Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Children's House Birch | October 2026 Issue 2

IMPORTANT DATES

11/6	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
11/6	Children's House Open Classrooms 9:15-10:00 a.m. or 2:15 -3:00 p.m.
11/11	School Closed: Veterans Day
11/13	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
11/16-17	School Closed: Parent Teacher Conferences (Childcare Fun Day available)
11/20	Grandparents and Special Friends Day
11/24	Pizza Lunch
11/25-27	School Closed: Thanksgiving Break
12/1	Giving Tuesday
12/8	Kindergarten: The Leadership Year Presentation 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (childcare available)
12/8	Kindergarten Classroom Observations 9:00-10:00 a.m. (for rising Kindergarten families)
12/11	Children's House Winter Concert 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Autumn is here!



As autumn arrives, children begin to notice that the leaves on trees change from green to beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown. This seasonal transformation offers a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to the natural world through observation, exploration, and hands-on experiences. The children examined the leaf shapes, color, and texture. They noticed that the cooler temperatures contribute to shorter days and seasonal color change in the leaves.

Happy Halloween!



LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Pumpkin Scrubbing

Pumpkin scrubbing is a wonderful practical life activity. It connects children with the seasonal environment. This activity develops fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, coordination of movements, sequencing, and completing tasks independently. It also develops care for the environment by cleaning and caring for objects.





Dish washing

Dishwashing is a practical life activity that gives children an opportunity to care for their environment while developing independence by learning to wash the utensils and place them on the drying rack. They also develop focus by completing the task in sequence and hand-eye coordination by pouring water, holding the utensil, scrubbing with the sponge, squeezing the sponge, and wiping the surfaces.

Parts of a pumpkin





Children explored the parts of a pumpkin as part of our October study in the Science area by using a model and learned about its stem, skin, vine, leaf, fibrous strands, pulp, and seeds. They reinforced their learning through a coloring and labeling activity, developing botanical vocabulary, observation skills, and an understanding of the pumpkin's structure.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Pre-Writing



The Metal Insets help children develop fine motor control, hand-eye coordination, and pencil grip. By tracing geometric shapes and filling them in with repeated pencil strokes, children practice controlled movements, precision, and proper pencil direction. This activity strengthens the muscles needed for writing and prepares children for forming letters with greater control and confidence.



Pre-Reading

Sound Games help children develop phonemic awareness by listening to, identifying, and distinguishing the sounds in spoken words. Through playful activities, children practice recognizing beginning, ending, and eventually middle sounds in words. These activities strengthen auditory discrimination and build a foundation for letter-sound associations, decoding, and early reading skills.

45 Layout



The 45 Layout is a Montessori math activity that introduces children to the decimal system and helps them explore quantities from 1 to 9,000 using the large card layout and golden bead materials. The child arranges golden bead materials on a mat in a systematic layout, organizing the quantities into four categories: units, tens, hundreds, and thousands. The layout includes Unit beads(1-9), Ten bar(10-90), Hundrend square(100-900), and Thousand cubes(1000-9000).

This activity develops an understanding of the decimal system and place value.



Fetching the Quantity

The children are extending their understanding of the decimal system through the Fetching the Quantity activity, building on their experience with the 45 Layout. They read a given quantity and fetch the corresponding golden bead materials from the bank, selecting the correct number of units, tens, hundreds, and thousands. This hands-on work strengthens their understanding of place value, quantity, and the relationship between numerals and their corresponding quantities while developing concentration, memory, independence, and mathematical reasoning.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS

Music

This October in Children's House music, we explored musical elements including dynamics, tempo, and tonality while singing, playing, and moving to seasonal songs. We dove into minor keys, singing several songs, including "Pass the Pumpkin," "Bitty Bitty Bat," and "Down by the (Spooky) Bay," all featuring a minor tonality. Students learned musical terms for dynamics, including piano, forte, and crescendo, and practiced demonstrating these dynamics, listening for them in musical examples, and acting them out. One favorite was In the Hall of the Mountain King, which features a crescendo as the music gradually gets louder and an accelerando as it gets faster. Another favorite was "Fairies and Giants," where students explored different timbres by moving with scarves in different ways depending on the sounds they heard. Lastly, we explored oral traditions by reading the South African song story Abiyoyo. Overall, it was a fun month of musical exploration!





Spanish

Children's House starts the Spanish class with the 'Hola, hola, ¿Cómo estás?' song. They are learning how to answer the question ¿Cómo estás? and we have been listening to songs about farm animals. La Granja de Zénon where all the farm animals are mentioned and what noise they make. Having the focus on la vaca and los pollitos. Singing the song La vaca Lola and Los Pollitos Dicen, while holding a stuffed toy chick or stuffed toy cow to have their turn to talk. At the same time we danced and did the motions to the song Cabeza, Hombros, Rodillas y Pies (Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes), to start recognizing the parts of the body. They are excited to see other farm animals, sing songs about them, and dance Spanish to songs.



We have several important events coming up that you won't want to miss!
Sign up below for...

Children's House Open Classrooms

Friday, October 6

Join your child for a visit to their work cycle! The children are very excited to share a bit of their day with you.

Visits are from 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. or 2:15-3:00 p.m.

Birch

Willow

Red Maple

Dogwood

Kindergarten

Parent Teacher Conferences

November 16 & 17

The teachers are excited to sit down together to chat about what each child has been working on since the beginning of the year. Please sign up for your time slot below.

Birch

Willow

Red Maple

Dogwood

Kindergarten

***Childcare during your conference will be available**