Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Children's House Dogwood | 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



Celebrating United Nations Day

Our Dogwood classroom came alive with the colors, stories, and traditions of the many countries represented in our community! The children enjoyed painting flags from countries special to their families, while our wonderful parent volunteers brought the celebration to life by sharing about their countries' traditional songs, cultural artifacts, vegetables, and beautiful clothing worn during special celebrations.

As the children listened, observed, and shared their thoughts, they deepened their understanding of the many cultures represented in our community. These meaningful experiences helped them appreciate our differences, recognize what we have in common, and celebrate the unique traditions that make our world so rich and beautiful.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Preparing, Enjoying, & Caring

Our little chefs had a lovely time preparing bananas in the classroom! They carefully peeled and sliced the banana using child-sized tools and enjoyed their freshly prepared snack. Once they had finished eating, the children washed their utensils and learned to drop the banana peels into our compost bin. These everyday experiences help the children to care for themseves, keep their environment clean, and make thoughtful choices that help our planet.

A heartfelt thank you to the families who generously donated bananas for this activity!





Why Do Leaves Change Color?

Have you noticed the beautiful colors appearing outside? We have! The children have been exploring why leaves turn yellow, orange, and red in the fall. We are learning how the Earth travels around the Sun, bringing us different seasons throughout the year. The children also discovered that leaves need sunlight to help them make their food and stay green. As the days become shorter and there is less sunlight, the green color begins to fade, revealing the beautiful autumn colors in the leaves!

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Getting to Know a Leaf

As part of our science curriculum, the children explored the different parts of a leaf, including the apex, veins, leaf margin, and leaf lamina. Using real leaves, they observed the shapes, patterns, and details while learning new vocabulary. The children also worked with three-part cards to match pictures with their corresponding names and created their own booklets of leaf parts, helping them revisit and reinforce their learning.

These hands-on experiences deepened their appreciation of nature and prepared them for our exploration of why leaves change color in autumn.



Family Reading: Growing a Love for Books

A heartfelt thank you to the families who have volunteered to share stories with our Dogwood children! Family reading strengthens the connection between home and school, supports language development, and nurtures a lifelong love of books.

We invite more families to join us! Please use the sign-up to choose a convenient date and select an age-appropriate, realistic, Montessori-aligned book about nature, animals, everyday life, or the world around us. Please avoid books centered primarily on princesses or fantasy characters. If you need help choosing a book, feel free to reach out. We appreciate your participation!



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.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS]

Songs, Stories, and Poetry

October brought wonderful opportunities to explore autumn, nature, and different cultures through stories, songs, and poetry. The children enjoyed listening to The Apple Doll by Elisa Kleven, Pumpkins by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes, Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert, and Indigenous Peoples' Day with Yasmin by Saadia Faruqui. They explored colorful illustrations, shared observations, asked questions, and made connections with the world around them.
We also practiced singing "I've Got Peace Like a River" and "Leaves Are Falling Down," bringing music, movement, and seasonal joy into our daily classroom rhythm.





Happy Birthday!

Roman 10/1 age 4
William 10/29 age 4

Upcoming Birthdays

Jackson 11/2 age 6
Amelia 11/5 age 5
Elena 11/6 age 6
Sofia 11/28 age 5



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**