



# Nightingale Notes

May 2023

## May

- 30 Eagle, Owl & Falcon Extended Learning Summer Program Begins

## June

- Office Hours: M—F 9 am—2 pm  
5 First Day of Chickadee & Eagle Summer Program  
15 Last Day of Eagle, Owl, Falcon Extended Summer Program

## July

Office Hours: By appointment only.  
[administration@nightingaleschool.org](mailto:administration@nightingaleschool.org)

## August

- Office Hours: M—F 9 am—2 pm  
11 Last Day Chickadee & Eagle Summer Program  
23 First Day K-12

class of **2023**



## Graduation





Hi, I'm Emily and I've been at Nightingale for 13 years! Throughout my years here I have been able to experience so many different kinds of things and meet a variety of people with all different kinds of views, backgrounds, and experiences. This is important because all of these things have contributed to the person I am right now.

I've endured a lot of hardships throughout my life and because of those things I've had to learn how to adapt to abrupt and drastic changes. There are many experiences and people that have played a part in my life at Nightingale.

When I was a Chickadee I spent a lot of time learning about geography and playing outside. As an Eagle I remember the Wax Museums, fossil hunting, and painting in the lab with Texas (the class turtle) and Dewey (the class bunny). As an Owl and Falcon I remember my overnight trips to several states and places including Kentucky, Indiana, Cleveland, Hocking Hills (Ohio), and Virginia. I learned about diverse cultures by trying different kinds of food, learning dances from different eras and countries during our international festivals, and taking various trips to Jungle Jim's over the years. As a Wing I enjoyed my Friday adventures and art with my friends that included painting things like vinyl records, old furniture, and old tools. I remember as a whole school we would gather in the Eagle room on the last day before winter break to sing Christmas carols. These are just a few of the adventures and memories that I will laugh and cry about, but also cherish for the rest of my life.

There are a lot of people who I would like to thank, who have contributed to my experience as a human being and that have helped me grow into the person I am today. I am going to start by thanking Ari, who I met in the 4th grade and have somehow spent half of my life with. I am very proud and enormously grateful to call Arianna my best friend. Another person I would like to thank is our beloved Guyia, who started teaching me the inner workings of an office several years ago. Guyia has also been a very important person and role model in my world for a very long time. She has helped me in many ways and I will always be grateful. I am thankful for my good friend, Willie, whose contributions of food, good conversations, and silly shenanigans have helped me keep my sanity. Maria is also someone who I owe a great deal of gratitude to. She has given me many opportunities and taught me a lot. I would also like to thank my anonymous sponsor who has allowed me to continue attending Nightingale each year so I could meet these people and make these memories. There are many other people whose help and guidance I appreciate greatly including family members, teachers and other staff who I've met along the way. I would not be here today without you. Lastly, I would like to thank the rest of the Nightingale community who have given me such a unique and interesting experience (and lots of stories to tell for the rest of my life)!

I am not sure what the future holds. I might move to another state and get to travel to different places or maybe I'll stay in Ohio. I could end up working at Nightingale or pursue another career choice that includes different passions of mine.

There are many possibilities and I guess I will just have to find out. **Emily Combs**



I have been at Nightingale Montessori since 2014, a total of 9 years. It's been quite an experience with the friends I've made, to the field trips I have been on and even just day to day experiences. It seems like it was just yesterday in middle school and we were all hyping Tasha up to do a cartwheel. She would do one and the classroom would cheer in amazement. I remember all the science fairs, class trips, farm trips, fun times and laughs that I shared

with my teachers and friends throughout my whole Nightingale experience.

School is better when you have people and teachers that make it enjoyable, so I'd like to thank all my current and past teachers for making my time here something that I'll never forget. I'd like to thank my best friend, Emily, for being there and filling my days with laughs and jokes that will always be in my memories. I remember the times we'd walk around the building, paint art, and run upstairs from the "ghost" we heard in the basement. I'd like to give a special thanks to my mom, the one that makes everything happen, the one who provides, loves, and cares for me the most. She's the one who got me into this school so without her I would never be able to even have the memories I have at Nightingale. Thank you. I don't know what might be next in this chapter of my life but I do know that I'm ready to turn the next page. **Arianna Jackson**





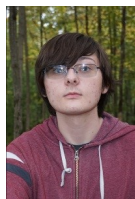
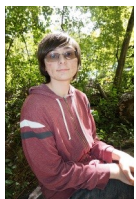
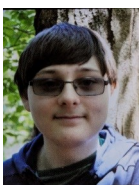
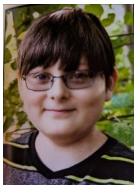
Hello! I've been at Nightingale for seven years, and it's been a crazy ride. I came here in 2016 after being homeschooled, because working from home didn't work well for me. I used to be a very anxious person when I first became a Wing. I hid all day and often left class because of how anxious I was. So to help, Andrew asked Jared if I could work with him when I wasn't in class. Fast forward to now and I'm writing this for tons of people to see, or even speaking it in front of them!

Speaking of Jared and Ecology, it's definitely my favorite thing about this school. And, it's where I made most of my best memories too! I learned to love philosophy, poetry, and where I really found a passion with plants and the outdoors. It's always been hard for me due to physical limitations, but Jared and all my teachers helped push me farther than I ever thought I could go.

That reminds me, there was one time in a big meeting that I was told I would have to retake freshman year. I had been told that before, but something about being in that serious setting made it hit me. Since then I've worked harder than I ever used to, and I managed to get through that year! I've never lost that spirit that got me through that, and that's something I have to thank this school and its teachers for.

Nightingale Montessori helped me to learn about what I love, and why I love it. It helped me to become more confident and make so many great friends that I've shared these past years. And, it renewed a flame in me that had been going out. I would like to acknowledge Jared for helping me discover the world and work I love and pushing me past my limits time and time again. I would also like to acknowledge Andrew for being someone I could relate to, reminding me that I'm not alone. And finally, I would like to acknowledge all the friends I've made and teachers I've made friends with throughout my time here, thank you all for everything! Maybe you'll see me around, tending to the gardens sometimes!

I think now I plan to go to college and study plants. I hope to be a florist someday! I'll definitely keep working with plants and continuing what I learned here. I think given my success here, I'll make it! **Teddy McClain**

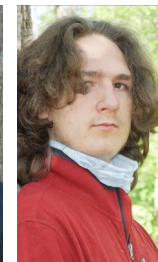
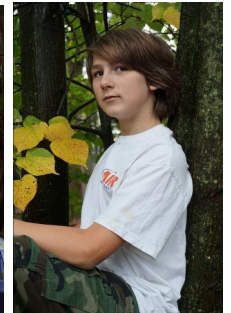
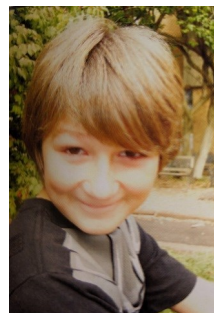


Hi, I'm Aidan and I've been at Nightingale for 8 years. Through the years I've seen the school change a ton. One of the biggest changes I've seen was the transition to a new building. One of the smallest changes I've seen was the implementation of 3D printing into the younger classes. The biggest change I helped with was the removal of invasive species from the new property.

The smallest change I helped with was the integration of 3D printing into the micro business program.

One of the best memories I have is when the teachers made a game around removing invasive species and replacing them with native ones. The story goes that the game was meant to only be played the day it was introduced but due to popularity the students kept it going. Over time the game evolved to have a currency and then more components were added to it such as military strength. The teachers introduced new elements throughout the year. Such as, one element was when they held an event called the *Spear Making Contest*. But, eventually it got to the point where my team was the only team that could do and buy anything. This was because everyone else stopped doing their school work in order to focus on the game while my team didn't. Other teams had their efforts diverted to school work so by the time the game was over my team dominated everything.

I thank every teacher for putting up with my antics. I also thank Toad and Jared for hosting some of the most fun classes I took. My plan for the future is to go with the flow and see where it takes me. **Aidan Schindler**





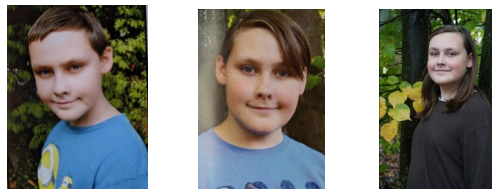
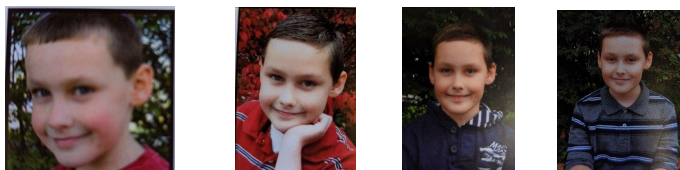
Hello, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Jaden Taylor. I have been at Nightingale for 13 years. If people who have been at this school for 7 years are called an old bird, I would be called an ancient bird. I have had many experiences throughout my time at Nightingale. One of those most memorable to me would be the time I gained my first best friend, Rae Temple, with the help of an

older student. Other memories include the many times I visited Meg's farm with Bob the goat (with an attitude we would always joke about), and a few years ago in the Wings I was given the ability to make my own electives like mental health, creative writing, or a personal finance class that teaches us different things; for example, how to write checks, create a budget and do my taxes. If it hadn't been for the openness and creativity of my learning, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

There are many different people who I would like to thank for helping me on my journey to graduation. First, I would like to thank my many classmates I had throughout my time here who are very accepting of people that feel different from the "norm" like me. Next, I would like to thank my teachers whose positivity towards learning in an open and creative way really inspired me to keep going even when I just wanted to give up. A few more specific people I would like to thank would be first, Miss Stephanie, who has been with me for most of my time here. Though she wasn't one of my main teachers she still taught me so much about cooking and how to be responsible in a more professional environment. Third, I would like to thank Miss Jewell, who helped me a lot when I struggled to properly plan and complete my work. She would take the time to sit with me, to plan, and to write down a list of what I needed to do and when I could do it. Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to thank my mom, Blair Taylor, who used to work here as a teacher. For many years she put herself through the wringer to make sure I had the help I needed to succeed. Some of you may think that is just a mother's job; I would like to add that even when suffering through physical conditions and her body didn't want to continue on, she still pushed through it all to make sure I was okay. I couldn't have asked for a better mom or school. Thank you all.

What I plan to do with all of my experience so far is to find a job to help my mom and dad support the house and bills. Though many people want bigger jobs I only want to do something simple with my life and just to go with the flow. If I run into any problems along the way I will have the knowledge that I gained at this school to help me solve it.

**Jaden Taylor**



I think that Nightingale Montessori was an ideal place to learn for me. I wouldn't have achieved as much in a public school because of the lack of flexibility. I remember most of my teachers being patient and willing to help me work through any challenging assignments. I wasn't very good at math, but with Bin's help, a former teacher, I was able to pass my geometry and algebra 2 classes. I even got my Veterinary Assistant certification.

Maria was flexible and allowed me to balance work and school. I really appreciate all of my teachers, especially Sarah, she was basically emotional support for me and laughed at my morbid jokes even if they weren't that funny. Of course I would've never gotten here without my mom, my sisters Jasmine and DeAnna, and all of my teachers.

So I guess this is the part where I talk about my future. I plan on working at an animal hospital or something along those lines. I'd love to work in rural areas so I can help larger farm animals and such. **Jayla Thompson**



# First Springfield Sustainability Conference



Bob Wooten, Buck Creek State Park Naturalist, shares a collaborative project with NM ecology students.



Jared Martin inspires the community and introduces our first NM Sustainability Conference.



Daniel Dye, local musician, uses music to spread joy.



Vegan, Vegetarian, Beef and Turkey options are served for lunch.



Todd represented the culinary team while Stephanie presented USDA and local integration.



Trae serves fresh juice and teaches about serving sizes.

## All School News



Student projects included Shay's Kimchi, soil carbon titration and community connections.



Saundra and Sevynn always willing to serve and never without a smile.



Aliya temperature checks meat.



Madison prepares beverages.



Jared and boys make fresh salsa.



Amy makes many vegan dishes at once!



Chickadees eat lunch.



Trae makes pesto with fresh basil.



Addy, Ali and Izzy prepare graduation cupcakes.



Morrison uses the chopper.

# Gourmet Grub



Dashayla and MaKenzie prepare Hummingbird lunch.



Chino watches Alex and Lilliana make churros for Cinco de Mayo.

Gourmet Grub has had a flurry of activity as this academic year closes. Our culinary students all selected a final project to showcase for our first Sustainability Conference. Our focus was directed upon integrating school and community sourced ingredients into our meal for the day of the event. Ethan, researched Huevos Rancheros and prepared them from scratch. Cole, prepared homemade pasta. Sasha, researched teas and lemonades utilizing herbs and fruits that will be ready to harvest soon. Aurelia created beautiful art showcasing a variety of native plants that we propagated here at 2525. Shay and Jaden offered valuable operational support throughout our many activities

Students practiced many practical life activities creating hot sauce, whole wheat breads, Pico de Gallo, salsa, pesto and many more items. Many students rallied together, secretly, to prepare delicious cakes, vegetable platters and other food related treats for teacher appreciation week.

A special thanks to Amy Smith and [Alexis Nixon](#) for lending their expertise in creating Vegan and Vegetarian options for our special day. Jaden Nixon, Trae, and Amaya cooked and cleaned all night to ensure we had many options to choose from.

We would like to thank Karen Martin for her delicious cupcakes and her support in Micro Business throughout the school year. Thanks, also, to Rebekah Yoakem with Beck's Bakes for donating many dozen beautiful cookies.

Graduation food preparation was supported primarily by our Owls, with research pertaining to charcuterie boards completed by our high school culinary. Congratulations Graduates!

Local Sources include, Gills' Quality Meats and Bowman & Landes Farm!

We look forward to continued growth and experiences in our beautiful kitchen and community with our students. Our first year was wonderful reengaging our students in a beautiful environment and sharing with each other. We hope to see those



Teddy and Alex bake a cake.



London makes habanero hot sauce.



Alex decorates the cake for teacher appreciation week.



Rayden preps strawberries.

## Expressions of Gratitude

"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity." - **Maria Montessori**

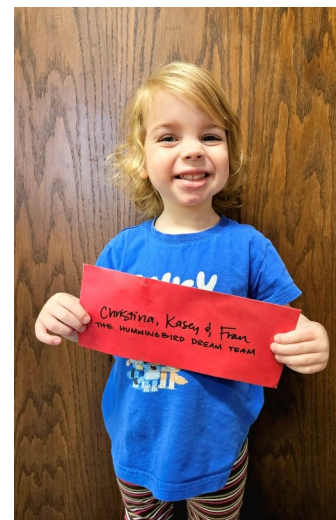
The **Hummingbird** class has had an exceptional group of parents and students this year that made those words of **Maria Montessori** come to life in our environment. The **Hummingbirds** have shown tremendous growth and the **Hummingbird** team has enjoyed watching and facilitating this growth. The children have continuously impressed us with their skills and abilities to grasp the new concepts that have been introduced throughout the year. We truly appreciate the trust instilled in us by the parents of our students. As parents ourselves, we understand what an honor you have bestowed on us by allowing your children to be part of our little family.

The **Hummingbird** students and families recently showered our team with heartfelt messages and gifts of love for Teacher Appreciation Week. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking the time to share your beautifully written expressions of gratitude. Please know that the homemade crafts and notes will be treasured by the **Hummingbird** team for years to come. Rest assured that the gifts of coffee will be put to good use and enjoyed thoroughly. We are blessed to have such a wonderful community of parents and students!

We look forward to seeing the changes that have taken place in the children who will be returning next school year, as well as watching from afar the students who will be promoted to **Chickadees**. Thank you all for contributing to a successful year!



Irha



Huck



Cameron



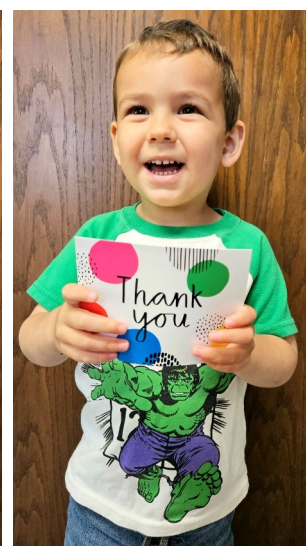
Zamirah



Jax



Adelaide



Maverick



Jonah

The **Chickadee** Class has been learning all about butterflies. The children were able to observe the process and be part of every stage of transformation. First, we purchased tiny Painted Lady caterpillars. Then the children helped prepare the individual living spaces with food for each caterpillar and watched in fascination as they grew larger and larger. After much patient waiting and observation, the caterpillars spun their chrysalis. Then it was time to hang our fragile charges in the butterfly enclosure. The waiting began in earnest, and after 7 days, to the delight of all, the butterflies began to emerge. After a couple of days of admiring this miracle of nature, the butterflies were released into the Chickadees' gardens.



Crew



Eve and Cali use homemade thistle spray.

## Introducing New Chickadee Teacher

**Eve Sturm** joins the Chick team adding her knowledge and skill to our classroom. She has an A.A. in Early Childhood development/Special needs and a B.A. in Organizational Leadership. She has served as a habilitation aid, a ceramics teacher for children, and most recently co-teacher at Yellow Springs Montessori school. "Teaching has been my passion for nearly 30 years in many diverse environments. I find joy in caring for all things living and sharing my knowledge with those around me"

-Eve Sturm



Chickadees prepare to release the butterflies.



Willow R and Annabelle

## Recipe for homemade weed-be-gone

1-gallon white vinegar  
2 cups plain Epsom salt  
1/4th cup Dawn dish soap

The Eagles have been busy rebuilding their shelter and beautifying their entire outdoor area with meandering paths. The pavers followed the dictates of a few protruding buckthorn or honeysuckle stubbles and by chance created some new beds for planting. Evan brought some bulbs to fill the new spaces. Many Eagle friends helped separate the plant bulbs and made “pockets” for the new additions. After planting, they noticed a need for mulch to surround the new plants.



What can you make with a very strong stick and some bricks with holes? Elijah managed to design a barbell to improve his already strong biceps. (NO LIFTING ABOVE THE WAIST!)



Many four-leafed clovers were discovered one day by several Eagles. Phoebe and Jackson hyperbolize theirs... Finn is still counting!



Friend of Nightingale, Margo McDaniel, gifted us with many specimens from nature. One group became very enthralled with the many deer bones—even a complete backbone! They immediately wanted to draw and research these fine gifts. Some Eagles wrote letters of appreciation in behalf of the class.



Inspired by the bounty of plants surrounding the classroom outside, Lucy classifies and identifies trees, their leaves, seeds and winter form.

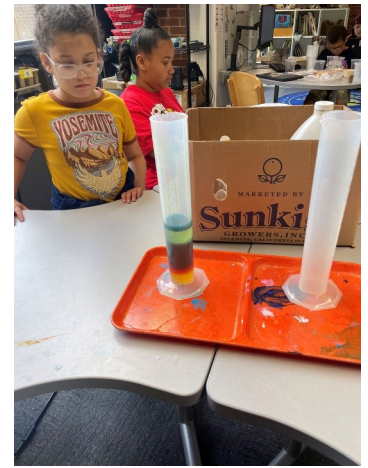




Teacher Appreciation Gifts



Amontay tests how pressure affects how fast ice melts.



Amyah examines the density of liquids.



Ali tests the viscosity of liquids.

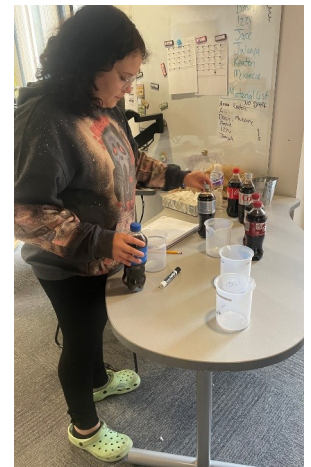
# Owl News



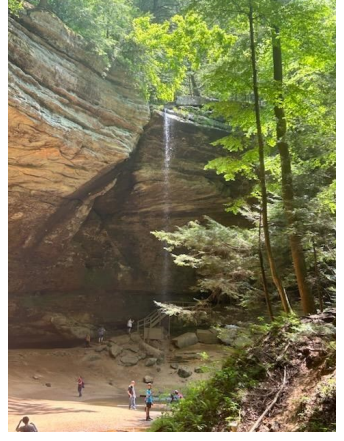
River writes poetry in the woods.



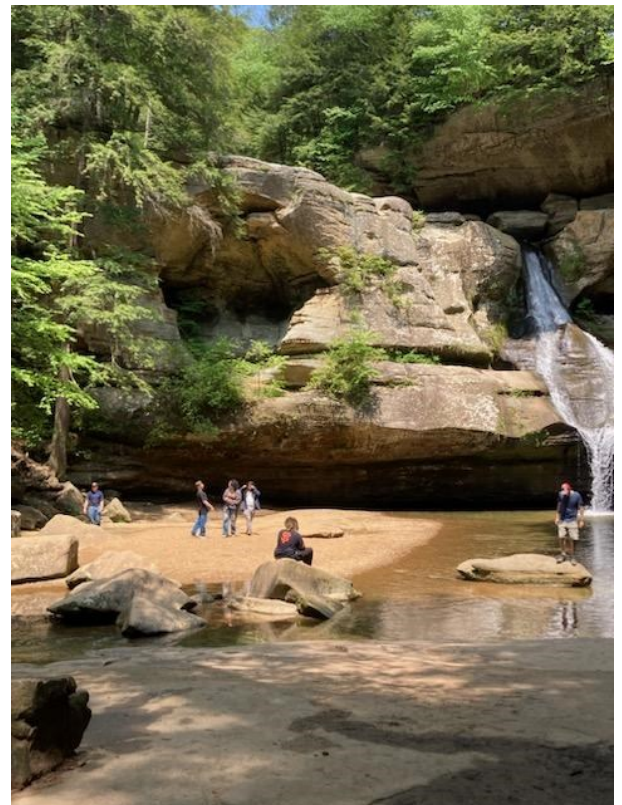
Anna determines which type of chocolate melts the fastest.



Blake is testing levels of carbonation.



# Hocking Hills Trip



## Teacher Appreciation Week

NM showed appreciation for ALL of the wonderful teachers at our school EVERY DAY of teacher appreciation week! We each probably gained a few pounds from delicious treats and we certainly felt VERY appreciated! **Thank you to all in our NM community that celebrated us!**

Wednesday was the day each classroom appreciated the teacher on their team. Falcon class president, Eleni Malone, made delicious cup-cakes and coordinated efforts among fellow students for cards and notes of appreciation.

The Senior class in the Wings coordinated great efforts and each teacher received a handmade card full of student comments, a delicious cake and made a personalized "favorite item" key chain on the 3D printer. They put together a community circle and shared memories over the years. We laughed and we cried! Mostly, we were reminded why we all like to be here so much!

