

Nightingale Notes

April 2026

May Important Dates

- 1 Senior pictures--group and individual
- 6 All-School pics: NM shirt
- 6-8 Book Fair
- 14 Visit from meteorologist Nick Dunn
- 16 Graduation 2pm
- 18 Fly Up Day
- 21 Last Day of School



Earth Day 2026

Wing students, led by Science teacher Jayne, celebrated Earth Day by presenting their Biology projects. The project is designed to be a sort of evolution from the Eagles' Wax Museum--each student had to choose 3 species and present on them, including making species diagrams and taxonomies. The younger classes had a great time walking through presentations and enjoying the beautiful day!



Parker is enthusiastic about bacteria



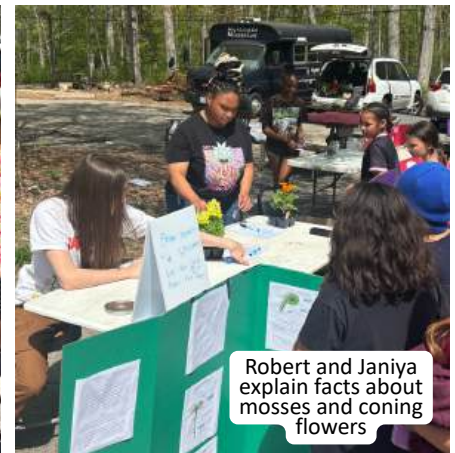
Anderson preps his board



Wing Terriona presents her project on fungi to Eagle and Falcon students



Morgan reads her script



Robert and Janiya explain facts about mosses and coning flowers



Earth Day Presentation Event



Miss Guyia asks Jack a question



Damarion and Aaron shared their Carnivore/Omnivore/Herbivore game, where they sorted reptiles and insects, with Owls and Eagles



Our Earth

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

PLANT SALE



Bella, Lucinda, and Jovie help at the plant sale



Autumn tours the plant nursery

All School News



Falcons Lily, Jaleeya, and Nemariah work at the plant sale table

◆ First/Last Day of School 167 Instruction Days/1051.5 Hours
 ◆ No School 50.5 Incentive Hours (8 Days)
 ◆ Staff In-Service Days 13 Staff Days
 updated Feb. 2025

2026

AUGUST

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August
 17-25 Staff Days
 26 First Day K-12

4 days
29 hours

January
 1 Winter Break
 4 Staff day
 5 All classes resume
 15 End Q2
 18 No School--MLK

18 days
113 hours

2027

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Local professional **Chris Coleman** recently completed huge tree service work on the west side of our property. Jared and Chris assessed our trees' health and safety and made the hard decisions about which trees needed pruned or removed. The careful work, safety gear and specialized equipment were all intriguing to our students who were able to observe the process as it unfolded. They were particularly interested in his spider lift, a compact, tracked scissor-style lift that stabilized the platform for aerial work. Mr. Coleman also had his employee driving a mini bobcat with a grapple-like claw moving logs and wood for later use as mushroom logs, campfires, and natural playscape expansions. Thanks to all who supported this important project keeping our woods healthy, our playgrounds safe and sharing the awesome process along the way.

SEPTEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

September
 7 No School, Labor Day
 8 First Day Pre-K
 25 Q1 midterm

21 days
132.5 hours

February
 12 Midterm Q3
 15 No School, President's Day

19 days
119.5 hours

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October
 16-19 No School, Balance Days
 23 End Q1

20 days
126 hours

March
 18 Wax Museum
 19 End Q3
 22-26 Spring Break
 29 Staff Day

17 days
107.5 hours

March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November
 20 Q2 midterm
 23-27 No School, Thanksgiving Break

16 days
101 hours

April
 23 Midterm Q4
 26-27 No School, Balance Days

20 days
129 hours

April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December
 7-11 Holiday Gift Shop
 17 Chick & Eagle Peace Night
 21-31 Winter Break

14 days
88 hours

May
 22 Graduation
 26 Last Day Pre-K to 12, end Q4
 27-28 No School
 31 Memorial Day
 June 1-4 Staff Days

18 days
114 hours

May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUPERIOR
 AMBULANCE SERVICE



Wings and Falcons
Tour Superior
Ambulance

All School News

Superior Ambulance Service Visit

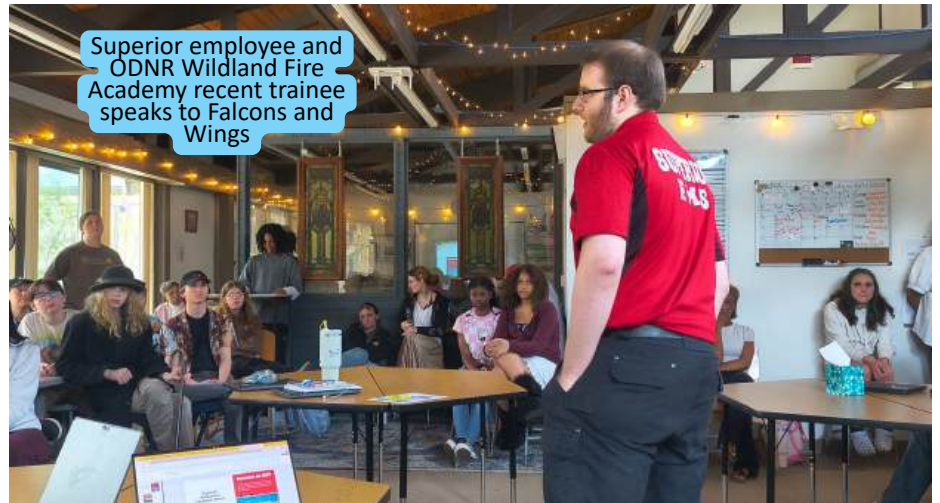
Nightingale Montessori would like to thank Superior of Ohio General manager Kenneth Truax, Operational Manager Kellie Ruetshe, and Springfield Ohio Station Manager Ande Thompson for sponsoring our first Touch a Truck event and hosting a career day for our Falcon and Wing students. Superior employees discussed various educational pathways to gain entry into the EMS and Fire world. Employee Anderson Bailey discussed his recent training for the Wildland Fire Academy through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and assisted students with our touch a truck event. Wings and Falcons learned about cardiac rhythms, blood pressure, team movement and mobility and took a few minutes to explore the "Action area" in the back of the unit. They also took a moment to look under the hood and saw the truck needed coolant! Owl students had a great time with the PA and Siren systems.



Wings practice teamwork moving each other.



Wings take a look under the hood of medic unit.



Superior employee and ODNR Wildland Fire Academy recent trainee speaks to Falcons and Wings

All School News



Alex on cardiac monitor



Wing students Wyatt, Daisy, Ladainian, Alex, Anderson, Madison, and Audrey tour the ambulance



Owl students explore the interior of the ambulance



Owls work together to transport Lochlan--who is loving it!



Myron and Astro get the perspective from the front seat

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT NIGHTINGALE MONTESSORI

Native Plants

Nurturing Nature and Our Community



GUEST SPEAKERS

<p>Courtney Denning 10:30am</p> <p>Your Yard Is Habitat: How Native Plants Connect People + Wildlife</p> 	<p>Lauren Craig 11:45am</p> <p>Incorporating Native Edibles in Your Landscape to Feed Humans and Wildlife Alike</p> 	<p>Carol Trosset 1:00pm</p> <p>When Spring Comes: Changing Wildflower Bloom Dates</p> 
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FREE Event! No Registration Required.

- ✓ Purchase Native Plants
- ✓ Shop Local, Artisan Vendors
- ✓ Enjoy Music by Emerald Alliance
- ✓ Eat at Wrappin' & Rollin' Cafe Food Truck

Saturday, June 13, 2026
10:00am - 2:00pm
Coy Middle School
1786 Dayton Xenia Road

Scan the QR code to see the presentation descriptions and a list of vendors.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Adam Horseman Montgomery Insurance & Investments
- RUMPKA
- Montgomery Insurance & Investments

beavercreekwetlands.org/native-plants-nurture/

Nightingale Montessori

Cincinnati Permaculture Institute

Cincinnati Permaculture Institute takes its internationally recognized Permaculture Design Course on the road for our most condensed format yet, a great overview of permaculture for people eager to get started right away.

This year, we have partnered with Nightingale Montessori in Springfield, OH to offer this three-weekend course in July. The course entails 60 hours of direct instruction and 12 hours of supplemental material & independent work.

Summer Permaculture Design Intensive

Full 72-hour training on campus over three weekends: July 10/11, 17/18, and 25/26

CPI Lead Teachers team up with our site hosts and guest speakers to cover the essentials of permaculture:

- Trees: Using them in landscapes, growing natural and edible resources
- Soils: Classification, the soil food web, and methods for restoring soil health
- Plant selection, creating habitats, and growing annual/perennial food gardens
- Ethically integrating animals — rabbits, chickens, goats, sheep & more like managing bees in your ecosystem
- Renewable energy, using biological resources, natural building, and appropriate technology
- Food preservation, fermentation, nutrition, and food/herbs as medicine

Students will work together as a team on a design project, applying their newfound ecological wisdom to create sustainable systems.

REGISTER NOW - More Info at:



Schedule a tour
937-324-0336
Schedule a Tour With Andrew
ahahn@NightingaleSchool.org

Nightingale Montessori

DISCOVER WONDER CAMP

JUNE 2026

June 2026 Mon-Thurs 9-3:30

Experience a better way to learn

Give your child a summer where joy, belonging, creativity, and meaningful connection help them grow more confident, curious, and fully alive

- Nature immersion
- Hands-on discovery
- Prepared environment
- Guided independence

937-324-0336

Schedule a Tour With Krista
kiambdin@NightingaleSchool.org

Nightingale Montessori

DISCOVER WONDER CAMP

JUNE 2026

Experience a better way to learn

Discover Wonder Camp (Ages 4-7)
A joyful Montessori Summer Experience

Protect wonder in the becoming mind.

Give them a living environment of beauty, movement, nature, and purpose, and you offer not just preparation for school, the foundation for a whole and awakened life. Your child is not simply learning - they are forming themselves, absorbing the world into who they will become.

Learning to learn
Enrolled Nightingale Children build early Montessori math & reading skills. Learn homesteading.

Discover & Wonder
Grow, move and connect through singing. Develop focus with yoga. Gain confidence through a deep connection to nature. Explore outdoor gardening, and homesteading skills. Explore native plant apothecary. Make poison ivy salve out of native jewelweed!

Children engage in creativity, communication, and joyful self-expression in a supportive community.

REGISTER NOW - Limited Enrollment
\$200 per child weekly

937-324-0336



Schedule a tour

Schedule a Tour With Krista
kiambdin@NightingaleSchool.org

Thank you to our PTA Bingo Fundraiser Donors!

Young's Jersey Dairy	Mosaic Massage Studio
Superfly Games and Comics	The Depot Coffee House
El Canario Mecanico	In Good Taste Market
Flashions Sportswear	Gill's Meat Market
Pendleton/s Produce	Sunrise Cafe
Hi-Hat Social	HABA Pizza
Woeber Mustard	Nightingale Montessori Erkinder
Skyline	CoHatch
Honey Baked Ham	Casa Del Sabor
Penn Station	Last Queen
LeeAnn's Dairy	Charlo's
Mathew's Family Farm	Scioto Bungalow
Scout's Cafe	Suzie Riegler
Peanut Shop	
Let's Eat Cake	

Nightingale Montessori PTA would like to thank the businesses who donated items and everyone who came out to support the Bingo event on April 22! It was a wonderful evening!



JOIN THE PTA!

Help us build up the NM community and create lasting experiences for our students!

All School News

Shay Conner's Graduation Seal Project

As part of the requirements through the state of Ohio, Graduates can choose to get their Ohio Means Jobs Seal, which involves working with three different mentors within a field. Shay is shown preparing Shepherd's Pie, a USDA-compliant recipe made for 100 people. Congratulations graduate!



Shay serves Eagle Tyson after finishing her project



Senior Shay prepping Shepherd's Pie--featuring Miss Jennifer



Alex and Wyatt test a pancake recipe, with help from Joey

Gourmet Grub



Eagle Paxton makes nutrition muffins



Falcon Jude helps make garlic bread



Mabel carefully stacks the pink tower



Ben works on matching colors

Early Mathematical Minds

Dr. Maria Montessori believed a child is born with a mathematical mind. Before children can understand numbers and fractions on paper, they need to see and feel these concepts in action. When children work with materials like the Pink Tower or simple fraction puzzles, they are building the cognitive foundations needed for future mathematical thinking.

You may be noticing lessons on your Hummingbird daily note such as matching, sorting, transferring items or liquid, and sequencing, just to name a few. While these may seem simple, they play an important role in developing essential skills.

Activities like these help children compare objects by size, shape, and quantity, recognize patterns, categorize, and develop a sense of order, which young children naturally seek within their environment.



Mackenzie completes a four part sequence



Simmi enjoys an extension to her lesson and matches twenty baby animals to their parents



Nola plants carrot seeds



Amal plants radish seeds

Spring Is Blooming in the Hummingbird Classroom!

With the arrival of spring, the Hummingbirds have been embracing the beauty of the season through meaningful experiences outdoors. We enjoyed a lovely picnic together, while appreciating the wonderful warm weather and listening to the sweet songs made by many different types of birds.

We prepared our garden by transferring soil and spreading it evenly within the garden bed. The children then practiced taking turns planting carrot, radish, and cucumber seeds. Through these hands-on activities, the children are learning how to care for living things and understand where food comes from. The Hummingbirds have been taking great care of their garden, and they are excitedly waiting to see their seeds begin to sprout!

These experiences not only connect children to nature but also support responsibility, patience, observation skills, and a growing sense of wonder about the world. We encourage you to start your own garden at home to help nurture a continued love of nature and environmental stewardship within your child.

Hummingbirds



Hummingbirds



Brayden manipulates a fraction puzzle



Humms enjoy lunch outdoors



Nora observes the ants hard at work

April Chickadee News

When trying to teach the children about the natural world and guiding them towards an understanding of their place in this majestic world we call home. I find starting from the ground up reveals the wonder of it all. This month has been filled with understanding powerful storms and the good and bad of the strong weather systems. But, more importantly, we have been discussing the countless lessons we have learned through the ages from the insects closest to us.

The worms were the first composters. The roly poly is essential for filtering harmful metals from our soil. The ants showed us when to collect edible seeds.

Next up will be some of our flyers, like the bees who share the need for diversity among all plants. And let's not forget The Mud Dauber—they are one of nature's first potters. So many wonders in nature truly make each day Earth Day.



Kalle and Gintey finish off their severe weather lesson by making tornados in a bottle



Beckham and Santi prepare the worm bin



Preston is ready to add worms to the worm bin



Gintey and Eden learn about the decimal system with the 45 layout



Preston uses Stamp Game to complete a 4 digit addition problem

Discover Wonder Camp

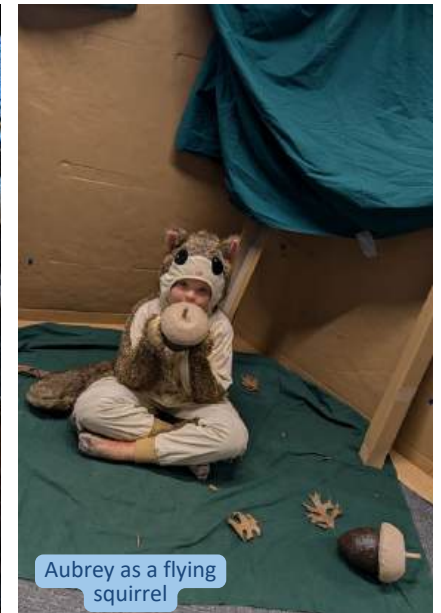
Discover Wonder Camp is only a few weeks away. Scan the QR code on the flyer you received to reserve your spot today (also available on page 6 of this newsletter)! This is a critical extra four weeks that students can develop their math and reading curricula in preparation for a stronger start to the next school year.

In between lessons with Krista, Eve will be continuing her discussions and explorations with the children about our place in the natural world. Native plant, animal, and insect identification, role in the food web, and how we can impact the living world around us will all be explored. These topics lend themselves to a variety of projects and activities that we can't wait to share with our campers!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WAX MUSEUM IN THE BOOKS!

Our everlasting gratitude to those who helped and attended the event



Eagles



Using teamwork to make a big difference on the school grounds



Lilly, Bella, and Jovie make "mud tattoos"



Girls' running club first excursion to CJ Brown Reservoir



Owl Class 25-26 picnic



Miss Guyia and Tilly



Lucinda swings the bat during outside time--homerun!



Owl field trip to Great Council State Park

April Owl News

The arrival of spring has signaled a vibrant transition in the Owl classroom as the students shift their focus toward "Erdkinder" (children of the earth) practices. Under the guidance of Sophia and Jared, the Owl Yard has become a hive of purposeful labor. The children are demonstrating profound stewardship through the "Great Work" of weeding, mulching, and prepping garden beds, while also assisting with the logistics of our upcoming plant sale.

Beyond the garden gates, the change in season has fueled a natural desire for movement and community exploration. We celebrated our departure from winter with a communal picnic at the reservoir, fostering social grace and courtesy in a natural setting. The spirit of discovery continued with a visit from a local ambulance crew, where students explored the vehicle's life-saving technology, and the history class's opportunity to visit and explore The Great Council State Park. In class, students have spent afternoons learning about the indigenous people of the country we call home and they've been able to venture to original Shawnee land where they can learn how the Shawnee thrived on the land that they believed to be their partner in life.

Whether they are building endurance in Guyia's running club, practicing sportsmanship in gaga ball or basketball, or getting creative with "mud tattoos," the students are channeling their spring energy into meaningful growth. This balance of athletic play and sensory exploration allows them to connect with a deeper appreciation for the outdoors.

State Testing in Montessori

Nightingale Montessori is a Montessori school that receives state funding. This means our students are getting the best of both worlds. Montessori education ensures they have individualized education, smaller teacher to student ratios, and pedagogical practices that are based in solving real world problems with a focus on peace and restorative justice. The guidelines and standards from the state of Ohio help set a minimum bar for our staff and students that we take pride in vastly exceeding. The state provides resources and enrichment our students can utilize like bussing for our field trips and events.

The state also asks that we participate in normative testing that provides them data about the effectiveness of various districts around the state. This kind of assessment has more to do with evaluating the school than it does about gauging the progress of individual students. Assessment is essential in Montessori but the goal is not to compare our school to others, compare students to each other or to rank students into a hierarchy. The goal of assessment in Montessori is for our educators to practice creative learning plans, observing and tracking student progress and directing students in constructive ways through a sequence of content and learning. As students grow older, assessments become more structured, allowing students to better display the variety of skills and knowledge they've internalized. Our curriculum is not geared toward any testing the students may encounter but instead focuses on the challenges adult life will present them. This includes test taking skills and strategies. The Falcons practice various study skills and testing scenarios so that when they are presented with a test they have the logic and reasoning to do their best.

April always challenges our students with state testing because the format is very different from the classroom environments that they are more accustomed to. We often work in collaboration with others. Students are not always working on the same exact problems or assignments at the same time. We have freedom to move around the room, stretch, and get materials to work through problems. Testing helps them practice other skills that are not always emphasized as much: total silence, complete independence, and total online questioning and answers. Though these are not daily focus, they are still important skills that have their place in the classroom and in the students' lives.

Falcons enjoy the Kiwanis Children's Garden while donating baked goods and tools to support the Kiwanis volunteer day



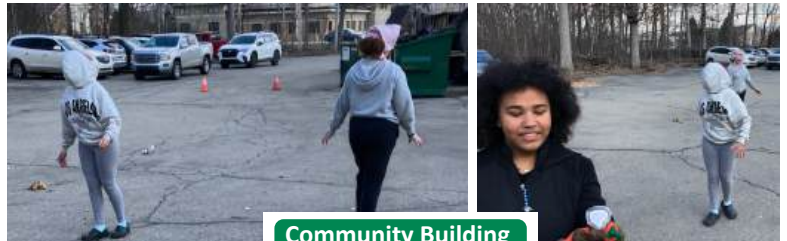
Falcons are gaining confidence on their bikes in preparation for longer trips



Falcons working in small groups to play Who's Serving Who, a game of listening, cooperating, and serving



Community Building



Our goal in the Falcons is to empower students to their cosmic task. In Montessori, the cosmic task is the students' purpose in life or their highest motivation. It is often the niches they will fill in our larger society. We have to start by building a community in our classroom. The community building activity I proposed for the field study is an interpretation of a different group initiative. I call this one Who's Serving Who. One student can see, one can speak and another can move. They must work together to get "what they need to live," actually just a little plush toy. Each role, Seer, Sayer, and Doer, on the three man team, has strengths and weaknesses. We will play three times so that each student can experience each role. The awareness of process questions are meant to bring about empathy for others but also to highlight the powers that students have, even when conditions are not ideal. Students are not yet aware of the power they have as individuals or how it is magnified when we work together as a community. "The child is endowed with unknown powers, which can guide us to a radiant future. If what we really want is a new world, then education must take as its aim the development of these hidden possibilities" (*Absorbent Mind* pg 4). The objective for this activity is that students can see that not everyone will experience the same feeling from service nor do they have the same motivations. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. discusses the fact that service does not need to be a humbling experience, that the greatest among us will be a servant. He is elevating the position of servant. He explains that there are no special intellectual skills required, anyone can do it, if they are willing.

Falcons

River and Noah work together in Micro Business to make cucumber ladders



Wings April Update

Earth Day is an important holiday at Nightingale Montessori. After everything we've all learned from our Ecology and Science lessons with Jared, Jayne, Andrew, Olivia, Sophia, and Eve, we prioritize celebrating this day with a big outdoor celebration of nature each year. Wing students in Biology class have been working over the last couple of months on a project on certain types of species across the six kingdoms of life (animalia, plantae, fungi, protista, eubacteria, and archaeobacteria). The project has included everything from source citing and fact collection to taxonomy charting to species diagram drawing and, of course, scientific writing. Along the way, Wing students were pleased to have integrated into their work the job of helping Eagle students with their Wax Museum projects. They were able to help mentor younger students in fact-finding and imagining what their Wax Museum costumes and backdrops would look like. On Friday, 4/24, the Wings presented their projects to the school as part of our Earth Week celebrations. Each project includes information, hands-on activities, games, and the chance to interact with multiple age groups about biology. Check out more pictures of this awesome day on the cover of this month's newsletter!



Wings, Falcons, and Owls come together to learn, to teach, and to celebrate Earth Day



Daisy traces Brandon while Madison supervises



Vivian shows pride in her presentation board on birds



Ladainian makes a new friend



Madison's turn to trace Ladainian

Wing Health Class

Quarter four means Health class for the Wings. Students started the quarter learning about the different body systems--integumentary system, immune system, etc. Students had to research how those systems work in the body and how they support each other. We moved on to nutrition next--which led us to the project pictured. Students researched how nutrition affected different parts of the body positively and negatively, and then, after Ladainian and Brandon got traced, we made life-size visual aids to map out what they learned.



Terriona practices wood carving