



Nightingale Notes

January 2023

February

- 2 Ski/Snowboard Field Trip
- 3 Bookmobile—North End (Owls, Falcons, Wings)
- 9 Ski/Snowboard Field Trip
- 10 **Midterm Quarter 3**
- 14 Valentine's Day—See individual classroom policies
- 16 Ski/Snowboard Field Trip
- 17 Bookmobile—South End (Chickadees, Eagles, Owls)
- 20 **No School—President's Day**
- 23 Ski/Snowboard Field Trip

"Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child." Maria Montessori

The Eagles already enjoy the view from their classroom of the most peace inspiring area their inner courtyard provides. The future use of solitary, mindful pursuits await them. Sketching, painting, reading, wondering, hoping and just being are some of the many activities that are nourished in this Garden of Peace.



Snow Day Delays and Cancellations

Raise Money Effortlessly When you Shop!



Enroll in Kroger Community Rewards and earn money for a local school every time you shop. It's easy and free to enroll! When you link your Shopper's Card, every purchase you make provides funds for schools in need. Plus, you'll earn fuel points at the same time.

Enroll in Kroger Community Rewards

- Sign in online to your Kroger Account.
- Go to the Savings and Rewards Tab
- Click on Kroger Community Rewards
- Find an Organization: Nightingale Montessori
- Choose us to help raise funds for our school!

NM will make the **decision to announce a closing/delay by 7:00 am.**

We have students and staff that come from as far and wide as Clark County, Logan County, Champaign County, Greene County, Clinton County, Montgomery County, and Madison County. Our delay/closing decision will be based on weather conditions in the Clark County and Springfield area but as we make a decision we do consider our surrounding counties and our staffing needs for operation.

WE WILL DECIDE IF WE ARE DELAYED OR CLOSED BY 7:00 AM AND WE AIM TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT WE CAN TO NOT CHANGE THE DECISION. Often, schools will call a delay to gauge changes in a weather situation and then change to a closing. Many families find it very difficult to make an arrangement for a delay and then make another arrangement when the delay changes to a closing. If we feel the visibility, road conditions, dangerously low temperatures or ice conditions warrant concern, we will announce a delay or closing based on the timing of predicted conditions in relation to school operation hours.

All School News

Families that travel to **NM** need to make their own decision as to the safety of the weather and road conditions. If your area is delayed/closed and you decide to remain home, please notify the office. The attendance will be excused due to inclement weather.

Our Rapid Fire email, Call One, and SchoolCues notification systems will announce the decision. Please make sure the office has your current email and cell phone numbers.

TV and Radio announcements (if utilized) will be: WHIO (Channel 7), WKEF (Channel 22 and Channel 45), WDTN (Channel 2), and WONE (AM), 106.5 WDSJ, WIZE, B 94.5, WXEG, 103.9, Channel 99.9, WTUE, Mix 107.7, K99.1 FM, and 95.3 Eagle.

A large, elegant cursive script that says "Thank you".

Big thank you to Steve Hostetler, husband of Chickadee teacher, Katrina, for building a Chickadee fence.

Todd Kreeger, NM teacher, for leading students in a Happy Birthday song for our dedicated maintenance man, Tim Sanders.

Melvin Cline, parent of Eagle, Sam and Owl, Izzy, for the donation of the American flag that flies on the flag pole at our South Entrance.

Stephanie (Pearl) Muller of Houston, Texas, NM alumni (1996-1999) for the donation of many books to our Owl classroom.



Reminder: Disposable water bottles brought to school will not be able to be used on campus. A school water bottle will be given to the student to use at school. We have filtered water dispensers available.

A big thank you to Wings Willie, Sanaa, and Aiden for inscribing the identification number on each water bottle to get ready for student use.

Early Math Skills-Matching and Sorting

“Children display a universal love of mathematics, which is par excellence the science of precision, order, and intelligence.”

- Maria Montessori

Dr. Montessori believed that all humans are born with mathematical minds. Over a century ago, she recognized that if mathematical learning isn't part of the child's early experience, this part of the mind will go undeveloped. This lack of development will make it much more difficult for the child to learn math skills later in life. It is very important to stimulate and develop the “mathematical mind” of the child as early as possible.

Since children have a natural desire to create order in a world that seems largely out of their control, they are intrinsically drawn to activities involving matching and sorting. These types of work help the **Hummingbirds** understand that things are alike and different, as well as that things can belong and be organized into certain groups. Matching and sorting work is important for numerical concepts, and it will help them with grouping numbers and sets when they're older. This type of thinking starts our **Hummingbirds** on the path of applying logical thinking to objects, mathematical concepts, and everyday life.



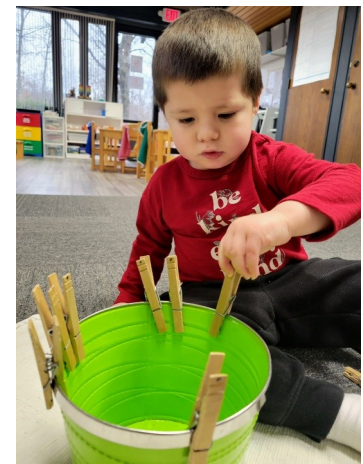
GeVaya completes a 3 piece puzzle.



Maverick matches shapes to their outlines.



Layla matches animal halves.



Breckon clamps clothespins onto the rim of a bowl.



Irha transfers water using a sponge.



Jax transfers an equal number of objects using tongs.



Huck builds with blocks.



Gintey traces shapes.



Zamirah creates a sequence of events.

The **Chickadee** Class has been following their **curiosity** as it leads them down many paths of exploration. In December, we explored the cultural traditions and stories around Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. By exploring all three holidays together, we are able to observe commonalities and differences among them. Then driven by self-motivation, the children enjoy the variety of colors traditional to each custom in the creation of paper chains to decorate the classroom. After returning from the break, the students learned about the properties of magnets. They worked with intensity in the joy of discovery at the effect they could elicit by employing magnetic force on objects! Through discoveries such as these, children learn that nature is responsive to our actions setting the foundation for an understanding of a greater awareness of our role in the world and our ability to create change.



Willow Joy, Hudson, Annie & Charlie prepare to hang a paper chain.



William



Willow



Yash

Chickadee News

Parent Corner

Valentine's Day is around the corner! While we will be celebrating love and friendship with the **Chicks** we want to stay away from the consumer aspect of this holiday. If your child would like to pass out Valentines we ask that they are handmade and that there are enough for all the children. We currently have 31 **Chicks**. Please do not have your child write the name of the person they are for, instead, they can write their own name so that each recipient will know who it is from. This eases the process of passing them out. Some children like to bring a treat to share. If you would like to do so please refer to the smart snack suggestions found in the **Chickadee** handbook. They will enable us to serve healthy alternatives to the surgery fare typically associated with the holiday in the past.

We are currently in need of spare pants for the **Chickadees**. Please check at home to see if you have any clothes labeled with **Chicks** or NM and return them. If you have some pants that your child has outgrown and you are looking for a place to donate them we would be happy to help. Sizes needed are 3t-5t At this time we do not need shirts or socks.

We are also looking for donations of travel size bar soap if you have a surplus you do not need we would be happy to accept them as we use them for a variety of different work in the classroom.

Thank you!

Independent Work

Chickadees show their **independence** as they take more ownership of their work choices. **Repetition** and the need to **self-perfect** are just two more of the innate traits that are evident in the classroom!



Talia, Ema, Kylin



William



Charlie Z



Alivia and Tinsley



Kylin and Hudson explore magnetic force.



Bella



Talia

Valentine's Day

It has been a long tradition that was interrupted by COVID-19 and our move to our new spaces, but the Eagles plan to resume papermaking and the Valentine project. Students will be making their own Valentines to share with loved ones. Eagles will also be teaching the process to the Chickadees. We will have a small celebration in the classroom. Students may bring a healthy snack and a "handcrafted" Valentine for friends if they choose. Please do not buy commercial cards or send candy to school. Thank you for supporting our stewardship values.

Naomi and ZaMiah enjoy "doing voices" in their reading a play about the Three Little Kittens. This self-chosen and self-directed activity personifies the underlying premise Dr. Montessori held as a basis for children to actuate the human potential. The curiosity and self-motivation within every child needs only to be nurtured with a prepared environment.



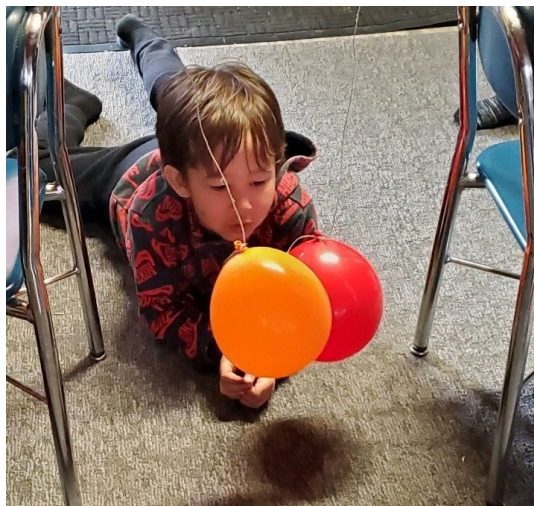
Finding the right finger for each letter is easy in the Eagle typing program. Only one finger at a time is introduced. After identifying which finger to use, the student can then practice on a small word processor which only allows the child to type letters. This isolation of skills provides distraction free practice to increase motor memory and feel the results of typing more fluently.



Jay is amazed at his ability to move enough air molecules from between the two balloons to allow the balloons to move toward each other. A gentle puff directed at the space between the balloons . . . success! The Eagles have been exploring the Laws of the Universe with various experiments. Their curiosity of how things work affords the necessary motivation to gain knowledge of the order and logic of their world. With this foundation of predictability and logic, children can pursue continued growth in problem solving.



Eagles arrived to a surprise delivery of bamboo to add to a structure they have been building or designing. The bamboo was harvested from their teacher, Lisa's garden.



Owl Science and Health

This quarter the Owls are participating in a health class using the program Our Whole Lives. The curriculum is designed to help fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade children gain the knowledge, life principles, and skills they need to express themselves in life-enhancing ways. Our Whole Lives Education supports the “three Rs” of childhood sexuality education: Respect, Relationships, and Responsibility. This curriculum covers a broad range of topics- health and safety, love and family, puberty and growing up, sex and gender, communication and decision making- in age-appropriate language. Activities, stories, and resources set the context for learning about diversity and practicing respect.

The specific goals are

- To strengthen and support each child’s sense of self and self-esteem.
- To help children understand the place of sexuality in human life and loving.
- To encourage children to appreciate their bodies as good and beautiful, private and special.
- To provide children with accurate, developmentally appropriate information about human sexuality, reproduction, and gender identification.
- To prepare children for the normal changes they experience as they grow and develop.
- To help children develop the interpersonal skills- including communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills- that will keep them safe and healthy.
- To help children learn to make responsible decisions that show respect for themselves and others.
- To help families communicate openly about all life questions.
- To strengthen parents’ roles as their children’s most important sexuality educators.

Each session begins with a gathering time to welcome participants and respond to questions. Group activities and discussions then help children process what we are learning, to go beyond the information that appears in our reading in the book *It’s Perfectly Normal*, and apply what they have learned to their own lives.

Owl News

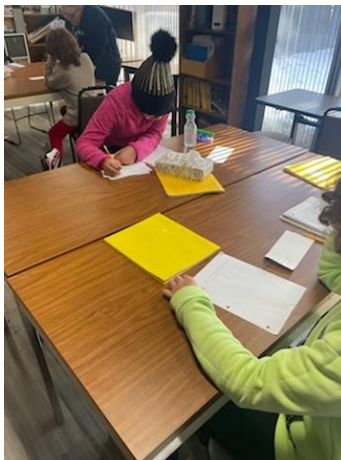


Shannin

English and Geography

In English, we are writing descriptive paragraphs. We are working cross curricular and some of our descriptive writing is about the continent we have chosen to investigate. Our goal is to write daily, to compose rough drafts, increase our self-editing skills and finalize pieces of writing with correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation while improving our handwriting. The work of the hand is so important for development. With the onset of technology in our society there is less opportunity for students to use their hands for writing. We will compose our thoughts with the help of our hands and all composition drafts will be handwritten. Our advanced writers are following a path of interest and will be writing to communicate what research has unearthed.

In Geography, we have each chosen a continent of interest. We are mapping major mountains, rivers and biomes on our continent and we will be adding land formations that are unique to our continent. We are ready to deepen our study and research as we dive into biome work for our continent. We are looking forward to sharing our knowledge with our classmates as a culminating activity.



MaKaylen



Keaton



Monica and Jamiyah



Nemariah and Amyah

Joy in Learning

Montessori teachers know that joy comes from inside a child. We can not force a student to experience joy any more than we could command them to learn. At Nightingale teachers cultivate experiences and opportunities for spontaneous joy paired with intentional learning. Joy reveals itself through busy, natural learning where students are free to move about, talk to one another, and be involved in their community. When students are given choices in their work, they develop an inner teacher and the ability to learn for the rest of their lives. Students find comfort in routines and joy through the process of their work. In whatever form their work comes in, concentrated work is the key to a child's joy in school. In the self-paced, self-directed learning environment students learn by doing and learning is situated in real-world applications and context.

"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'" Dr. Maria Montessori.



Joe Lukas Jacob and Wyatt demonstrate that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Falcon News

Snow Days

When you grow up in the midwest, snow days are a marker of the seasons. They are expected and looked forward to. When students are snowed in at home or get to enjoy the snow at school, here are a few suggestions to make the most of those precious few days.

- Start the snowy morning with animal tracking. The animals leave behind clues of their activities. The language of reading tracks is much older than the writings of humans. If one becomes versed in the art of tracking it is like seeing back in time and reading a repeating story of racoons, deer, rabbits, squirrels and birds.
- Next, we get really bundled up and head to the big woods for some sledding. At first the sleds stick but with patience and a few pushes from friends the snow packs and the runs are formed.
- Different storms have different types of snow and every snowflake is unique. Take time to observe the variety of shapes with the naked eye. Then try a hand lens or even a chilled microscope. The act of observation is the basis of science and is instrumental in our ability to learn and correct misconceptions.
- Measure the depth of the snow and hypothesize about the wind direct and speed based on the drifts and various depths.
- Use the snow to become an artist or architect. Building a snowman or fort helps us realize the impermanence of all life and that we must get as much joy as we can when we can.

Don't forget to have hot tea or cocoa on the trips inside to warm up. The contrast in temperatures is invigorating. Remembering to hydrate and take breaks in the warmth keeps snow days fun and creates lasting memories.



Falcons and Owls come together to play in the snowy woods.

Erdkinder Stonework

The Erdkinder Ecology class has spent December and January working with stone. After our order of flagstone and patio stone arrived, we began working on several projects to continue to beautify our campus and add functionality to spaces that didn't yet have a purpose. One of these places is what we are now referring to as the Eagle Zen Garden. It is an exterior courtyard with three sides walled with windows. It holds a prominent place in everyone's day as it is very visible from our main hallway. When Nightingale purchased and moved into the building, this courtyard was completely filled with a mix of invasive euonymus vine and poison ivy. The wings are now working to turn this formerly neglected space into an aesthetically pleasing garden as well as a functional space for quiet enjoyment for the Eagle class.

The first step for the Ecology class was to lay out the path and lay a bed of cardboard and sand to kill the invasive plants and prepare a space to lay flagstone. Once the design was set using inspiration from Zen garden design principles, the Wings began placing flagstone as well as large gravel stones in the shape enclosed by the path. Former student and intern **Liam Evely** graciously led the way in showing our students how to choose, lay and level the Pennsylvania Blue flagstone. Student **Jeremy Begel** carefully removed invasive vine from up against the wooden window framing at ground level and placed gravel to extend the life of the frames and add a design pop. Students **Zane Lambdin, Brandon Terrell, Bo McClain, and Dominic Payne** led the way in hauling sand and soil to lay the groundwork for the new garden beds and add sand around the flagstone. Students **Teddy McClain and Rae Temple** built out a new pond feature in the space to welcome in frogs, toads and other wildlife from our forest. We hope to utilize a downspout to keep the pond filled all year 'round.

In keeping with the stonework theme, students **Rae Temple, Teddy McClain** and **Briniya Wilson** installed a new flagstone stair step to help Eagle students step down the slight hill from their sidewalk to their play yard. Those same students along with **Jeremy Begel** are also designing and installing a large chess board in our woods made from different colored patio stones. This work has been both laborious and meditative for the students. The process of adding these design elements of stone around our property will continue through the early spring as we continue to develop our campus into a ten-acre permaculture learning lab.



Friday morning Advisory time.



Teddy and Rae enjoy the origami couch while working on Math.



Ari starts a new crochet project.



Wings work on Microbusiness projects.