



# Nightingale Notes

**November/December 2021**

## December

6-10 Owl and Falcon SMART Learning Lab Installation and Professional Development

**18—31 No School—Winter Break Starts**

## January

**3 No School—Staff Day**

**4 All Students Return from Winter Break**

10-14 Wing Explore Week

**14 End of Quarter 2**

**17 No School—Dr. MLK Jr Day**

18-21 Falcon Explore Week

## New Logistics for Eagle Students



Eagle students will be dropped off and picked up by carline at the South End Entrance of 2525 N. Limestone. The Eagle carline drop-off/pick-up is located at the first sidewalk. The carline continues past the Chickadee drop-off/pick-up before winding around the turn circle and out. If you are dropping off both an Eagle and a Chickadee, please utilize both drop off locations. (Wing carline drop-off/pick-up is at the North End Entrance.)

## Eagles Move to 2525!

**Inspections are underway and Eagle parents are on standby for an announcement of the first day for Eagle classes at 2525!**



All communications and administrative items are still to be directed to the office at 1106. The NM Office team will be shared immediately and directly with your child's classroom team.

Breakfast and Lunch will be made daily at our main location and delivered via our food transport catering license to our 2525 location.

## The Astonishing Eagle Thanksgiving Move!

So many hearts and hands quickly came together determined to take a giant leap forward in the Thanksgiving holiday week. First, **Tim Sanders (contractor)** painted the large wooden



beams high up in the cathedral ceiling on his scaffolding while his brother **Jimmy Sanders** rolled the paint on walls below. They worked all the previous week as a non

negotiable requirement for **Fazio Color Shop's** A-team to prepare and lay the flooring the next several days.



Meanwhile **Andrea (Eagle Teacher), son Miles (Owl) and Sheila (Eagle Teacher)** packed boxes in anticipation of loading the box truck brought by

**Michael Blair (Parent of Eagle, River and Chickadee, Skye)** on Tuesday. He and **Sarah Bullwinkle (Parent and Falcon Teacher), Jayne (Parent and Falcon Teacher), Jared (Parent and NM Ecology Director), Roy (Wing) and friend, Chris, Alum Seton Brown, Andrea, Lisa (Eagle Teacher) and Sheila** helped load and unload the truck the next morning. Later there would be another pick-up truck borrowed from **Patti and Russ Shatto**



**(Grandparents of NM Alumni and Eagle Teacher, Lisa)** to load and unload. They carried Eagle furniture and materials down the new code ordered sidewalk into pod 5 and the new Eagle classroom at 2525 N. Limestone. There, some furniture was painted and sanded by staff. More carloads of boxes came until finally on Sunday the first pieces of the abundant Eagle Cornucopia collected over four decades were set with sighs of gratitude and awe into the beautiful new classroom.



Of course neither classroom after all that work is set up yet for the students! A creative curriculum is planned on the spacious green rug in the empty 1106 classroom until the new Eagle nest can get arranged. The newly uninhabited Eagle space at 1106 will serve to house the **Owl and Falcon SMART Learning STEAM Labs** set to arrive December 6th.

## Efforts for Our New Campus

**Nightingale Montessori** was able to buy 2525 N. Limestone in the summer of 2017. A capital campaign was led by **Jeanne Nightingale** and **NM staff**. It raised \$150,000 which was enough to move the **Wings** in the next year. There has been no effective campaign leadership since she left the campaign to write and administer our **USDA \$100,000 Farm to Table Grant**. The funds from this grant have bought new kitchen appliances and will allow some contractors to continue work on the kitchen.

The **NM Board** brought on this year two members with specialty and background in fund development with the intention of guiding a focused person in the newly formed **Office of Development and Mission**. Meanwhile, the school has been forced to all but self-finance the refurbishing of the new building. As it rounds the final corner of such an unusual burden of self-financing the multi-million dollar undertaking, the small non-profit, has come up a little short. It is now in the process of adding additional assets to modify the loan to extend its capacity to finish enabling the rest of the school to experience the joy of the Eagles now moving into 2525 N. Limestone next week.

## OCTOBER HARVEST PARTY & NURSERY PLANT SALE

Nightingale Montessori Holds USDA Farm-to-School Workshop on Its New Campus in North Springfield

**October 29, 2021.** On a damp and frosty autumn afternoon, Nightingale Montessori opened its gardens and playscapes to the Springfield community in celebration of its fall Farm-to-School harvest.

Master Gardener **Jared Martin** led guests on a public tour of the school's model Edible Schoolyard gardens, its woodland restoration trails and wetland habitats. The special feature of the day was a presentation on native and non-native plants by **Terry Fredrich**, founder of *Jefferson Street Oasis and Habitat*



*Creations of Ohio and friend of Nightingale Montessori.* The nursery plant sale was organized by Nightingale's micro-business classes, the proceeds helping to equip the school's new Teaching Kitchen. Attendees feasted on refreshments harvested from student-grown herb and vegetable beds.

The Farm-to-School project, funded in part by a generous two-year grant from the US Department of Agriculture, has boosted the school's efforts to transition into its new campus at 2525 Limestone Street in North Springfield. The goal of the USDA grant is to integrate agriculture and nutrition-based education into the standards-based curriculum and to bring more locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables into school cafeterias in the area.



The grant opportunity aligns perfectly with Nightingale's ongoing mission to engender the values of experiential learning, independent inquiry, and purpose-driven problem solving. In the past decade, Nightingale has discovered that a focus on school gardening, along with culinary training and public outreach, encourages children to take wholesome eating habits into their own hands and learn the skills necessary for growing a healthy community.

Gourmet Grub

## The First Plane of Development

“The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six.” -**Maria Montessori**

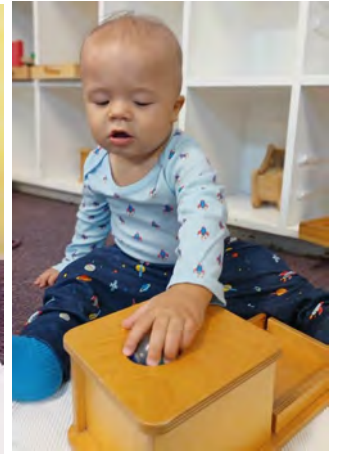
**Dr. Maria Montessori** concluded that everyone passes through four distinct planes of development: birth-6, 6-12, 12-18, and 18-24. She believed that in each of these planes, the individual is drawn to different skills and activities. The more the individual is provided with opportunities to explore and practice the skills they are drawn to, the more progress the individual will make. **Dr. Montessori** believed that the first plane of development is the most important time for a child.

During the time period from birth to age six, children experience tremendous physical and psychological growth, exploration, and development. Because she believed that more learning takes place during this plane of development than during any other in life, she referred to this psychological growth as the Absorbent Mind. The child absorbs everything around him/her like a sponge. He/she is constantly taking in and processing the world around them. During this plane, children begin acquiring language skills, develop cognitive and motor skills, begin to develop expectations of the world around them, and even imitate the actions/speech of adults around them.

Each child also has many emotional needs during the first plane of development. Every child needs warmth, protection, love, acceptance, respect, understanding, security, order, freedom within developmentally appropriate limits, and social relationships. The **Hummingbird** team works very hard to provide for these needs of the children. We value our relationships with the children, enjoy being with them, and foster their individual growth and development to the best of our ability. We agree with **Maria Montessori's** philosophy and guide the **Hummingbirds** daily to lay the foundational building blocks that will support successful learning as each child grows older.



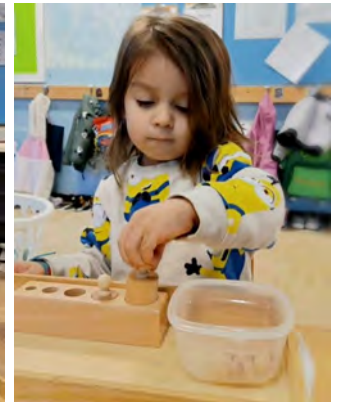
Bennett matches shapes according to the number of holes in the shape



Jonah explores object permanence.



Mekhi throws objects from a distance.



Orlando manipulates knobbed cylinders.



Simone washes (previously washed) kitchen objects.



Ellen buttons the dressing frame.



Zamirah matches according to pattern.

## We Welcome New Chickadee Team Member

Hello! My name is **Janelle Chamness**. My family and I are new to the Montessori world. Morrison, Willow, and I have just joined the Chickadee class and have been welcomed with loving, open arms.

We are excited and thrilled to be joining such a wonderful community! I am also relatively new to early childhood education. I began my journey shortly after Morrison was born while doing research on how to be the best mom I could be. From this, I found a new passion in teaching and nurturing, not just my own kids, but all young kids. I began reading, joining online classes, and learning as much as I can. Shortly after, I opened my own home daycare. I absolutely loved my daycare and the families I worked with, but, when I was offered the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from other experienced and amazing educators, I could not pass that up! Thank you for allowing me to join your family!



Janelle and Willow

## The Absorbent Mind

The children in the 3-6 year age range are in the period of development that Maria Montessori called the absorbent mind. During this stage children are permanently soaking up into their physical and spiritual being every detail of emotion and facts in the universe around them. One of the things that children internalize is cultural holiday traditions. With Halloween just over, Thanksgiving upon us, and the winter holidays around the corner, we look forward to incorporating holiday activities within the classroom. We plan to present amazing experiences of factual and diverse information for the children to explore holiday traditions in other parts of our world this time of year.



Skye and Willow get hands on.

## Chickadee News



Bella learns about isosceles triangles.



Jay follows multi-step sequence to scrub the pumpkin



How low can you go, DaShayla?

### No Erasers

Just let the words flow from your brain through your arm and spill onto the paper.

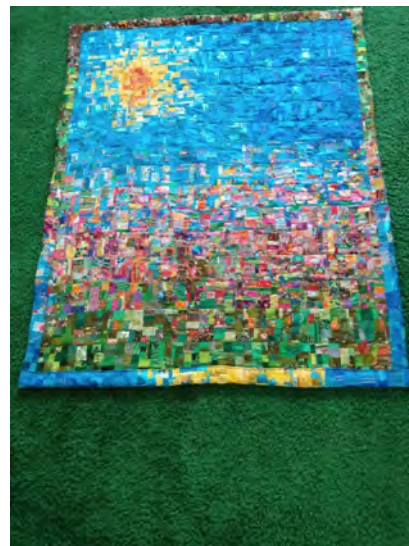
Friday afternoons are filled with the sound of pencils moving across paper. Children look forward to uninterrupted writing time followed by a chance to share or hear an original piece by their peers. Some children finish early while others keep going until the words “pencils down” are echoed.



Evan compares his model of the Roman arch to a famous ancient aqueduct.

### Senses & Sciences

The children are continuing to learn the different parts of the scientific method. We are progressing in many areas of physical science through group labs. We strive every day for more independent activities. A few of the children’s favorite experiments offered have incorporated the effects of sinking and floating, how magnets react, and how colors can change when combined with others. We have also experimented with light and translucence to see our phalanges (x-ray simulation). The shelves are filled with work that the children can continue to build on alone that will reinforce each concept.



The Eagles thank our longtime former beloved Eagle teacher, Martha Worrell! She found this treasured quilt and sent it to our classroom. It fits perfectly at the main entry of our new classroom!

## Art

Our art projects include mask making and Thanksgiving leaf turkeys. Student designs were very creative and unique to each



person. Many of the students were very pleased with their masked creations and wore them in class. Many of our Thanksgiving leaf turkeys went for the wild and wacky style. Our project involved trips outside to hunt and collect leaves that we think would make for good turkey feathers. Our creative class had many different ideas including a snow turkey and a 50 foot long neck turkey.

## History

In History we have started Big History with a Big Bang, pun intended! They have learned about the Headless Romans, Easter Island and how our adventure in Big History with David Christian will lead us to great mysteries to solve. Our next unit to explore is Scale! Scale is incredibly important in understanding Big History. This course looks at history at a larger scale than any other history course that we know of, and studying time and space over 13.8 billion years poses some interesting challenges. One way of dealing with this particular challenge is by using different scales so that each topic can be studied from the appropriate perspective, leading to a greater understanding of that topic. In our lesson, *Scale*, students use activities, watch videos, and research to provide a solid sense of how scale can impact the way we view things.

## Science

As we finished up learning about the microbes living in the human microbiome we were led into studying the body systems of mammals. We explored the digestive system, the vital organs and their functions, and how our bodies produce and get rid of waste. We used PBS Learning Media to learn about the types of muscles and bones in our bodies and several of us tried to make a model of the arm using cardboard and balloons. As we moved through the ways humans differ from other mammals, many of us took on The Great Thumbless Survival Challenge. In this activity, we taped our thumbs to our palms and tried to do normal activities without using our thumbs. This demonstrates the importance of opposable thumbs in the evolution of primates versus other groups of animals. As November comes to a close, we are moving on to study evolution and the fossil record of different hominid species.

### The Owls Have Started a New Birthday Tradition!

Each month a cooking team, with or without birthday celebrants, heads to the kitchen to prepare delicious birthday muffins. Some of us are very excited to announce and celebrate a birthday while others are revealed as the month arrives. The baked muffins are shared with our entire class the next day at lunch as we celebrate each birthday of a classmate or teacher in the current month. We have celebrated September, October and November birthdays with great enjoyment, appreciation for each other, and of course a delicious Smart Snack Muffin!



## English

For the second quarter in English we have begun a Writing Workshop. In our Writing Workshop students have learned and are practicing different types of writing. So far, students have worked on pieces of descriptive writing and narrative writing. With each written piece, students grow as writers and improve their skills in writing, grammar and handwriting. Students are very creative and thoughtful when choosing their topic. We can see the students improving tremendously with their writing as the weeks go by.

Writing Workshop does provide weekly instruction and practice for specific types of writing and honing our writing mechanic skills. BUT, the best part of our Writing Workshop is the time students spend working on their own writing endeavors. As budding writers they have support to help them gain the skills they seek to accomplish their own personally set goals. Some students have expressed interest in writing a graphic novel, and some students are collaborating writers in *StoriumEdu*.

*StoriumEdu* is a unique new online game that helps students build their writing skills, learn storytelling techniques, practice collaboration, and explore their creativity. It does this by transforming writing into an engaging group activity where students work together and lift each other up instead of struggling alone. How does it work? We use game concepts and mechanics inspired by popular tabletop, card, and video games — things that are familiar to most students of reading age and higher. These mechanics inspire and steer students' writing, help them overcome the dreaded "writer's block," build stories with clear structure and compelling characters, and have fun along the way.

## English Thanksgiving Paragraph



I love Thanksgiving. There are so many things that I am thankful for. It is a wonderful time of year because all of the leaves are falling. All of these things bring me great joy. I am almost as excited for Wellness Week.

The first part of Wellness Week is going to be okay. We are going to have to clean a lot for my grandparents' arrival. If I am lucky though I will get my hair done on the weekend, which is exciting. The worst part is the cleaning. Then my grandparents will be here on Tuesday.

The second part of the week my grandparents will be here! They come on Tuesday driving from Pennsylvania. I am excited for this part of the week because we get to do a bunch of shopping for Thanksgiving. We are going to buy so many different delicious foods!

The final part of the week will be the best because it's Thanksgiving! I love Thanksgiving! I enjoy watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and seeing all the balloons. I enjoy walking into the kitchen and smelling the beautiful smells. I get to craft a giant box turkey every Thanksgiving with my Gran. My favorite part though, the best part, is eating with my family.

In conclusion, Thanksgiving is so amazing. I am so glad that Mrs. Maria also gave us those extra 2 days off. Wellness Week is what everyone needs just to regenerate. I love Thanksgiving so much. Thank you Mrs. Maria because we all needed it!

**By—Iris Raffensperger**



Falcon Young Women represent and pay tribute to our brave female pilots



Iris tries out the pilot position



Tasha and Allie recreate the pose



The Falcons enjoy the beauty at the Springfield Art Museum

Falcon News



Aidan and Sincere



## Rhamnusia

Many Wings participated in what was meant as a one-hour long group activity to explore the concept of imperialism that is being studied in modern world history class. Students were so interested in the concepts and details of the activity that it has exploded into a multi-week game that has aspects of a Model-UN setup mixed with the goals of Nightingale's ecology program.



Natives searching for acorns in an inter-colony competition.

The activity, named Rhamnusia, takes place in the four acre Crabill woods on the north end of our campus. This forest has been taken over by an invasive species named Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*). Since it has been our ongoing goal for several years to continue to clear our property of invasive species and restore the forest, for the purposes of this

activity, the resource of wealth for the colonies of Rhamnusia is buckthorn. Colonies process the buckthorn into six foot lengths and are then compensated with Buckcoin based on the diameter of their processed lengths. Several groups of Wings have started colonies in Rhamnusia and are competing to create a prosperous society.

The colonies are collecting points in four categories: finances, health, military, and diplomacy. They earn these points by purchasing different items with their buckcoin. For instance, they can purchase a new pruning saw to help their efforts which will also give them finance points. Colonies can set up agreements with each other to earn diplomacy points. Another colony has set themselves up as a manufacturing colony, producing staves and shields to be sold for buckcoin that would boost the military points of the purchasing colony.

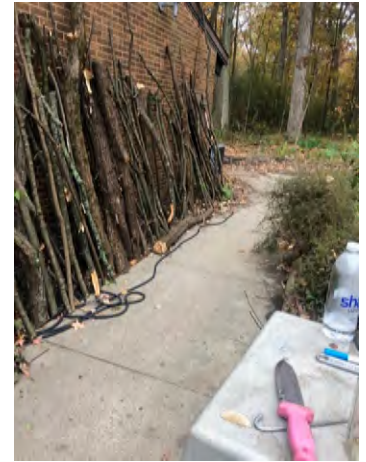
The primary way that points are earned is through the purchasing of native plants from our greenhouse/nursery. When a colony spends their buckcoin, purchases a plant, and plants it in the claimed territory in Rhamnusia, they earn points in one of the four categories. For instance, if they purchase an elderberry plant, it will boost their health points. Purchasing and planting an Arrowwood Viburnum would increase the colony's military points. Purchasing and planting a birch tree would increase their diplomacy points.

Students are grappling with their inter-colony relationships including their relationship with the

local natives (another group of students participating in the game). Conflicts have arisen and prompted treaty meetings where new rules must be developed. This experimental game appears to have no end in sight and is helping to speed up our forest restoration goals as well as provide the material for our wattle fencing around the future eagle play yard.



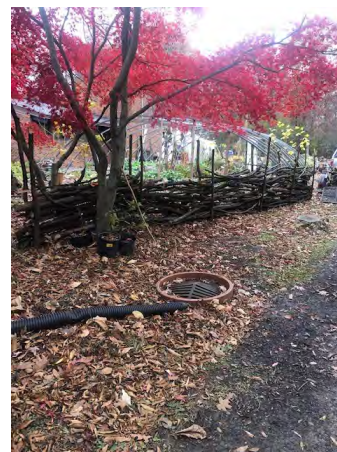
Rhamnusia Day One.



Rhamnusia- Buck thorn harvested from our woods.



Rhamnusia treaty meeting.



Starting the fence.



Weaving the Buck thorn.

*Thank you*

Earlier this month the Wings received a very generous donation from **Ted and Stephanie McClain, parents of Wings Bo and Teddy**. We were gifted with over 400 disposable face masks in a variety of colors. In addition to the much needed disposable masks, they also donated an automatic hand sanitizer dispenser, a mask box, and a very nice utility wagon. We are very grateful to the McClain family for their continued generosity.



The Wings would like to thank **Wagner Subaru**, and **The Adopt-a-Classroom Program**, for the generous donations to the Wings and several of our other programs. The Wings used the money that was donated this year to buy a 3D printer and a large supply of filament to start making things. Thanks to our knowledgeable trusty assistant, Wing student, **Aidan Schindler**, have the printer up and running. Our

first projects will be developed from interest for creating items to sell as part of our Microbusiness course.

We are looking forward to sharing our products and our knowledge with the entire school soon.

Thank you again **Wagner Subaru** for your continued generosity and support. We appreciate you very much.

## Wings Embrace Many Outdoor Learning Opportunities



Wings help to prepare the Eagle Quiet Space



Wings creating a structure in Rhamnusia