



Nightingale Notes

August 2025

September

- 2 First Day Pre-K
- 8 Falcon Trip to Sunwatch
- 12 **Bookmobile**
- 18 PTA Meeting 6-7pm
- 19 **Midterm Q1**
- 26 **Bookmobile**



Board Member Meg Thompson and sons to spend the school year in Madagascar

After learning the Nightingale Montessori philosophy and Sound Shapes reading program from Nancy and Sheila from 1996-2011, and honing those skills at Heron Berry Hill Farm School from 2012-2021, Meg is launching her international career and bringing those learning opportunities to an area of the world where they are much needed. While Malagasy is the native language of Madagascar, much formal education occurs in French leaving a deficit of materials for teaching early reading in Malagasy. Meg has been working virtually with Sekoly Kintana, demonstrating the Sound Shapes program for use with English speaking children and applying its principles designed and articulated by Nancy to develop materials for learning Malagasy and French. It's now time to continue this work in person and add two students, Collin and Sean, who are lifelong Montessori learners, as models of self motivation for the other students. Meg will be forever grateful for what she has learned from her mentors and vows to be a mentor for Montessori programs in as many diverse locations as possible.



Welcome BACK to SCHOOL

Welcome Back to all NM families and welcome aboard all new NM families! We are off to a great start! Excitement and joy was evident in all programs as students and teachers reconnected and set off to dive deep into their learning endeavors. Many of these early efforts are shared with you in this first brief newsletter!

Thank you
Wagner Subaru
for your continued support of
Nightingale Montessori!

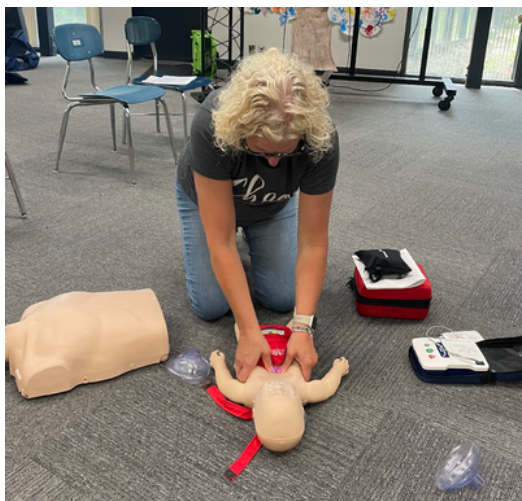


Bi-Annual In-Person Board Meeting

On August 21, 2025, The NM Board of Directors and their advisors convened for a bi-annual in-person board meeting to discuss strategies to promote the next phase of growth for our innovative school which celebrates its Golden Jubilee in two years.

In attendance were President Nancy Schwab, Vice President Sheila Brown, Treasurer Philip Potamitis, Secretary Meg Thompson, Members Kristy McCready, Jagdish Singh, Andy Fodor and Advisors Mike Koveleski and Shonda Lindeman. Others in attendance were Principal Maria Taylor, Jared Martin, Jayne Woodward, and a new member of NM staff, an assistant superintendent to Nancy, Darcy Bisker, who presented a financial strategy for the consideration of the board.

The attendees were treated to a delicious meal graciously provided by Jared and Jayne. We sampled refreshing water from our newly installed filtered water equipment supplied by the local Business Equipment Co. and Darcy's generosity. Thank you to everyone who attended for believing in and working toward Nightingale Montessori's future!



Hummingbird and Chickadee staff during CPR training



Nightingale Conversations Launches with Insightful AI Discussion

On Saturday, August 23, Nightingale Montessori proudly hosted the inaugural session of *Nightingale Conversations*, a new speaker series designed to spark dialogue and discovery across our school community. Held in the auditorium from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the event welcomed **Jamie Bisker**, a seasoned expert in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, as our first guest speaker. With decades of experience advising global organizations on the future of tech and society, Jamie offered a compelling overview of how AI is reshaping education, ethics, and everyday life.

The event drew a vibrant and engaged audience, including staff, parents, alumni, board members, and friends of the school. Jamie's presentation was both accessible and thought-provoking, sparking lively discussion and curiosity throughout the afternoon. Attendees submitted over two dozen questions for the closing Q&A segment, and many contributed ideas for future topics in the series. The energy in the room reflected a shared commitment to learning and community-building—hallmarks of the Nightingale spirit.

Thanks to generous donations totaling over \$500, we're thrilled to continue the *Nightingale Conversations* series with five more events planned throughout the 2025/26 school year. Each session will feature a different speaker exploring themes relevant to our mission and values. We're grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to this meaningful launch, and we look forward to deepening the conversation in the months ahead.



All School News



Wing Jack and Falcon Kamiyah serve their classmates from the salad bar



Falcon Jaleeya serves Jace from the stir fry bar;
Head Teacher Maria looks on



Catered lunch during the 25-26 School Year



Falcons enjoy lunch in the cafeteria

Monday: Pasta Bar

Tuesday: Taco Bar

**Wednesday: Baked Potato
and Hot Dog Bar**

Thursday: Stir Fry Bar

Friday: Pizza and Salad Bar

Everyday: Salad Bar



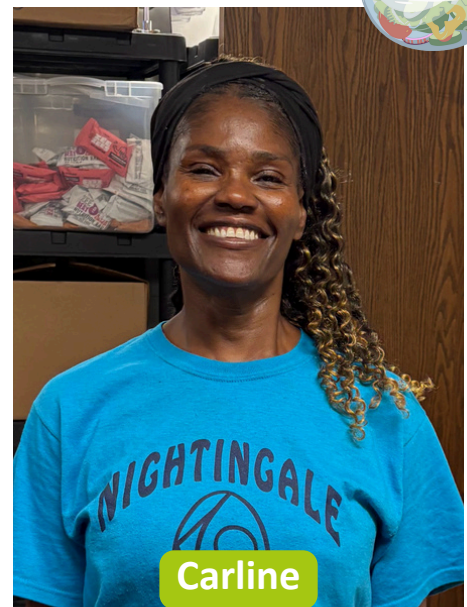
Gourmet Grub



Jennifer



We would like to welcome new staff members **Jennifer Coleman** and **Carline Bisker**. Both ladies have joined our culinary program and our Hummingbird program!



Carline



Hummingbirds Back to School

The Hummingbirds enjoyed spending our first week utilizing our outdoor environment as much as possible. Promoting social interactions, curiosity and independence through outdoor activities at an early age is an essential part of learning!

At this plane of development the child is absorbing all that is around them.

With such a beautiful campus, the students were provided the opportunity to explore all of the mesmerizing wonders that nature has to offer.

"When children come into contact with nature, they reveal their strength" - Maria Montessori



Brayzen and Nola are curious about the bunnies in the Wing courtyard



Anastasia examines sweet gum seeds



Mabel enjoys the slide



Falcons River and Serenity show Brayzen and Nola monarch chrysalides on the Crabill Woods sign



Brayzen and Nola explore the new boardwalk in the Chickadee yard

Nola and Brayzen apply maximum effort



Mabel and Anastasia are ready to explore

Hummingbirds

August 2025 Chickadee News

The Chickadee Class is off and running! We have had a busy week and a half. It has been a joy to reconnect with past students and welcome new friends into our community. We are so thankful to all the parents for your time at orientation, your donations, and your continued support as everyone gets acclimated to school life. The parent-teacher team is key to the children's success!

A couple of reminders as we get routines established:

- Water bottles will go home for the weekend and come back the following week.
- If your child brings home their school bag, that means they have clothes that need to be taken out and replaced for the next day.
- The bookmobile will be coming every other Friday--if you would like your child to participate, we must have a library card for them here at school. Thank you!



Planting project



Snack Station



Chicks
apply
maximum
effort



Chickadees



Chickadee students, families, and staff participating in orientation games



Eagles Are Ready to Fly

In the Eagle classroom we have hit the ground running! In Science, Kaylee has been teaching the children about the origins of foods. The children have been studying the life cycle of plants from seed to table. They have been working on their sorting skills by placing seeds with their respective outcome. The children are starting to understand where foods originate from and how they are cultivated. Kaylee and Jared have also worked with the children to plant pumpkins and other produce in the garden beds on the Eagle playground. Dr. Maria Montessori said, "Nature has this beautiful arrangement in which everybody, while striving for his own life and happiness, does something for the improvement and conservation of the environment." The children help nurture the plants by watering them and preparing the beds with the compost we generate at the school. The Wing students have also worked with the Eagles on the gardening projects. The children have been generating much less trash in the classroom by being mindful about the foods they bring to school to eat for lunch. "Only through freedom and environmental experience is it practically possible for human development to occur"--Dr. Maria Montessori



Eagles



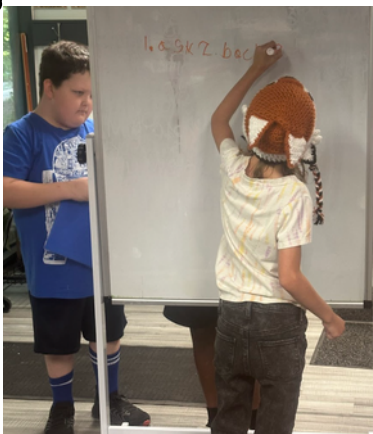
Miss
Welcome Ashleigh

Hello, I am Ashleigh Bushman, the ELA teacher for the Owls. This is my first year teaching in a school like Nightingale. I am so excited! I'm originally from rural New York, so the cornfields of Ohio are like home to me. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy hiking and relaxing on the couch with a book in hand.

Finished Owl curtains!! Check them out in the history room!



Owls



Elijah and Tilly practice spelling on the dry erase board

Back to School in the Owl Pod

The Owl pod is back in full swing! In our first weeks of school we did community and communication building games and activities. Learning to connect with peers and teachers and find ways to problem solve is a huge skill set that the Owl guides will continue throughout the year. The students were glad to be back together and welcome new friends to Nightingale and will continue to build new friendships.

The Owls have many class goals this year including spending more time outside and finding ways to engage students in creative ways to express themselves. The Owl teachers will work to find student-led initiatives and give opportunities to grow in many facets of life in and outside of the classroom!



Skye and Jovie build cup towers



Miss Ashleigh and Owl students spread out on campus to quiet their minds and focus on their painting



The Owl classroom got a refresh this summer and students will work at small tables for their individual work and skills classes

Our Precious Falcon Community Invitation to Families

NM is a Montessori school founded and absolutely dependent on the principles of peace, respect, and decency towards all our members, and the development of exceptional work ethics. We will not tolerate teasing, disrespectful, and/or unsafe behavior. Aggressive and/or violent play is unacceptable. At NM, we believe children, adolescents and adults are all deserving of being shown the highest level of respect as well as capable of showing that same level of respect for others. We seek and expect the involvement of all parents in supporting the growth of a safe, respectful, and inclusive community in which learning can happen at the deepest level and exceptional work can be enjoyed to its fullest.

Falcons demonstrate our commitment to the community through jobs, mentoring, and individual skills. We practiced being a community this week with team building games.



Above: Jamiyah, Makenzie, Ali, Jude, and River work as a team



Monarch caterpillar and chrysalides



Falcons cooperating in team-building games

Addy finds a harvestman



Lily finds a fuzzy friend

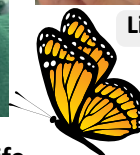


Falcons concentrating in their classroom



Respect for Life

In our class, we've been observing the incredible life cycle of the monarch butterfly right outside our door. The milkweed in our garden has become home to many hungry monarch caterpillars, and now we're beginning to see some forming their chrysalides. Watching this transformation up close is a reminder of how learning happens best when it's connected to the natural world. As Maria Montessori once said, "The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth." By caring for the milkweed and observing the caterpillars, we're not only learning science, but also practicing patience, curiosity, and respect for life.





Wings apply maximum effort to create the tallest tower, utilizing resources around the building, including a ladder!



Mr. Marty introduces Micro Business



American History Unit

American History is kicking off with a unit on Tecumseh, Simon Kenton, and life in the Ohio Valley during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The goal of the unit is for students to understand the complexities of the interactions between the local Shawnee people and the American settlers of European descent. The unit begins with the introduction of Tecumseh and Simon Kenton as representatives of these two groups, inspired by the style of the historical narrative, *The Frontiersmen* by Allan Eckert. The Wings will end August by spending a day at the Fair At New Boston to experience reenactments and culture from this time period. George Rogers Clark, the namesake of our county, led an attack on the Shawnee village of Pekowi (multiple spellings) in 1790, which is the present-day site of George Rogers Clark Park and the Fair at New Boston. Students will gather information, analyze causes and effects of these events, research a chosen person from the period, and develop a thesis about this complicated portion of the history of the land on which we now attend school. We will end the unit with a trip to the newly opened Great Council State Park in Xenia, which is on the site of the important Shawnee village, Old Chilicothee, the likely birthplace of Tecumseh.



The First Week

by Second Year Wing Noah Lambdin

The first week of school was complicated but definitely relaxed. The new systems for math were especially difficult to understand due to the switch to Khan Academy.

However, in the end, it ended up being easier than expected. On Wednesday and

Thursday, the class played a variety of different games and discussed the vast new open work system. On Friday, we went out to the forest to have a fire. Overall, the beginning of this school year gives me hope for the future of the system.

Wings began the school year by developing our community and playing team-building games while also learning the new systems and curriculum





Shay works to stain the owl house she built last year in Micro Business



Shay and Lola work with their team to transfer cups from one stack to another



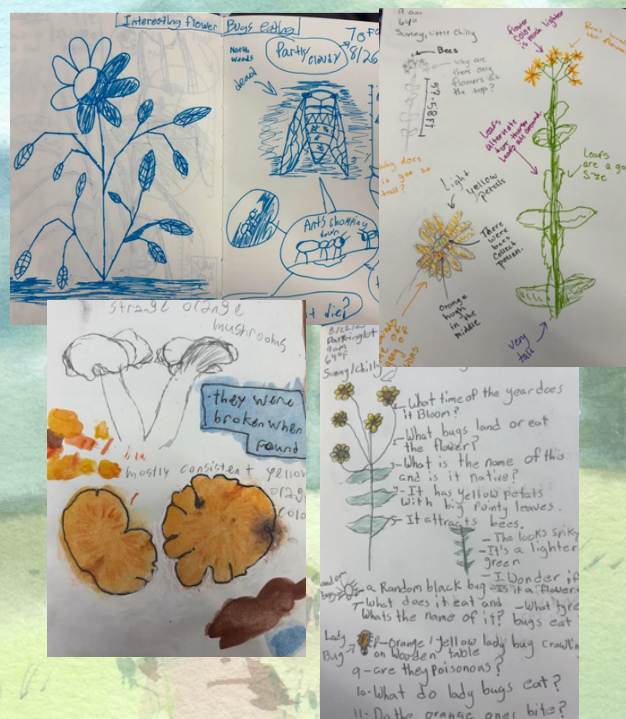
Wing Independent Curriculum

This is the first full year we are implementing our independent Montessori Secondary Curriculum with the Wing students. While there are dozens of exemplary models for primary and elementary Montessori education, finding examples of Montessori ideals being successfully implemented with middle and high school age students is rarer. Andrew and Sarah, with the help of Jared, Jayne, and Maria, are experimenting this year by creating as much "shelf work" and open work time as possible. This will allow student choice in topics as well as their day-to-day schedule. A variety of books on each topic are available to students to help them craft assignments that interest them. This independence is a bit of an adjustment for some students, but is part of our long-term goal as an adolescent Montessori classroom to guide students through "valorization." Valorization is a process named by Maria Montessori to describe how a young person grows into adulthood with confidence, strength, resilience and capability.



Nature Journaling

The Wing Program is instituting a new requirement of nature journaling as a part of our Erdkinder curriculum. Each student spends time in nature, making observations and including words, numbers, and sketches to help develop skills in mindfulness and careful observation while soaking up the mental and physical health benefits of our forested campus. Nature journaling can seem off-putting to students who feel that "they can't draw," but it is an opportunity for training in a growth mindset to realize that they *can* learn to draw and make observations with more and more skill as they practice it each week. You can see here some of the first entries from our Wing students this year. If nature journaling sounds like something you may want to begin practicing, you can learn more from one of the authors whose work we are utilizing at www.johnmuirlaws.com



Wings



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Thank you so much to
the local businesses,
experts, and events
that have supported
us and welcomed us
into their
communities!

Jamie Bisker

Expert in AI and Technology

*European Sleep Systems
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*Michael Koveleski
Sleep Activist, Owner*

*mike@DesignSleep.com
937.206.3180*

Fall Fun Plant Sales and Community Events

Nightingale Montessori is committed to our students learning traditional skills and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences. This Fall we will be participating in local Farmers Markets, Flea Markets, and on-site sales @ NM, Our Earth Nursery.

Sharing native plants and secondhand goods is an expression of our value of creating a more sustainable and connected community.

Springfield
Farm Market
Sept. 6, 13, 20,
& 27

Urbana Farm
Market
Oct. 4, 11, 18,
& 25

Our Earth
Nursery @ NM
Sept. 19 & 26
Oct. by Appt.

Urbana
Flea Market
Sept. 5-6
Oct. 3-4

Fall is the best time
to plant. Establish
plants now for
spring 2026!



**NIGHTINGALE (937) 324-0336 OR
MONTESSORI**

Jared Martin, Our Earth Nursery (937) 765-1745