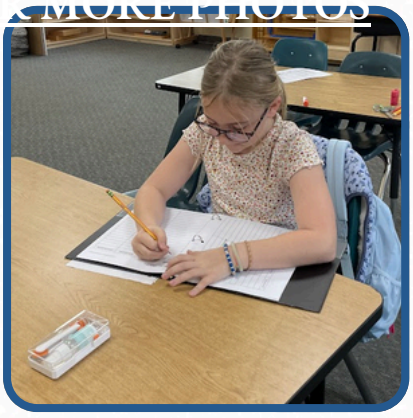
Literature Circle

Students are beginning a new literature circle unit focused on science fiction and fantasy, exploring *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* and *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Through reading and discussion, students will explore imaginative worlds, analyze characters, and make connections to the themes and ideas in the books.



Cultural

Students celebrated UN Day by sharing their country research posters! Through their research, they learned about the geography, culture, history, and traditions of countries around the world. Their presentations help us celebrate the diversity of our global community.



Science

Students are continuing their planet research. Some students are creating flipbooks to organize key facts about the planets of our solar system, while others are diving deeper into research on a specific planet. Through these projects, students are building their scientific knowledge and practicing research skills.

STEM



In the past two weeks, students continued their work with energy in the PLTW curriculum. They took an inventory of energy use in the classroom and were introduces to solar panels, vocabulary, and how they work.

They also learned how to plant garlic, by splitting up the garlic head into individual cloves, and placing them 2 inches down in the soil with the tips up. They made the holes six inches apart, put the cloves in, covered them up, and then covered the raised bed with about two inches of straw to insulate the garlic over the winter months.

Practical Life



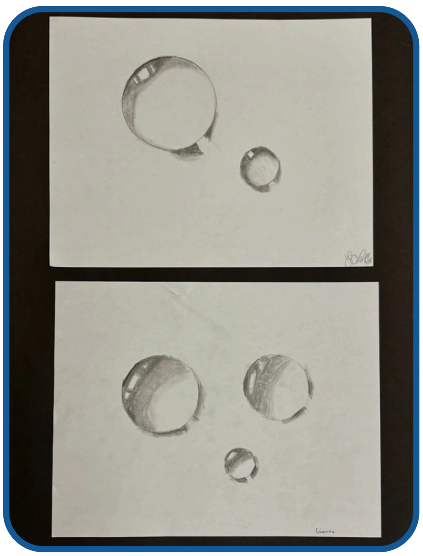
In practical life, students are building independence and collaboration by preparing our weekly group snack. Some students also helped prepare food for our UN Luncheon. These experiences give students opportunities to practice food preparation, care for their classroom community, and celebrate the cultures and traditions of people around the world. In anticipation of this years field trips, students also practiced a bus safety drill.

Looking Ahead



Join us for the Halloween Fair on Friday, October 30, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the American Room! Individual tickets are $6. Families can enjoy a fun afternoon of seasonal activities, including face painting, pumpkin decorating, cookie decorating, and a cake walk. We look forward to celebrating Halloween with the entire ASM community!

INTEGRATED ARTS



Art

The Upper Elementary students wrapped up their Op Art unit by drawing realistic water droplets in graphite, using shading and blending techniques to create the illusion of three-dimensional form. They also created nature-inspired watercolor paintings of mushrooms, practicing contour-line drawing and developing their watercolor techniques.

Music

Upper Elementary continued their ukulele unit this October, reviewing the chords C, G, and F major, as well as the process of tuning their instruments. Students played through their first song as a group, “Happy Birthday.” We then introduced a new chord, A minor, and practiced playing all four chords together. Students worked on echoing strumming patterns and transitioning smoothly between chords. We then learned a new song, “Best Day of My Life,” and practiced playing the chords along with the music. Students are continuing to build their ukulele skills and gain confidence playing together as an ensemble.





Spanish

The weather, places to visit and leisure activities have been the main topic in the Upper Elementary class. After writing the date on the whiteboard, students look through the window to know how the weather is looking that morning, with the purpose of writing it down underneath the date. They acquired new forecast vocabulary and different weather events, such as extreme or normal events. They described pictures implementing all the weather vocabulary we previously learned.

INTEGRATED ARTS



Physical Education

Upper Elementary has been enjoying a variety of outdoor field games, including a memory game, soccer ball dribbling, Ghost Run, Fishy Fishy, and Capture the Flag. Students also enjoyed a much-anticipated game of kickball! These activities have provided plenty of opportunities for running, teamwork, and fresh air while having fun together.



Theater

This October in theater, Upper Elementary students continued preparing for their selected play, Mamma Mia: The Secret of the Spoon. Students read through the play as various characters before indicating their preferred roles. They were then given the opportunity to read for several of their preferred roles as they explored different characters. Throughout this process, students have been practicing projecting their voices, listening for cues, and reading their lines with appropriate character and emotion. We are looking forward to assigning roles and beginning to block the play as we continue preparing for our May performance.

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

In EF/SEL, we've been exploring the concept of respect and how it shapes our relationships, choices, and classroom community. Students have been reflecting on what it means to show respect for themselves, others, and their shared environment, with an emphasis on active listening, thoughtful communication, personal responsibility, and considering different perspectives. We've also discussed how our words, actions, and reactions impact those around us, particularly when we encounter disagreements or challenging situations. Through these conversations and activities, students are building greater awareness of how they can contribute to a positive, inclusive community where everyone feels valued and respected.