



# Nightingale Notes

December 2024

January—Happy New Year!

**Promise Club Theme: Encourage Changemakers**

- 6 Staff Day, No Students
- 7 Students return to school
- 10 Bookmobile Visit
- 20 **No School, MLK Day**
- 24 Bookmobile Visit
- 31 Falcons to Ice Skating



Janiya, Alex, and Madison decorate for the Holiday Gift Shop.



Asanda in Yellow Springs



Owl, Jovie, helps Alex with snowflakes.



DaeSha making the Great Hall festive.



NIGHTINGALE MONTESSORI  
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

## Eagle and Owl Students Participating in Community Theater's 35th Annual Nutcracker Ballet

Twelve Nightingale students, including two students joining the Eagle class in January, are participating in this year's *Nutcracker*, produced by Ohio Performing Arts Institute. This is the company's 35th annual production of the ballet in Springfield, Ohio. Last year, NM was visited by some of the dancers from the company, who told us the story of *The Nutcracker*, taught us some of the dances and about pointe shoes and tutus. Unfortunately, classes were unable to attend the performance due to transportation issues in December of 2023, but the students remembered the visit and joined the cast in 2024! Break a leg **Eagles** Germanie, Skye, Willow, Morrison, Cambria, Alivia, and incoming students Vivian and Tilly; and **Owls** River, Bella, Jovie, and Becca!

Performance dates are Friday, December 20, 8pm and Sunday December 21, 8pm at Kuss Auditorium.



Nightingale students in *The Nutcracker*: Jovie, Skye, Morrison, River, Bella, new students Vivian and Tilly, Germanie, Cambria, Alivia, Willow, and Becca.



Nightingale students at Clara's Tea Party for *The Nutcracker*.

Ohio Performing Arts Institute Presents  
its 35th annual production of  
**The Nutcracker**



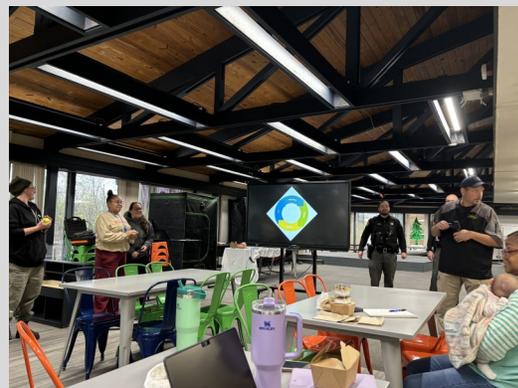
December 20  
and December 21  
8pm  
Clark State  
Performing Arts Center  
Kuss Auditorium  
Box office: 937-328-3874

Scan for Tickets



Nutcracker 2024

On Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, staff participated in CRASE Training conducted by the Clark County Sheriff's department. The training includes active threat education. We requested this training in order to expand our knowledge and awareness of how to keep everyone safe in the case of an extreme crisis. While our building is beautiful, and everything we've dreamed of for our school, it makes for interesting crisis scenarios, and staff want to make sure they feel as confident as possible in their daily lives looking after our amazing community.



Staff CRASE Training

All School News

The New Year is upon us, and we have new energy for flourishing the Nightingale Montessori community. We would like to introduce our newly elected board member and two new elected advisory board members to our community. Each is inspired by their own Owl student, as well as the NM community and vision of the school. These new volunteers intend to use their knowledge, gifts, and talents via the complex world of marketing.

**Andy Fodor, PhD.–Finance Expert & Strategic Advisor–Board Member**



Andy Fodor, a finance professor at Ohio University, will assist with securing funding and strategic financial planning for Nightingale Montessori. With over 25 years of experience in finance and academic leadership, Andy’s insights will support the school’s growth and sustainability.

**Testimony:** “I’m incredibly thankful my daughter, Becca, is a student at Nightingale Montessori. Nancy and her team have thoughtfully created

and fostered an environment where learning goes far beyond appropriate subject matter. I’ve been able to see the school in action firsthand and was overjoyed to watch students learning happily in varied settings, being taught practical skills and responsibility through their assigned school jobs, and so importantly running around outside being kids. It is an environment of support where teachers and staff care greatly about their students and work to meet every student where they are, be it in a traditional classroom setup, small groups, or individually.

“Learning is fun at Nightingale and I felt lots of joy there. I’m thankful Becca is spending such a formative time in an environment that is healthy and good for her. She’s happy on the drive to school and describes almost every day at Nightingale as a good day. I understand why. I believe strongly in the vision being put into action and am thankful Becca is getting a holistically beneficial experience, providing her with so much that a public school simply cannot.”

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**Shonda Lindman–Local Business Outreach & Community Relations–Advisory Board Member**

Shonda Lindman, a lifelong Springfield resident, will focus on connecting local businesses to support Nightingale Montessori’s initiatives. With her extensive experience in building strong community ties through her role

as Vice President of Business Equipment Company, Shonda is dedicated to fostering partnerships and outreach efforts for the school.

**Testimony:** “I was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio, and work with my husband at Business Equipment Company, which has been serving the community since 1970. I was introduced to Nightingale Montessori by Nancy Schwab and became a true believer in the Montessori method. My grandson, Jackson, began reading using her sound shape method, and by the end of the school year, reading became his favorite pastime. “I’m committed to helping with the bicycle donations for the school and organizing local events, including a September 2025 open house. I’m excited to contribute to Nightingale’s mission and build support within our local business community.”

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**Michael Koveleski–Brand Identity & Community Engagement–Advisory Board Member**



Michael Koveleski brings expertise in brand development and marketing. His experience as a business owner and in designing high-end furniture allows him to build strong, values-based brand identities. Michael will help NM find new opportunities to convey our “soul” mission with the wider community.

**Testimony:** “I have a deep gratitude for Nightingale Montessori. In 2015, my daughter Laura had a great experience in the high school program, but more recently, I have seen my daughter Lilly thrive with confidence and joy. I am so grateful that she can learn at her pace while being surrounded by a beautiful, wholesome community of engaged, caring people. “I was raised in the country just north of Boston. As a right-brained, dyslexic, and hyperactive child, traditional schooling never worked well for me. My school art teacher took the time to see my unique identity and potential. This is the magic experience that led me to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where I earned a degree in industrial design.

“I have profound appreciation and respect for Nightingale and their staff. I strongly believe that in a post-pandemic, AI world, there is value in a personalized education imperative. I hope to be able to use my love for people and my marketing insights to communicate the magic and the driving force that is working so well in this school. I find the idea of reimagining education refreshing. It is an invitation visualizing every individual child and staff developing and manifesting their true giftedness and to flourish in an atmosphere of unconditional grace.”

## Testimonials

### Aliya Cherry

I enjoy Culinary class a lot because you get to learn new skills, such as cooking, learning different languages, and many other things. The best part of Culinary is that it's at the end of the day and that really helps you calculate how much time you have left of school. The best actual part is learning time management and lots of communication skills that you will need in real life. Also, I enjoy Culinary because you can work with many different people and learn how things work and how to support yourself independently.

### Willie Callhoun

I've been in culinary class for the last 7 weeks and at first I was nervous. I didn't really know where any of the things were but now I'm comfortable in the kitchen. I like the class and I have grown to like kitchen work even more. The best part of culinary is the people I work with. It's always fun and never a dull moment.



Chicks help with food prep.

# Gourmet Grub



Visitors from Enon Montessori help Falcons make salsa.



Chickadee Jonah helps Stephanie wash potatoes.



Josh leads an Owl cooking group.



Chloe is ready to season lunch!



Eagles & Wings work together to serve lunch.

## An Introduction to Practical Life Activities

*"If teaching is to be effective with young children, it must assist them to advance on the way to independence. It must initiate them into those kinds of activities, which they can perform themselves. We must help them to learn how to walk without assistance, to run, to go up and down the stairs, to pick up fallen objects, to dress and undress, to wash themselves, to express their needs, and to attempt to satisfy their desires through their own efforts. All this is part of an education for independence." - Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child.*

**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 or Control of Movement, 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 social skills.

Practical Life activities are not limited to the classroom environment. Look for ways to provide your child with opportunities to develop and strengthen their independence at home. Together we can help the children free their potential!

# Hummingbird News



GeVaya wipes the table before lunch.



Germaine Jr. uses a hand broom and dust pan.  
Germaine Jr. uses a hand broom and dust pan.



Henry uses a hand broom and dust pan.



August discriminates between the sizes of shapes.



Brayzen distinguishes between the same and different.



Calvin practices using stairs.



Maggie works with the ball return.



Anastasia uses maximum effort to reach an object.



Lucy clamps clothespins onto the rim of a bowl.



Nola puts her shoes away upon arrival.

## Chickadee Garden Project

At the beginning of the school year, while in the garden, the Chickadees learned about poison ivy: what it is and how to identify it. The presence of jewelweed is a sign that it can be close by and it is a helper plant if/when we get poison ivy. When the students learned we could create a salve to help us if/when we are affected with poison ivy, they were all in!

We set out to harvest all of the jewelweed we could back in October. We stripped it from the stalks, stuffed it into jars, and poured olive oil over it. We explained that the teachers would use low heat to simmer it for a whole day at home, then bring it back for the students to squeeze.

Squeezing it through cheesecloth gave us our infused oil that we stored in our fridge until a couple of weeks ago. We then heated it and combined it with beeswax before ladling it into tins. The Chickadees did a great job completing all of the steps of the project over a few months: harvesting, infusing, melting, mixing, ladling, labeling, and cleaning up! They were able to apply many of the practical life lessons we practice each day in the Chickadee classroom. Next up: plantain salve for minor bug bites and scrapes!



Annie & Beckham



Oliver

Chickadee News



Simone



Tristan



Caleb

### Eagle Update

A few of the children in the Eagle classroom found a work with several broken and missing pieces on the shelf. The children enjoy doing the work as it is magnetic and has many bright colored triangles that they can use to create on a magnetic board. When the children discovered the state of the work they requested a chance to bring up the issue during children's meeting to address with the entire classroom community. The children then, without any prompting, created a list with numbers. They counted all the broken black pieces and wrote the number down on the paper. They then counted all of the remaining pieces and documented the number of each labeled with their respective colors. The children worked hard as a group and requested to skip their math lesson to continue the investigation they had started. The work authentically was a self inspired, self motivated math activity. The children were resourceful and used the blank side of the back of other work they had done in class. The children brought the information to the teacher; I decided in true Montessori fashion to follow the child and we used the stamp game for practical use to find out more information about the problem. The children added up the pieces left compared to the pieces broken. With the respective information we built our own bar graph using the colors of the triangles. We also used the information as a spelling lesson to add new color words to the children's dictionary.

Jared and the children have been working hard on the playground to fill in the stick pile to make it a sledding bunny hill. The children always seem to know how to pull together to get a job done. They filled the sticks in with mulch by bringing it from the mulch pile in wheel barrows from the south parking lot all the way from the far end of the north playground. Then the children raked leaves from all over the playground and carried them on tarps to the pile to put on top. The first snow was perfect and Jarred brought one sled, they all took turns sledding down the hill. Children assisted one another, encouraged and supported one another during the play.



Skye demonstrates balance and poise.



Eagle students rehearsing for Peace Night.



Following the child on the shelf work project.



Eagles working on their bunny hill project.



Germanie enjoying the snow.

Hey Nightingale Community!

Our new flock of chickens are in. We only have four to tend to for now, but all are happy and healthy. We have two roosters to keep our other two hens safe and well cared for.

Unfortunately, the roosters can't cross the road to Rural King to buy the feed and bedding!

With your donation of just \$3 a month, you can help sponsor a Nightingale Chicken!

With your sponsorship, you'll receive a photo of your chicken, its name and a free dozen of fresh eggs next Spring/Summer.

All the money goes directly into feed, healthy snacks, and bedding. To sign up please email Ms. Sophia at [sjustice@nightingaleschool.org](mailto:sjustice@nightingaleschool.org). You will receive information about the chicken you choose to sponsor and additional information will be communicated over email when it is your turn to come and collect your fresh free dozen eggs throughout the 2025 laying season.

**Unwashed eggs are good for 30 days on your countertop. Washed eggs are good for 90 days in your fridge! We intend to keep our flock healthy and happy, thus giving us higher quality eggs.**

Thank you for supporting and participating at Nightingale Montessori and the 'Farm to Table' philosophy.

With Many Thanks,  
The Nightingale Outdoor Team

## This Month's Promise Club Theme: Kindness and Compassion

The Owl students decided to put on their Act of Kindness Hats and do something nice for the entire school—especially the staff! The students will cook the Holiday meal for all, and they've created menus with personal messages for each staff member, thanking them for all their hard work and the kindness they show towards the Nightingale Community. They will give each staff a menu and once returned to the student, they will serve each staff. The students will miss out on some in class assignments, but will make it up in the kitchen; they will have continued lessons of math, science, and language throughout meal prepping and cooking.



Owl hens.



Jovie and Alaeza are thrilled with the additions to the Owl classroom.



Keaton observes the hens.

### Contributing to the Community

The Falcon class baked ginger snaps for the PTA fundraiser. Dr. Maria Montessori believed that the purpose of work is to develop oneself as a competent, unique person ready to live and contribute with other competent unique people. Our work supporting one another connects us with the meaning of life.

Practical Life education is critical in Montessori education from the infant toddler room to the graduating seniors. At each stage of development our ability to contribute is evolving and growing. These lessons are designed to develop skills that aid the child throughout life. We are building our ability to focus on longer amounts of time, hone fine motor skills, and grace and courtesy skills in team projects and social interactions.

Dr. Montessori divided her Practical Life exercises into two stages: personal and social. Students need to be strong and have a will to do things for themselves. This is balanced by consciousness of the environment and people around them. These activities turn their attention outward to address the needs of the group and learn how each person plays a role in the community.

The fundraiser hosted by the NM PTA was an opportunity for the students to invest in their community, making it truly their own. These lessons give the children investment in their environment, making it truly their own. They form the basis not only for how a child will connect to their surroundings in a classroom, but in life. They impart and hone the skills necessary to become a contributing member of one's community. Falcons are grateful for these opportunities!

### French Lesson 1

**Joyeux Noël Et Bonne Année!**  
*zhwa - yuh no- el eh bonn ah- neh*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Falcons are fortunate this year to be learning French from Ms. Saona Jean. She started with some introductory lessons and is building their skills. We want to share our learning with you and our seasonal greetings.



Opposite Gender Day

# Falcon News



Nemariah, Miss Jayne, Monica, Ali, and Shannin work on a cooking project



Miss Rochonda shared real Soul Food with the Falcons.



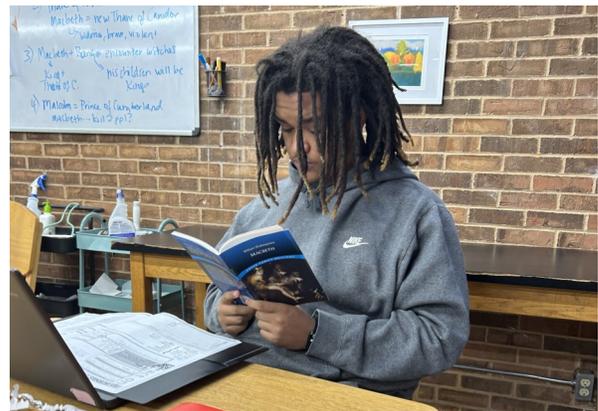
Serenity frolicking.

## This Year's Shakespeare: Macbeth

Previously in the British (& European Literature) course, students chose to read *Romeo and Juliet*. However, this year, the class chose to read *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, a play about prophecies, ambition, power, envy, murder, and war. It asks troubling questions, like, is violence ever acceptable, whether one is a war hero or one is conspiring to overthrow the king? What can happen when we give into temptation? How do we deal with the consequences of our mistakes?

Students started the unit learning about Shakespeare as a historical figure before moving onto sampling some of his sonnets, then moving into the play. We learned about the social context Shakespeare was introducing his play into, including the anxiety of the people of England after Queen Elizabeth I died without an heir. We related the character of Macbeth, a valiant war hero, back to the previous warriors we've read about already this year, like Beowulf, Gawain, and the Knight in *The Canterbury Tales*.

Each Brit & Euro Lit class has been reading the play out loud, students taking on parts and coming to sympathize with the characters. They seem to find the reading challenging, of course, but they are invested in the story and frustrated as Macbeth continues to make mistake after mistake.



Sincere works on Shakespeare's Macbeth.



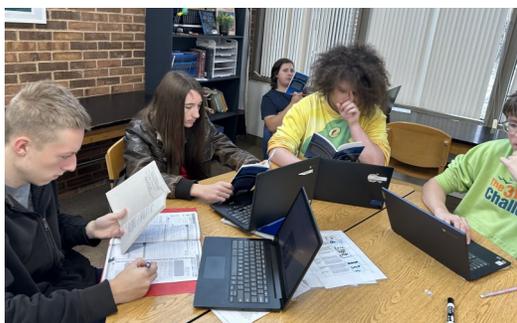
Cole Taylor visits the Wings to discuss his job as the Principal Software Engineering Manager for Wing Career Awareness Day



Gift Shop prep and organization.



Ecology winter hike.



Brandon, Robert, Wyatt, Zane, and Aidan



Enjoying Wing Chemistry.