



Nightingale Notes

October 2023

November

- 13 World Kindness Day
- 17 OPAl Nutcracker Preview @ NM
- 20-24 **No School—Thanksgiving Break**

December

- 1 Nutcracker Performance @ Kuss (Eagles, Owls)
- 28-31 **No School—Winter Break**

January

- 1 **No School—New Year's Day**
- 2 Staff Day—Students Not in Session
- 3 All Students Return
- 15 **No School—MKL Jr. Day**



Ski Club Info Coming Soon!

This year Mad River Mountain will be operating a club season of six sessions starting in January. All are invited. Chickadee and Eagle students need to be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Owl, Falcon and Wing students can travel as a school group.

Thank You

Representatives from **YAMADA North America, Inc.** came to drop off a generous donation of school supplies and a cash donation for teachers to use to buy classroom supplies for student projects. A big thank you to YAMADA employee, Trevor Steinberger, parent of Falcon student, Blake, for making this connection with NM and his workplace company and coming on site to make the delivery donation. Eagle, Zamiah, helped receive the gift. We appreciate them as a community connection! Thank you!



Growing Bike Program

For the past 5 years, the **Wing** program has been taking multiple day-long bike trips each year. Groups of interested students ride to and from Urbana and Yellow Springs in the fall and spring. The trips are around 25 miles long and challenge the students' stamina but also inspire a lot of joy and pride. Some interested **Falcon** students have joined in the past two years and now, staff member **Olivia Westfall**, is introducing a bike club to the **Owl** program. Her goal is to help students in their quest to become master riders and be ready for joining in longer rides when they move up to falcons and wings. Some of the obstacles to this goal are financial as many students do not have their own bikes or an ability to transport them to school. We have begun a **partnership with Cyclotherapy**, downtown Springfield's bike shop, to purchase bikes at discounted prices and will soon begin fundraising to purchase a fleet of quality bikes in different sizes as well as a shed to store them without weather damage. **If you are interested in participating in this fundraiser** or have any contacts of people who you think would be interested, please contact Andrew Hahn, ahahn@nightingaleschool.org, or Olivia Westfall, owestfall@nightingaleschool.org



Change the Date!

We will be **IN SESSION** on **March 11th**.

We will be **OUT OF SESSION** on **April 8, 2024**

(Updated Calendar sent by email)

Snow Day Delays and Cancellations

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 ARE 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.

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.

All School

Valuable Student Contributions

Students from throughout the school contribute to the fresh, diverse meal program, provided through **Gourmet Grub**. From **practical life skills** such as sandwich preparation, to research into the cultural relevance of ingredients, students are met with appropriately challenging lessons. **Nightingale's culinary** program engages students and asks them to become aware and active in their food choices. Processing local, fresh food teaches healthy eating choices, reducing food waste, and links the student into the nutrient cycle of composting into our school gardens.



Nachos, Ground Turkey, Black Beans, Cheese and Salsa, Salad, Watermelon Bites, Milk



Homemade apple cider



Chicken Pot Pie, Roll, Salad, Melon Bites, Pickled Cucumbers, Milk

Gourmet Grub



Tate helps get the tomato harvest ready.



New refrigerator being delivered to help meet food storage needs.



Happy Fall Everyone from the Hummingbird Class!

We've done some exciting things this month! First, we planted our garlic and are ever so patiently awaiting for it to arrive! The children worked on preparing their garden by tilling up the dirt and cleaning all the weeds out of it. We have also learned that we must keep working on it each day to ensure no weeds sprout up.

We have focused on the changes in the texture of leaves. Using paper, we shaded over leaves to really see each vein and exactly how different each one is. Then we discovered the difference between the crisp dry leaves and smooth live ones. To start the fall season off in our classroom we filled burlap pumpkins with leaves collected from our play area. Each leaf was chosen by your child for its uniqueness!

We continued our Fall activities by choosing a pumpkin from the Hummingbird Pumpkin Patch! Each student had an opportunity to choose their own pumpkin from the collection of pumpkins placed in our "patch". We worked on patience as we waited for our turn. Soon after choosing our pumpkin, we used tools to paint them! As I've now learned, we will be separating the paints for the next activity as they each mixed all of the colors together. The pumpkins will be venturing home soon!

Discovering the unknown insides of a pumpkin!!! This was a sticky activity!!! Most of the children enjoyed pulling out the seeds and pulp from the pumpkin, while others watched. Not all were fans of this, but when the seeds were out we all felt the gooey texture of each seed. After we cleaned the seeds, they could see and feel the difference between them as well.

Birdwatching News! The children still check their birdfeeder almost daily to see if any food is left in the tray, or if it needs a little shaking to bring down more food. They get very excited to see that there are no big seeds left. We talked about the different types of animals that may have taken our seeds to eat or store for winter.

Overall, it's been an exciting month with new activities and the children have enjoyed so much of it! I know the Hummingbird Teaching staff has! We look forward to new and exciting activities this next month and can't wait to share them with you!



Cienna works to pull the seeds out of the pumpkin



Lucy "finds" a pumpkin.



Calvin and Auggie feel the texture of the seeds after they pull it out of a pumpkin.



Jonah



Aviel



Essa



GeVaya



Brayzen



The **Chickadee** gardens are filled with the energy and excitement of the changing season. There is much to do in the beds, creating our food forest for the coming years. The children have planted many fruit trees and are slowly filling in the beds with bulbs and other foods. If we planted enough to share with the squirrels and chipmunks, our playscape will be wonderfully vibrant in the spring!

Parent Information:

The next bookmobile date is Friday, November 3rd

A huge thank you to the families of Jax and Beckham for donating bars of soap and shaving cream!

The Chickadee class welcomes a new student, Brendon Freeman, this month!

Chickadee News

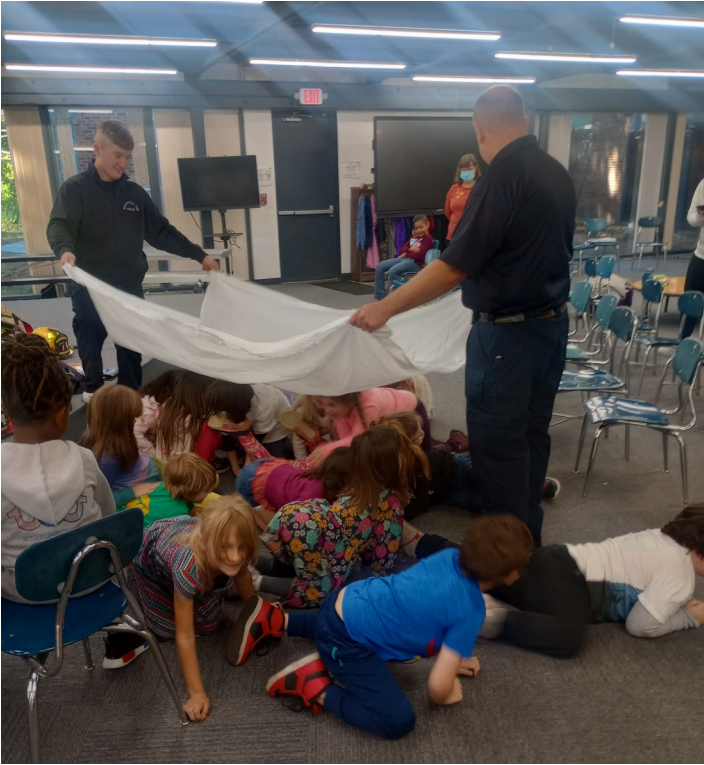


Chickadees are discovering the underlying order in the structure of the base ten mathematical system through Montessori manipulative materials.



Thank You Moorefield Township Fire Department.

Department members visited local schools, including Nightingale, during **Fire Prevention Week** this October to further educate the children of our community regarding fire safety and prevention. We want to take this opportunity to thank these and all first responders and to remind our Nightingale community to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Eagles practice crawling low to avoid smoke inhalation.



Eagles practice crawling low to avoid smoke inhalation.

Introducing Taylor VanHoose

Hello, I am Taylor Van Hoose. I was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio, I attended Nightingale Montessori for 10 years (Taylor pointing to her class picture as a Chickadee), then graduated from Catholic Central High School. During my time at Ohio University, I developed a love for language and teaching. After graduating, I took a leap of faith in a career and moved around the country opening Restaurants/Pubs in 6 different states. Upon moving back to Springfield I was given the opportunity to teach Math in the Eagle classroom. Knowing that they will be teaching me just as much as I teach them, I was eager to accept the position. It is so heartwarming to be back in this community, creating new memories, and reminiscing in the old ones. I am thrilled to be able to show every child exactly why I loved this school enough to come back and teach them, all these years later!



Keen observation, diligent research skills and teamwork are practiced after finding a moth in the outdoor workspace. Jovie and Phoebe continued these efforts until several classmates began to weigh in their conclusions. Innately, curiosity and perseverance are key to all children's development.

Dr. Montessori invited her adult students of her philosophy to "Strike the imagination." Saying further "Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create."



Sarah Spradlin (Rowan's Mom) brought her therapy dog, Tracer, to meet the Eagles. Tracer performed quite a few tricks to the students' delight and afforded an opportunity to for each child to individually pet and/or have a conversation with her. We hope Tracer will be able to spend more time one-on-one in future weeks. Thanks to Sarah for her generous spirit and time.



A few children have mastered the art of using chopsticks, ZaVyier, with intense concentration, is practicing his fine motor skills and pondering the cultural differences in our great world.



Creative writing is an anticipated event every Friday. Bella S. and Tyson are completely focused, using many skills to write compositions they intend to share with their classmates at the end of the writing session. Editing, building a personal dictionary, and creating a second draft will follow these initial efforts.



One group of Eagle scientists are engaged in attention to detail, recording of data and analyzing the analogy of pepper dispersing on the surface of water when soap is used during hand washing. Many kinds of germs have been discussed and studied by these students.

Tree Identification in Science: Working Out Our Observation Muscles!

In this first quarter of Science class, the Owls practiced the first step of the scientific method: making observations. The students have been navigating the skill of using and cross-referencing field guides as they learn how to identify 15 different Ohio-native trees by their leaves; flowers; and fruits, nuts, or seeds. They were also encouraged to obtain sensorial observations as they dissected, sketched, and labeled various trees' nuts and seeds - it was a joy to witness them explore and discover the smallest of details! After researching the different flower structures and which trees are wind- or insect-pollinated, Owl students applied their knowledge and critical thinking skills to determine each tree's symbiotic relationship with various wildlife. They then worked to support their native ecosystem by constructing eco-friendly bird feeders specifically for migratory and wintering birds. To wrap up this tree-rific quarter, a local pawpaw tree farmer will be delivering fresh pawpaw fruit for the students to taste. They will then learn how to take the seeds that are left over to stratify over winter and watch them sprout in the spring – and then hopefully, be able to add the seedlings to our school's native forest!



Pictured: (Bottom Row: Dashayla, Anna, Zayriah, Guyia, Mia, Addy) (Top Row: Nemariah, Amyah, Kamyiah)

Girls' Running Group

The Owl girls have been learning, training and working toward the goal of running a 5K. After many Friday practices some ventured out to visit their first 5K experience. On October 14th, the group joined a 5K in Urbana as part of their Second Saturday events. The group decided to try the 1 Mile Run as their first time experience. And, our Owl student, Anna Madtes, was the winner of the 1 Mile Run! Way to go Anna!



Jackson, August, and Rhiddlee identify leaf types.



Nut and Seed Dissection: Monica finds a heart-shaped walnut.



Science Class works on Nut and Seed Dissection.



Group makes citrus cup bird feeders.



Addy makes a nature mandala.



**Introducing
Jesse Level,
New Owl
Teacher**

Hello. My name is Jesse Level. I'm originally from Washington State. I moved to Ohio 13 years ago. I've spent the last 12

years working at and/or managing Un Mundo Cafe. I'm a voracious reader and writer and part time singer-songwriter. My Nightingale journey kicked off last year when my daughters started attending the school. They loved it. My sons joined them this year when my wife Aly began teaching in the Owls classroom. I love the Montessori philosophy and, at Nightingale especially, the emphasis placed on nature. I'm excited about the opportunity to teach Language Arts to the Owls and, when possible, incorporate time in, and appreciation for, the natural world. I expect to learn as much from the kids as they learn from me, and hope to fan the flames of the spark they are born with.



Games are one way Owls build community and team building.



Lilly takes a big swing!



Jude fills the water.



Some work at the chicken coop.

Falcon **Physical Science** class used a bike ride to the Nature Park, to explore various physics concepts. We calculated our speed, velocity, momentum, and acceleration while riding the bike. Physical Science students rode from Nightingale to the Nature Park on McCreight Blvd. We discussed bike safety and laws like helmets and signaling as well as bike path etiquette.



Chino and Elliott use their imaginations in Outdoor Work.



Thank You Terry Fredrich for donating soil for tulip planting!



Serenity and Noah L anchor the News Desk on the COSI trip.

Falcon **Poetry** class is an extension of the students' core content areas. Poetry class allows students to step away from the indoor classroom and into the prepared environment of nature. Erdkinder and Poetry teacher, Olivia, helps guide small groups through samples of poetry experiencing the pleasure of language, while in open air settings. Students search for truth, hidden in imagery and philosophy. In poetry, each word is charged with meaning and is part of larger patterns and rhythm. Students use their skills of observations, analysis, discernment, and synthesis to interact with the poems and draw out their meanings. Each child, with their own prior experiences, interprets the truth that can be found, for them, at that time. Montessori's Methods of educating the whole child, shine through these classes. Conversations and introspection develop the students' ability for metacognition. Students are learning how to learn, correct misconceptions, open their minds and develop deeper empathy for the world around them.

"All the great men the world has ever had, in music, poetry, science etc., have all been children." - Maria Montessori, 1946



Falcon, Jace, learns from Wing, Willie.



The **Nightingale** bus arrived in Dayton, Thursday night and a group of **Wings** attended a Broadway performance at the Schuster Center. Actor Richard Thomas played Atticus Finch in this adaptation of Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork, **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Set in Alabama in 1934 and adapted by Aaron Sorkin (“The West Wing”), Harper Lee’s enduring story of racial injustice and childhood innocence centers on one of the most venerated characters in American literature, small-town lawyer Atticus Finch. Students who attended were familiar with the cast of characters including Atticus’ daughter Scout, her brother Jem, their housekeeper and caretaker, Calpurnia, their visiting friend Dill, and a mysterious neighbor, the reclusive Arthur “Boo” Radley as the story wrestles with the tragic tale of Tom Robinson. This live theater experience exposed the students to a community of people that have a profound sense of pride in their performance and the work behind it. Our hope is that our students will be inspired in new ways to express themselves through different artistic outlets, including performance art.



Wing trip to Dayton to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Rummage/Plant Sale October 26-27

The Wing Erdkinder Program will be holding a two-day rummage sale in conjunction with the normal plant sale on Thursday and Friday, October 26th and 27th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Donations of used items are welcome before then at a labeled location near the north entrance to the school. The sale highlights our value of sustainability. Our goal is that students would feel empowered to utilize quality used items as a first option as opposed to more expensive new items that increase our waste streams. All sale proceeds will benefit the Erdkinder program (Ecology, Microbusiness, and Culinary).



Shay, Chloe, and Jeremy outside the Springfield Arts Museum

Wing News



Shay, Rae, and Ethan are ready for *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Schuster Center.



Madison Hardy's art is featured in the Springfield Museum of Art!