



Nightingale Notes

February 2022

March

- 5 Cincinnati Montessori Annual Conference
- 14-17 Falcon Explore Week
- 17 **End of Quarter**
- 18 **No School—Waiver Day**
- 18-20 The Montessori Event—AMS Conference— Nashville
- 21-25 Wing Explore Week

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my personal testimony in regards to our transition into the Nightingale Montessori family. That is exactly how my daughter and myself view this school, a family. My daughter started her preschool education at a new build of a public school. We knew it would be a challenge to start this new chapter as she has never been away from my care in her young life. Though it was more difficult than we could have ever imagined. Her relationship with the teaching staff and discipline process was more than an obstacle, it was depriving her from being her authentic self. We decided after a month that it was time to research an alternative. The community agreed that Nightingale Montessori was the BEST in Springfield. In the first 2 weeks they were able to establish her strengths and growth opportunities. She is now thriving and becoming more comfortable with boundaries guided by adults. Thank you for caring, teaching and guiding my daughter in the most professional and loving manner.

-Kara Cunningham, parent of Chickadee, Aubrey



NM Testimonials Requested

We always love hearing how your student is progressing in so many ways at Nightingale Montessori. We are refreshing our webpage to inform others of the imaginative education we have provided families since 1978. We would be honored to include your personal testimony describing the unique opportunities your family has enjoyed at Nightingale Montessori. With your recommendation, our good fortune of meeting great classmates will continue to flourish.



NM sends a big Thank You to the Springfield Country Club, our “around the corner” neighbors, for graciously allowing us to use their great hill for sledding!

Practical Life Activities

“The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one’s self” – Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori believed that children are innately preparing to be adults. In the **Hummingbirds**, we are fostering that characteristic within each child by providing opportunities to participate in Practical Life activities daily. Practical Life activities allow the children to develop self-discipline, strengthen independence, develop social skills, strengthen concentration, establish a sense of order, and much more!

According to **Dr. Montessori**, Practical Life activities can be categorized into four areas: Preliminary Activities, Care of Self, Care of the Environment, and Social Graces/Courtesies. Preliminary activities provide the foundation for work in the Montessori classroom. How to unroll and roll a mat, pouring, folding, and carrying are all examples of preliminary activities. Care of Self includes activities such as: hand washing, putting on/taking off a coat, dressing oneself, and putting on/taking off socks and shoes. Care of Environment is practiced by wiping a table, scraping a lunch plate into the trash, sweeping the floor, wiping up spills, dusting a shelf, etc. Social Graces and Courtesies guide the children in their interactions with others. The **Hummingbirds** are learning to cough and sneeze into their elbows, greet their classmates/teachers, say please and thank you, use proper table etiquette, and many other important

Exciting Changes

January was a month of exciting changes in the **Hummingbirds**! We gained two new friends during the month. **Luna Huslig** was the first to join our environment. **Luna** and her mom (**Shanna**) recently moved into the area from Arizona. Next, **GeVaya Wilson**, daughter of former **NM** student **GeLaya Wilson-May** and granddaughter of **NM’s Guyia Wilson**. Both of these new students have been wonderful additions to our community, and we look forward to continuing to watch both of them progress to their full potential!



Zamirah washes.



Jonah places objects in drawers.



Ellen, Luna, Bennet and Mehki prepare fruit for a group snack.



GeVaya explores object permanence.



Adelaide clamps clothespins onto a rim.

Order

The **Chickadees** are discovering the necessary presence of order. It appears as the foundation for higher-order appreciation. The more order in our environment at home, at school, or in our relationships, the more we know how to become an independent part of a predictable peaceful world.

Order is infrastructure for a peaceful enjoyable Valentines Party.



Order creates Cube and Rectangular Prism Design.



Order guides matches in tactile sensory awareness.



Order makes possible mathematics.

Chickadee News



Order requires practiced control and concentration to obtain.



Order impacts gravity on size choices.

Eagle Work

More academic activities have flourished with the support of the students' creative outlets and their need for movement since our move to the new spaces.

In addition to the beautiful spaces at our new campus, the Eagles have been able to enjoy the restoration of their double easel for painting. This creative activity provides many opportunities to reinforce sequencing and practical life skills (sponge squeezing, mopping, brush cleaning, table washing) while maintaining the focus required to carefully mix the infinite array of colors and apply them to the paper.

About two weeks after the painting had been reinstated to the classroom, the Eagles have most recently been enjoying the full size electronic keyboard with headphones, adding immense satisfaction to the auditory brain.

The outdoor activities are ever changing with the weather. Sledding slowly for a few feet when there was but a dusting of snow lent a bit of knowledge about incline, gravity and friction. Acquiring the skills to lean and dodge small trees and large ones when much deeper snow provided a base for a sled path demanded much more judgment and total collaboration from peers who were co-riders or awaiting their turns at the top.

It is very exciting to witness the new partnerships formed when downhill sledding, with its exhilarating travel, was more important than who was on the sled with whom.

New locations for pallet stages and outdoor performances continue in their popularity.



Carefully through the trees—triumph at the bottom!

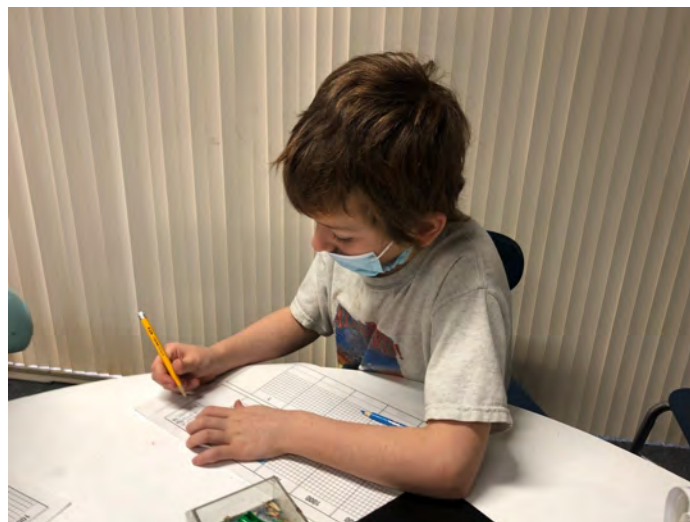


Rosie and Mia (and Rayden below) are intrigued by the “dot game,” a visual of hierarchy exchange and regrouping.

Eagle News



Climbing atop, in, under and around the huge piles of buckthorn and honeysuckle are an ever present challenge for the Eagles' imagination and need to move.



English

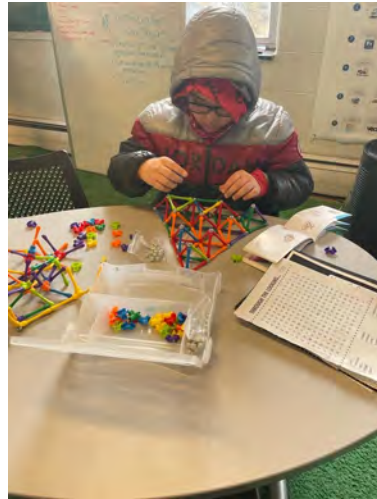
In English class students are continuing to work on becoming better writers. Some students are working on writing paragraphs and some have advanced to the challenge of writing an essay. Sometimes the writing topic can be an individual's choice and sometimes students are given a prompt. Each writer is setting a personal challenge and grow as a better writer. This week the students chose a book (some read more than one) by the great children's author, Patricia Polacco, and then as a writer, they summarized a story they read.

History



In history class we spent time reading and learning different origin stories. The interest in the unique origin stories from different cultures was widespread. We read stories about the Efik, Judeo-Christian, Chinese, Mayan, Iroquois, Zulu, and Modern Scientific. As we read the stories together we filled out a chart with information about the different origin stories for to compare and contrast our findings. Our next study is to tackle the big idea of spirituality and science. Each student has picked one of the major spiritual practices Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity to research and share information with classmates. Soon we will dive deep into the science behind the creation of our universe, the beginning of our historical timeline studies.

Science



Noah builds with Goobies.

This month the Owls have been working very hard in our new Stem Lab to complete our first portfolio installation. For many, it is the first time we have put together a PowerPoint presentation. Students are working on putting what we learned through observations and experimentation into words of their own. We began exploring the differences between 2D and 3D shapes and then continued with building different spinner designs. The challenge was

to create three or more spinning tops, using the Geometric Building Set, that spun for 10 seconds or more. We spun them on different surfaces to discover different levels of friction. We continued to improve our designs and record our results to find the spinner we could each spin the longest. Our main objective was to be able to define friction as a resisting force created when two surfaces rub together. We discussed The Conservation of Angular Momentum when we observed that the slower something moves the more it will start to wobble and the force of gravity will have a



Audriana keeps materials organized.

stronger hold to topple an object. As the friction between the supporting surface and the spinner surfaces slowed the spinner down, we observed how the wobbling increased until it fell and stopped all together. We will continue with 3D shapes and designing a marble run design next.



Eliza works with Lux Box.

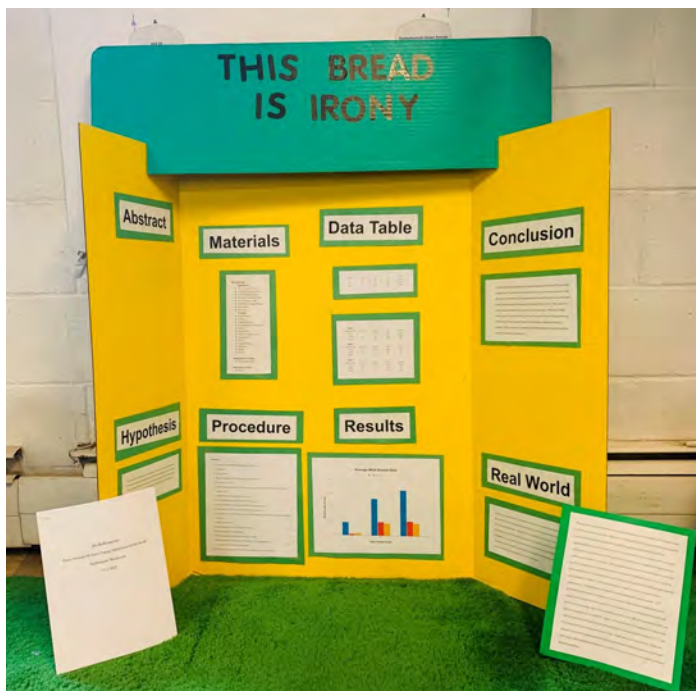
Owl News



DaeSha builds a snow heart.

Iris Science Fair

Even though the state wide science fair did not happen I still chose to make a project and enter it at a different fair. My project was about mold on bread. I studied whether increasing amounts of iron supplement added to the bread would affect the amount of mold growth. My project was extremely successful and my hypothesis was correct. I am so grateful that Mrs. Jayne put in the time and effort to assist me with this project. I am in the middle of writing my speech but when I put in the video of me presenting I hope that I get a superior.



caption

tremely motivated the work is open ended and students can work at home at their own pace. Falcon guide Sarah B. was excited to help students take the placement testing for the MobyMax. She is an English teacher but even she was excited for this new math extension. Falcon student, Nick Williams, was so motivated the first days we tried it that he was ready to trade in all his other work to stay on MobyMax. Students are finding a balance between the two math curriculums. We are still using our materials and doing calculations on paper using the Mammoth Math system but they are also zipping along online, using digital diagrams, pictures and data calations in the MobyMax.

Late Winter Garden Work

Just because it is winter doesn't mean the gardening has to stop. Here are few ideas for gardening activities during these cold months.

- 1. Plan your garden:** Seed catalogs are being sent and sold. Nightingale's favorites are [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#) and [Bakers Creek Heirloom Seeds](#). We have received annual grants from these companies. Please visit their websites and you can register to receive free catalogs.
- 2. Tool maintenance and inventory:** Hand tools can be cleaned with a stiff brush. Sharpen metal tools with flat files, making sure to wear eye protection and gloves. Use sandpaper and linseed oil to refurbish wooden handles.
- 3. Propagate and care for houseplants:** This is indoor Eco-Therapy and you can choose to grow a multi use plant like aloe. Also consider growing micro-plants such as sprouts. Reduce waste and grow kitchen scraps as house plants such as avocado pits, celery, potatoes or any other fruit seed you wish to experiment with.
- 4. Check your outdoor plants:** Even perennial plants can be affected by the winter weather. Check plants for frost heave. This is where frozen earth pushes root systems up above the soil level. Adding additional mulch will preserve the root system and fortify your perennials during the extreme temperature fluctuations.

Working the Earth is a year round responsibility but many organisms in our climate rest in the winter. Enjoy the dormant days while you can because the length of sunlight each day is getting longer and the bustle of spring will be here in the coming weeks.



Falcon News

Falcons Started a New Program Called MobyMax

Falcons started a new program called MobyMax. We are utilizing this program to identify if there are any gaps in math concepts. The students have a wide range of prior knowledge and experiences. This diversity makes us stronger as a community but poses challenges for guides who are creating individualized curriculum and assignments for each student. The response to the new program has been extremely positive from parents, students and teachers. Parent of [Zane Lambdin](#), Krista, said that her son did over an hour of math homework and she was delighted. Falcon classes are structured in a way that students have time to complete their work at school and there are no additional 'homework' assignments. However, if one gets behind or in this case ex-

VARIETY

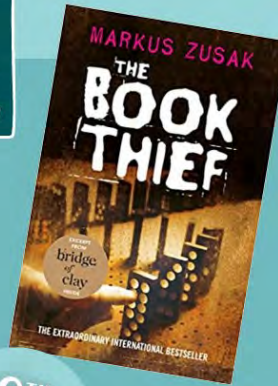
THE SPICE OF LIFE

The Falcons are individualizing more this session. The 8th grade class is split to read 2 different books, while the 7th grade class is split into 3!

When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



8TH
GRADE

Seventeen-year-old cynic Saoirse Clarke isn't looking for a relationship. But when she meets mischievous Ruby, that rule goes right out the window. Sort of. Because Ruby has a loophole in mind: a summer of all the best cliché movie montage dates, with a definite ending, come fall—no broken hearts, no messy breakup. It would be the perfect plan, if they weren't forgetting one thing about the Falling in Love Montage: when it's over, the characters have fallen in love...for real.



A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.



7TH
GRADE

THE GIVER
LOIS LOWRY

The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely similar to her own (only better), things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there, and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and courage if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.



Alex and Iris discuss characterization in English, while Alyssa and Aidan read *The Book Thief*.



Danni, Shay, and Zane make progress on their work for *The Book Thief* while Sasha, behind them, makes a Valentine from one of their characters in her book.

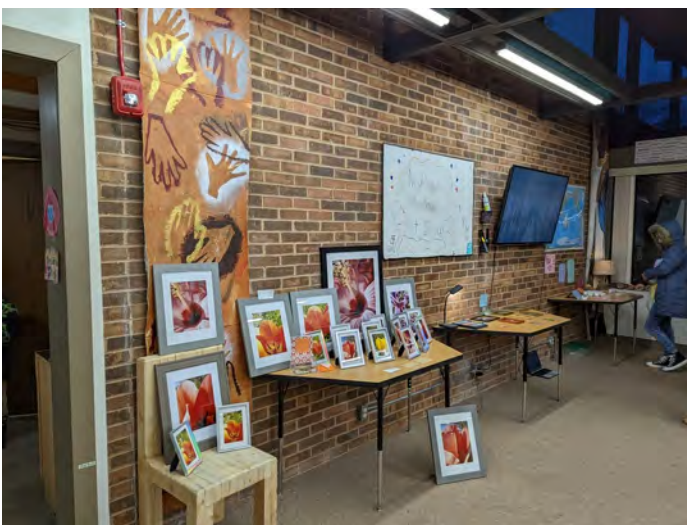


Nick, Braum, Keith, and Jayden work together on *The Giver* study guide.

Wing Art Show

The Wings held a successful art show fundraiser for the microbusiness on February 11th. Over one thousand dollars was raised in the sale of student art, products and art pieces

the earth,” is the vision of adolescent education based around cooperation with the earth in planting and harvesting nutritious food as well as earning money through the learning and use of cottage industry skills. As we transition into our next stage of Erdkinder projects, be on the lookout for creatively planted succulents and cacti that will be for sale soon.



donated by local artists while listening to the live music of Daniel Dye. The event was a greater success than we could have imagined. Students, families and friends browsed the space that had been transformed into a gallery and spirits were high. Food and drink was plentiful including a cake crafted by Falcon Shay Conner. Thanks to the generosity of the community combined with donations from 100% of Nightingale staff and an anonymous matching grant, we have now met our goal of being able to erect our new workshop and garage. After the building is up we will be able to have a concrete floor poured in the spring and add electricity in the coming months. The wings are excited and thankful for the support of the community in this endeavor! The workshop is another step in our goal of having a true “Erdkinder” community as envisioned by Maria Montessori. Erdkinder, German for, “children of

Wing News

