



Nightingale Notes

April 2021

May

- 5 School Photos—Individual Portraits
Falcon (AM) and Wing (PM) Meal Pack @
Wittenberg
- 22 Graduation
- 28 Last Day of School—End of Quarter 4



Earth Day



Picture Day

We will be taking individual portraits on May 5th, weather permitting. We will announce the next day if this day is cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

We will not be taking class or group photos this year due to the COVID restrictions and the logistics that come with a student population some of which attend in-person, remote or a hybrid of both.

Chickadee parents: Chickadee portraits will not be happening until 2:00 PM. If you are in desire of “brushed hair”, or a clean top, please send the appropriate items so that we can help your child prepare for the portrait. We will of course make sure faces are freshly washed and ready for a great smile!

Full Remote Students and Hybrid M,T students:

We will be taking portraits of students that are fully remote (do not attend in-person) and students that are hybrid and do not attend in-person on Wednesdays (attend on Mondays and Tuesdays only), on May 6th at the North Campus (2525 N. Limestone) at the North end beginning at 9:00. We will be making a schedule for these students and you will receive an approximate time for your child’s portrait so that wait time and inconvenience for you is limited.

Construction Progress at 2525 North Campus

Spring brings Hope Eternal- and the spring of 2021 has seen more vigorous work at 2525 with the hope that work might be completed by fall. Each of the three contractors (out of the four we need)have-received new permits as their bids have been in place for several years while work has inched along.



Cason Roofing had replaced the roof over the great room to be named Samantha Welsh Hall in 2018. Because we wanted to keep the soaring rafters throughout the building, Andy Cason has created an innovative roof design with R25 insulation from the outside under the shingles. His work allowed us to do away with the suspended ceilings with attic spaces full of pink insulation. In the future we hope to be able to put back the original clerestory windows that would flood Sam Hall with sunlight from the west. Over Spring Break, the roofing got underway for the rest of the building and is expected to be finished this month.

The HVAC contractor, Ted DeLong, had built the HVAC in the HS pod, in 2018 using capital campaign funds. Through school funding, Ted was able to build minimal units in pod 1 and 5 to keep pipes from freezing during our long wait for the loan granted in February. Ted’s bid was half the price of his competitor even without the cost of labor. He has now begun to put in systems for the rest of the building. He plans on finishing in the fall.

Chris Sanders, with Triec contractors, worked with Kapp Construction last Spring with a small loan to create the Chickadee pod. Earlier in the year, using capital campaign funds, Triec was also able to upgrade the electrical input system costing over \$90,000 financed directly from school proceeds.

Tim Sanders has applied for a permit to do all the rest of the trades and is the General Contractor. However, to make it affordable for NM, he could save us \$600,000 by not taking a profit over the work of the other contractors.. This meant that Nancy will be trying to do much of that coordinating and banking relations work as the project manager. This is not very conventional, but the only way it could be affordable for Nightingale Montessori. Tim Sanders had to scoop up much of the new kitchen revisions and other details not yet on the architectural designs. The inspectors office was then hit by Covid forcing a shutdown except for their remote capabilities. We expect his general building permit should be awarded soon! Then we will be able to predict a progress timeline! Earlier Tim did work on much of the siding repairs before USPro- Painters painted the building last year. That work plus Triec repairing the parking lot lighting was all achieved through funds from the capital campaign. Proceeds directly from the school had provided the building of a new sewer line costing \$25,000 in 2019.

What's Growing at Nightingale?

This spring our team potted and planted an outrageous number of young plants. If you wonder what I mean, here it is:

- 1,000 Asparagus crowns
- 2,000 Strawberry starts
- 200 Raspberry plants
- 100 Elderberries
- 100 SpiceBush
- 100 Birch
- 50 Paw Paw
- 20 Tulip Poplar
- 40 White Pines
- 20 Red buds
- 20 Ohio Buckeye
- 30 White Oak
- 10 Dogwoods
- 10 Lilacs

In addition to these we are transplanting hundreds of plants from 1106 to 2525 as we are preparing for the whole school move.

At the Earth Day Event 100 trees and shrubs will be at 2525 with all of the students and staff at that campus.

Contact Jared Martin for consultation about planting your home and purchasing plants that support the Wing MicroBuisness. jwoodward@nightingaleschool.org

Updates

Gourmet Grub has been excited to continue development of our New Culinary gardens at the 2525 Campus. Students have been preparing the beds with many perennials including Asparagus, Raspberries, and herbs galore.

Falcons have been researching various methods and recipes for making hot sauce and have a dedicated pepper bed on the southside of our production greenhouse.

We distributed asparagus starts during our car line to students for their Home Gardens.

Look forward to our properly spaced multiple learning gardens where items will be potted for sale with our micro business and upcoming annual plant sale.



Falcon Willie, Jacob and Dustin are shown preparing lunch integrating herbs, lettuce and swiss chard into our salads. Dustin carefully sharpens our kitchen knives for the upcoming weeks' classes.



Gourmet Grub



Grace and Courtesy

The Montessori Method places great emphasis on the strong development of social skills. The desire to be both gracious and courteous are naturally present in children. Between the ages of 2 ½ to 6, children are in a sensitive period for learning courtesy and manners. So, naturally these lessons begin in the **Hummingbirds**. The growth of these skills guide the children to gradually build the social skills of a polite society. As their inner needs for self-development are met and respected, a calm and purposeful environment is created and maintained.

Grace and courtesy lessons are not typical shelf work offered to the children. These skills are strengthened by modeling and encouragement of these natural tendencies. Some of the lessons are guided by demonstration, role-playing, practicing in pairs, and group discussion. These activities help promote a peaceful sense of self and community. Children learn how to live with dignity, respect, and politeness towards themselves and others through the development of cultural awareness.

Grace and courtesy lessons begin as soon as a child enters the environment and are built upon as the year progresses. Some of the many grace and courtesy lessons in the **Hummingbirds** include:

- Greeting someone
- Hanging up coats and bags upon arrival
- Choosing a work
- Rolling a work mat and putting it away
- Waiting
- Taking turns
- Asking for help
- Watching and observing others
- Using a quiet voice
- Speaking in a polite tone
- Saying “please” and “thank you”
- Walking in the classroom, as well as around other students and objects
- Apologizing
- Using the toilet
- Handwashing
- Blowing one’s nose
- Coughing/Sneezing into one’s elbow
- Identifying and describing emotions
- Introducing oneself by first name
- Respecting others and their space
- Caring for materials and the environment
- Inviting and politely refusing a partner or playmate
- Working together towards a common goal

It has been amazing to see how each **Hummingbird** has developed his/her skills in this area since the beginning of the school year! The children display a sense of pride in their abilities to participate in all aspects of our community. We encourage you to put your child’s skills to the test at home. So, you can be amazed as well!



Adelaide works with the pom pom push.



Asher transfers objects with a grasping implement.



Austin manipulates the 3 piece circle puzzle.



Zamirah sorts and matches utensils.



Orlando experiments with magnetism.



Germanie traces a circle.

The Absorbent Mind

The 3-6 classroom children are in the period of the “Absorbent Mind “. During this stage of development more than at any other time they are soaking in the values, expectations, and culture of the society they live in. With this knowledge, as educators and parents, we can be mindful of what we are putting out to be absorbed!

One of the values that we have emphasized this year is experiencing a fascination with the natural environment. By inviting the children to partner with us in the care of the outdoor space we have shared the joy of nature in all seasons. As we helped the children to be more in tune with the signals the body gives about what they are feeling, we have coached them on how to dress appropriately for the elements.

In this way, they are able to admire the wonder of nature in all seasons. In the fall invasive species and forest restoration was explained. The children learned the names of plants and butterflies. In the winter we watched the birds and looked for animal tracks in the snow. Now that it is spring the children have begun planting the garden beds and reintroducing native trees and flowers to the areas they cleared in the fall. Through the Absorbent Mind, the children learn to care for the environment, and that life is intertwined. The plant and animal species rely on each other and the events we humans make have an impact for good or ill on the land.

New Students

The Chickadee Class gained two new students this month. Welcome to Liana Tyree and Astra Carson!



Jared works with new Chick students Astra Carson and Liana Tyree.

Chickadee News

An important value that we have in our prepared environment is the notion of self-confidence and self-reliance. Children are able to meet most of their needs independently. When they feel confident and in control of their decisions -their self-esteem raises. **Chickadees** are emboldened to try new things and persevere when met with challenges.

The value of showing respect and concern for each other during the period of the Absorbent Mind rather than just to compare and compete can have great societal significance. A war-torn world could become a caring and compassionate one if “ the tree would grow the way the twig is bent.”



Marie, Leilani and Taisei contribute to the care of the classroom.



Leilani can wash her own boots.



Jovie and Kennedy observe a frog.



Skye shows compassion for Paxton.



Leo teaches Alivia to zip.



Ice ripples.



Oliver and Evan observe an ant hill.



Kennedy and Tripp plant potatoes.



Taisei



Marie and Leilani plant with Jared.



Lena, Marie, Leilani, and Skye take care of the flowers.



In-person math lessons with our Montessori materials

Music Class

Every Monday through Thursday, the Eagles now participate in an outdoor music lesson. The students utilize a large parachute to help designate personal space and to keep a visual reminder of their personal dancing space during lessons. The class features a variety of dancing, singing, and signing opportunities. Some of the favorites that have been sung are: *I've Been Working on the Railroad*, *Grand Old Flag*, and more!

Weather and Outdoor Wear

This is your last friendly reminder of how to dress your child for Spring weather conditions! We are currently experiencing chilly mornings and very hot afternoons. If your child is prone to mosquito bites, we recommend that you spray them with bug spray **prior** to arriving at school, or providing them with a repellent bracelet. We have not noticed any need for sunscreen at this time, due to our courtyards shady trees and cloudier weather, but that would be up to you as well.

Many students have learned the hard way about different footwear. Some lament that they wish they could climb a tree with their peers, but struggle when they wear decorative sandals or flip flops.

We have also noticed many students very thirsty! In putting our best foot forward to positively impact the environment, we ask that no "throw away" water bottles are brought to school. Instead, we recommend that students bring a nice metal or reusable plastic water bottle to house their water and keep it chilled. The kitchen will sometimes have a few on hand, but it is most safe to bring your own.

Eagle News

Items Needed

We are asked many times by families, "what can we donate?" This list can sometimes vary throughout the school year. We rarely turn away special items and have a knack of figuring out uses for a variety of items! We would like to extend a special thank you to Rosemary Winkle for donating geometric shape puzzle pieces, and Noah and Nemariah Clark for donating two books for our classroom library! This is our most current list, if you are interested in donating any of these items. We really appreciate all of the family support!

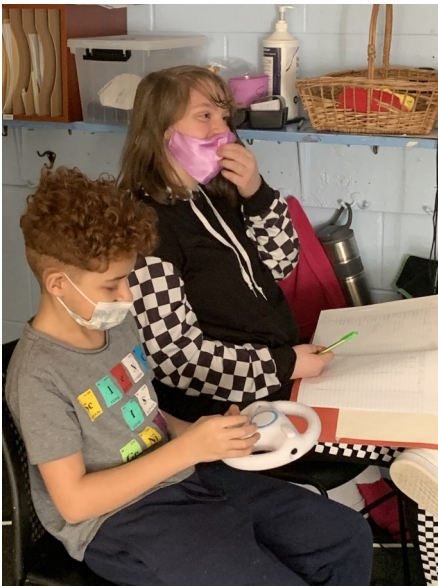
- Child size cloth face masks
- Outdoor bubbles
- Erasers
- USB compatible "mice" for a computer
- Plastic grocery bags
- Handheld pencil sharpeners



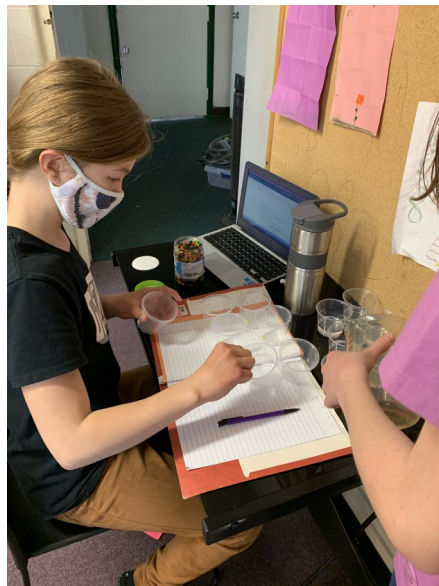
Noah reads a story to Leeland and Rylee



Brother and sister, Damarion and Dashayla help each other reach a great height



Eleni conducting her experiment on how video games affect heart rate.



Eliza sorting her Water Bead Seeds to germinate seeds.



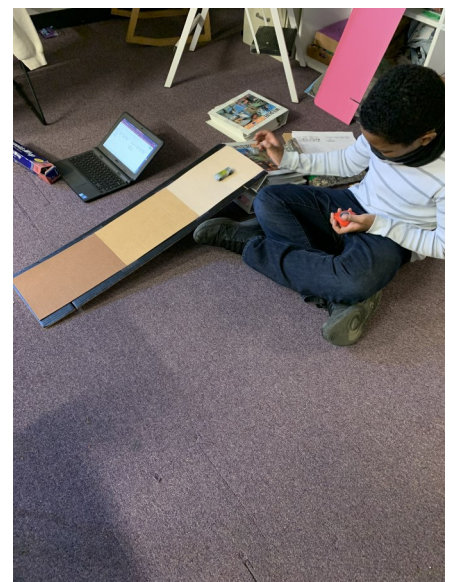
Olivia attempting to build a rubber-band car.



Vivian teaching yoga to Charlie for her experiment on flexibility.



Lola building one of her egg drop



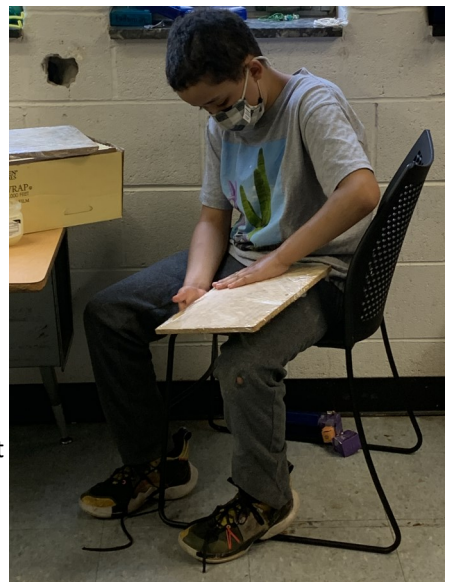
Brayden testing how incline affects speed.

Owl News



Ladainian building his paper plane launcher.

Jordan preparing his experiment testing air quality.

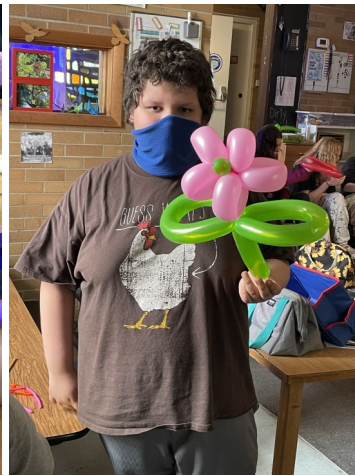




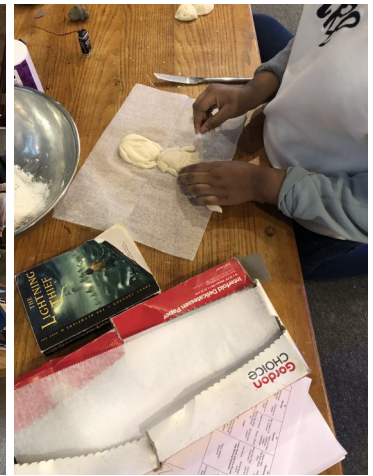
Jasmine reading Percy Jackson.



Kylynn builds a circuit using conductive salt dough.



Yahir shows off a balloon creation.



Sasha's Art expands to high relief sculpture.



Alyssa observes her salt dough, electric circuit.



Building corsage and boutonnières.



Silent reading in English.



GeMiah, Ethan and Alyssa getting a cardio work out while dancing.

Falcon News



Emily introduces the Fear Burning Ceremony to Falcons.

Sewing Class

Wings Jaden and Serena are learning to sew this spring. They started by learning to sew facemasks, then chose different projects to hone their sewing skills. Jaden designed a set of Harry Potter quilted coasters, and Serena found a tote bag pattern that she wanted to try. Both projects have been a big success in terms of teaching them the essentials of sewing. Serena and Jaden have taken a few orders from friends and family for custom made tote bags, and are willing to sell a few more, if anyone would like to order one. Please email Becky (rkonecki@nightingaleschool.org) if you have any requests. Take a look at Serena's first bag that she made for herself.



Together Again

Students have enjoyed socializing and catching up with one another after finishing the hard work of testing each morning. We are all hopeful that our days of separation will be coming to an end before long, and look forward to having our whole community together one day in the near future.



Sarah, Jayla, and Reece take a rest with friends.



Jayla prepares to ride.



Brandon, Roy, and Reece are ready to ride.



Wings begin the second half of their bike ride.

Wing News

Spring is bringing a renewed sense of hope, and last month has offered us several opportunities for our remote learners to rejoin the community in person that we have all been quite grateful for. Before spring break, the Wings enjoyed an almost normal Explore Week which included a challenging yet empowering twenty-five mile bike ride to Urbana and back. We also took a leisurely walk to Wittenberg's campus for a round of frisbee golf on a different day that week. The weather cooperated beautifully, and getting to see classmates who we had only seen online all year was priceless.

Just after spring break, state testing began. While this is few people's favorite time of the year, it has, nevertheless, provided us with more opportunities for community building as remote learners have come in for testing.



Wings enjoy lunch break in Urbana during bike ride.