Nightingale Notes

October 2026

November Important Dates

6	Bookmobile
20	Midterm Q2, Bookmobile
23-27	No School-- Thanksgiving Break

Holiday Gift Shop

The Holiday Gift Shop is a shopping experience your child can have where they can independently pick out a gift for someone special in their lives. You will be given an envelope where you can indicate on the form who they will be shopping for and a budget amount for each person. Students will help your child shop, wrap the gifts, and label the tags. Your child can practice independence while shopping, surprise their loved ones with their special choices, and gain experience with the joy of giving.

The Wing Micro-business will run the Holiday Gift Shop for all students wishing to participate. The Holiday Gift Shop will be available to students during the week of December 7th. The order of shoppers will depend on the receipt of their envelope and their availability due to academic schedules. An envelope will be sent home with your child and you will have a chance to decide which friends and family members your child will be shopping for and indicate a price range for the gifts. The Falcon students will help your child shop, wrap and label these gifts. They will be sent home with your child the day they visit the shop.

The Holiday Gift Shop will be selling only **Student Produced, Fair Trade, and Locally Made** items. Fair Trade is a system of exchange that honors producers, communities, consumers, and the environment. It is a model for the global economy rooted in people-to-people connections, justice, and sustainability. When you make a Fair Trade purchase you are supporting: **A Fair Price for Products, Investment in People and Communities, Environmental Sustainability, and Economic Empowerment of Small Scale Producers.**

We will have an evening for families to come visit our Holiday Gift Shop and Craft Bazaar on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 from 4PM - 7PM. Families can shop, have hot chocolate, take an evening hike and enjoy a celebration of the season with the Nightingale Community. Save the Date!!



Snow Day Delays and Cancellations

NM will make the decision to announce a closing/delay by 7:00am. We have students and staff that come from as far and wide as Clark County, Logan County, Champaign County, Greene County, Clinton County, Montgomery County, and Madison County. Our delay/closing decision will be based on weather conditions in the Clark County and Springfield area but as we make a decision we do consider our surrounding counties and our staffing needs for operation. WE WILL DECIDE IF WE ARE DELAYED OR ARE CLOSED BY 7:00AM AND WE AIM TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT WE CAN TO NOT CHANGE THE DECISION. Often, schools will call a delay to gauge changes in a weather situation and then change to a closing. Many families find it very difficult to make an arrangement for a delay and then make another arrangement when the delay changes to a closing. If we feel the visibility, road conditions, dangerously low temperatures or ice conditions warrant concern, we will announce a delay or closing based on the timing of predicted conditions in relation to school operation hours. Families that travel to NM need to make their own decision as to the safety of the weather and road conditions. If your area is delayed/ closed and you decide to remain home, please notify the office. The attendance will be excused due to inclement weather. Our Rapid Fire email, and SchoolCues notification systems will announce the decision. Please make sure the office has your current email and cell phone numbers. TV and Radio announcements (if utilized) will be: WHIO (Channel 7), WKEF (Channel 22)

Pumpkin Pie Fundraiser

Nightingale Montessori 2026

October 26, 2026 - Order forms sent home

November 13, 2026 - All orders are due to office, make arrangements or submit payment

*** Note on your payment - Pumpkin Pie Fundraiser**

November 19 & 20, 2026 - Pick up frozen pies

Order Form - Cut on line above and return this section with payment arrangements. Email jwoodward@nightingaleschool.org to order online.

Student Name: _____

Guardian Name: _____

Customer	Quantity	Price	Total

Pumpkin Pie Recipe

By Nightingale Students

Pie - Ingredients

- Whole roasted pumpkin
- Coconut cream
- Brown sugar
- Granulated sugar
- Cinnamon
- Ginger
- Nutmeg
- Cloves
- Salt
- Cornstarch

Homemade Crust

- Flour
- Sugar
- Salt
- Vegan butter
- Vegetable shortening
- Ice water

Whipped Cream

- Soy milk
- Coconut oil
- Powdered sugar
- Vanilla extract

Pumpkin Pie Price:

$20 each

Each pie is made with fresh pumpkin roasted and prepared by students. They are full 9" pies in a reusable pan with a travel lid. Immediately frozen after baking, you only thaw and serve to enjoy.



All School News

Cold weather is settling into our region and that means winter sports are back on our minds. NM is offering **Ski Club** again this year. Our group will travel to Mad River Mountain in Bellefontaine, Ohio weekly for skiing and snow boarding. Teacher chaperones will accompany Owls and older students and we ask that Eagle or younger students have a parent that joins them. Contact Amy Smith in the office for more information!!!

"Never Help A Child With a Task At Which He Feels He Can Succeed" -Maria Montessori

By participating in what Montessori calls Family Work or Practical Life activities, the Hummingbirds learn important skills for life and begin to see themselves as independent individuals. Each time your toddler successfully completes a small task, their confidence grows and sends a powerful message that "I am able."

Practical Life activities are designed to help children learn to care for themselves, others, and their environment. Returning their work to its proper place on the shelf, pouring water, helping prepare a small snack, wiping the table, assisting with laundry, sweeping up, hanging up their belongings as they arrive and placing their shoes in a designated spot are just a few of the things the Hummingbirds do each day. It can be tempting to step in and take over but try to prepare for a few extra minutes and embrace the mess as a sign of exploration. They are learning to make sense of the world by actively participating in it.

Keep a small sponge, small wash cloths and a small broom with a dustpan within reach, so that tidying up becomes just as important as the activity itself.


Silas carries his books after visiting the Bookmobile


Brayzen assists with daily laundry


Matthew prepares to tidy up his breakfast area


Miraal sorts and matches utensils

This month the Hummingbird students have also enjoyed observing the beautiful Fall changes in the trees surrounding us. They collected and sorted colorful Fall leaves as they fell, worked together to gather acorns for our sensory table,and explored pumpkins through stacking, sorting, scrubbing, and painting. We wrapped up our pumpkin explorations by carving a BIG pumpkin together, getting right into the mess of separating the seeds from the strands.


Rainbow of fall leaves

Hummingbirds


Gathering acorns


Silas explores pumpkin scrubbing


Amal squeezes a washcloth to rinse her pumpkin after scrubbing it

Birthdays in the Chick Class

Birthdays are more than cake and candles. In Montessori, they are a quiet, meaningful celebration of who a child is and how far they have come. At Nightingale Montessori, we honor this day with a simple ritual called Walking Around the Sun. It is joyful, symbolic, and centered entirely on the child.

The celebration begins with two symbols: a picture of the sun placed at the center of the circle, and a small globe to represent the Earth. The birthday child holds the globe and walks around the "sun" once for each year of their life. With each orbit, a photo and short memory from that year are shared by the guide or a parent. The ritual is simple, but the meaning is powerful:

- The sun represents a steady, life-giving center.
- The globe shows our Earth moving through time.
- Each orbit marks a year lived, making the passage of time real and concrete for children.

Walking Around the Sun reflects Montessori's deepest values:

- Respect for the child. Each life is honored as unique and worthy.
- Connection to time and nature. The child can see and feel how the Earth's orbit marks the passing of a year.
- Community. Classmates listen, celebrate, and witness the child's story together.
- Reflection. The child remembers where they've been and looks forward to what's ahead.

It's a way of saying: your story matters, and we celebrate it with you.

- Parents are invited to contribute one photo and a short memory from each year of their child's life.
- The child answers questions from classmates about their favorite things
- Optional elements — a healthy snack, an item of importance to the child for a show-and-tell, or a small gift for the classroom — may also be included, depending on the family's wishes.

Donation Items Sought

There are a few consumable items such as:

- Barbasol shaving cream (or any brand that foams)
- tissues
- Sidewalk chalk
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper
- Bubbles
- Printer paper for drawing

Other items that the children would enjoy are things such as:

- Realistic books on insects
  - Ohio birds
  - indigenous plants and trees
  - woodland animals
- bug viewing boxes
- Binoculars
- Child-size gardening gloves
- recipes for healthy snacks that children can make themselves



Colin, Nora, and Mackenzie make pumpkin pancakes



Colin observes a spider



Chick students work with Jared to pull weeds



Camp uses the moveable alphabet to make words



MaSiah and Charlie enjoy a book



PE class plays tug of war

Chickadees



Mackenzie works on fine motor developent



Henry climbs accross the monkey bars



Henry builds a tree to balance birds on during bird week in science



Colin builds hand strength with this twisting work



Mackenzie helps weed the yard

Chickadees

10 Things Children Learn From Watching Adults — Even When Nobody Is "Teaching"

1. **How to handle big emotions.**
Children learn by watching how we respond when we're frustrated, stressed, or overwhelmed. They don't need us to be calm every moment. They benefit from seeing that we can pause, collect ourselves, and work through difficult feelings.

2. **How to treat every person with respect.**
The way we interact with cashiers, waiters, neighbors, and strangers sends a message about the value we place on other people. Small acts of courtesy can teach a lasting lesson about kindness and dignity.

3. **How to speak about other people.**
The way we talk about friends, colleagues, and people who aren't present helps shape how children understand kindness, fairness, and respect — even when we have differences or disagreements.

4. **How to respond when we make mistakes.**
Children see what we do when things don't go as planned. A willingness to acknowledge a mistake, apologize, or try a different approach teaches them that getting something wrong is part of being human.

5. **How to handle disappointment.**
Life doesn't always go our way. When plans change or expectations aren't met, children get to see how we adapt, find perspective, and move forward. We teach resilience not by avoiding disappointment, but by showing how to work through it.

6. **How to disagree with others.**
Children learn from watching us navigate different opinions. We can show them that it's possible to stand by our beliefs, listen to another perspective, and treat someone respectfully even when we don't agree.

7. **What we choose to prioritize.**
Our words tell children what's important. Our everyday choices help bring those values to life. When they see us make time for family, keep our commitments, and act with integrity, those lessons become tangible.

8. **How to speak to themselves.**
Children notice how we talk about our own abilities, appearance, and mistakes. When they hear us treat ourselves with patience and recognize that we can grow, they learn that they deserve that same kindness

9. **How to use responsibility and influence.**
Whether we're leading a team, helping a colleague, or making a decision that affects someone else, children can see how we use the responsibilities we've been given. We can show them that leadership means listening, being fair, and helping others succeed.

10. **What it means to care about others.**
Children notice the everyday moments when we check on someone, offer help, show patience, or make time for a person who needs us. Those ordinary acts help them understand that compassion is something we practice, not just something we talk about. ❤️

Eagles Junior Journalist Spotlight

Starting this month, the Eagles class had two students volunteer to write newsletter articles to highlight the work students are doing in class, and to share our values with our school and families. One of the values we chose to highlight this month is our commitment to the environment and sustainability. Jr. Journalist **Penny** explored this concept with lunchbox recipe testing, in a hope that this will inspire more students to participate in making their own lunches rather than relying on pre-packaged ones. Jr. Journalist **Jameson** chose to highlight his favorite work from the past month.

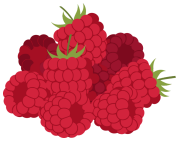


Penny mashes raspberries

Lunch Box Corner - Penny

One of my new ideas for a sandwich was a peanut butter and raspberry sandwich. I wanted to find out if my friends would like this idea too. I made some samples. To make them:

1. Mash some raspberries
2. Then spread on bread
3. Then put peanut butter
4. Then put them together
5.



Then I offered them to my classmates. 16 kids liked it!



Penny shares her creation with Sheila

*Note: Penny conducted a poll during recess to find out who liked the sandwiches. 22 students tried the sandwiches. She also offered the samples to her teachers, who also loved them!



Jameson presents one of his origami fortune tellers

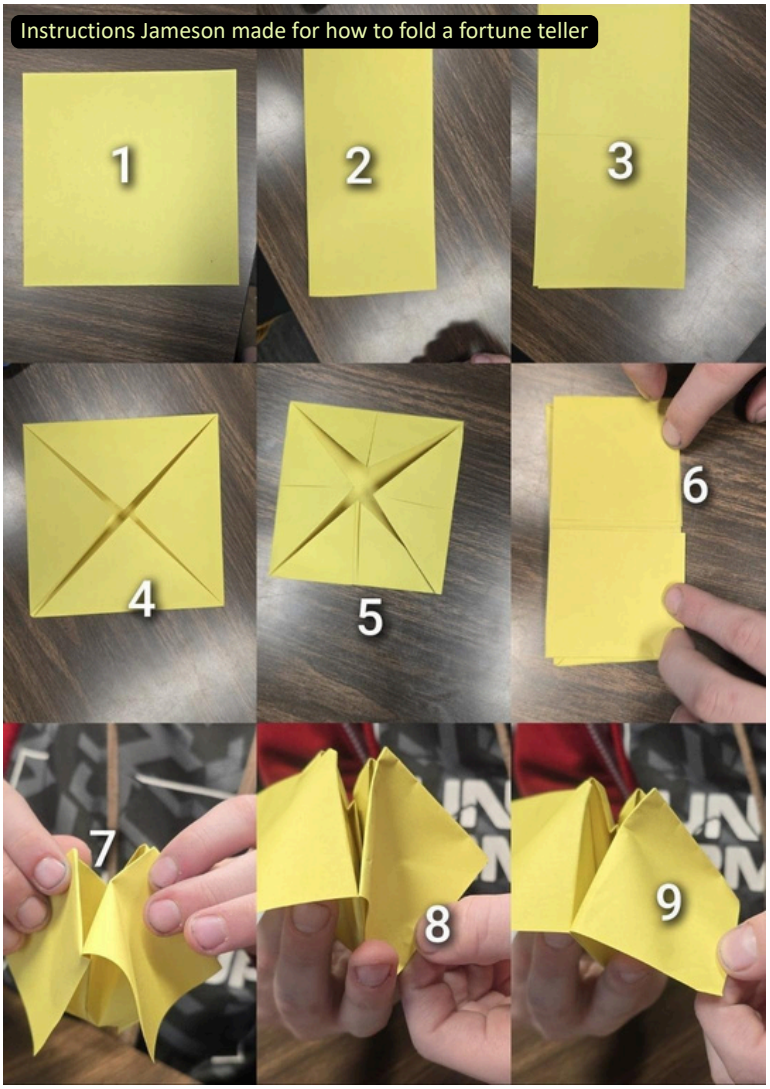
Eagles

Origami - Jameson

Origami is paper that you fold over and over. It was made in Japan thousands of years ago. We learned to fold a frog, a fortune teller, how to make a square from a rectangle, a bookmark, and a cicada. My favorite so far is the fortune teller. I think I have folded 29 so far!

How to make a fortune teller:

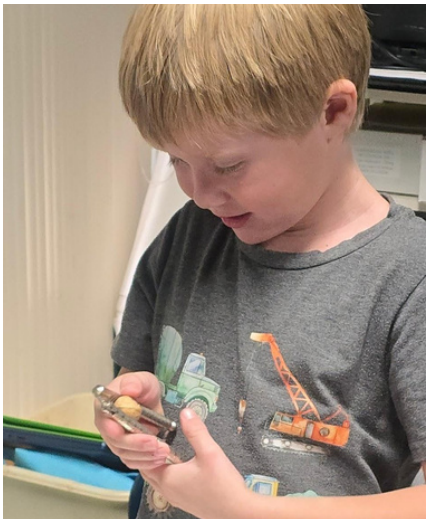
Fold a square into a rectangle. Open back up and fold in the opposite direction. Open it again. Fold the corners in. Then you flip it over, then fold the corners in to reach the middle. And then you fold it into a rectangle. Push both ends in. Then you pull the triangles out. Now you have a fortune teller!

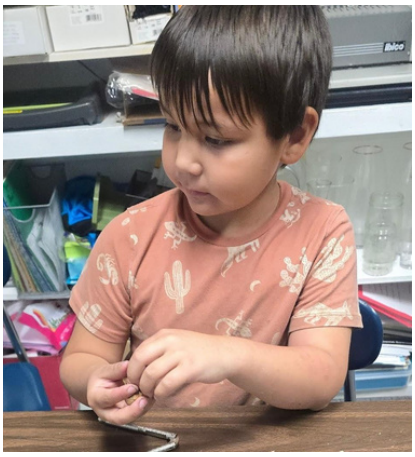


Hickory Nut Cookies

This month the Eagles tackled a special project as a team. They worked together to forage for hickory nuts from the many beautiful hickory trees in the Eagle yard. After drying, they diligently cracked hundreds of hickory nuts. After carefully sorting the meat from the shell pieces, and using picks to scrape every bit of nutmeat from the shell, the Eagles worked in small groups to make a shortbread cookie dough using the fresh hickory nuts. These cookies were shared with the school community at our founder Nancy's Celebration of Life. The Eagle students and staff would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the families and students who attended Nancy's Celebration of Life. Whether you assisted in the cookie process, brought your student to perform, or just showed up to support the community, we deeply appreciate your support!

















Eagles

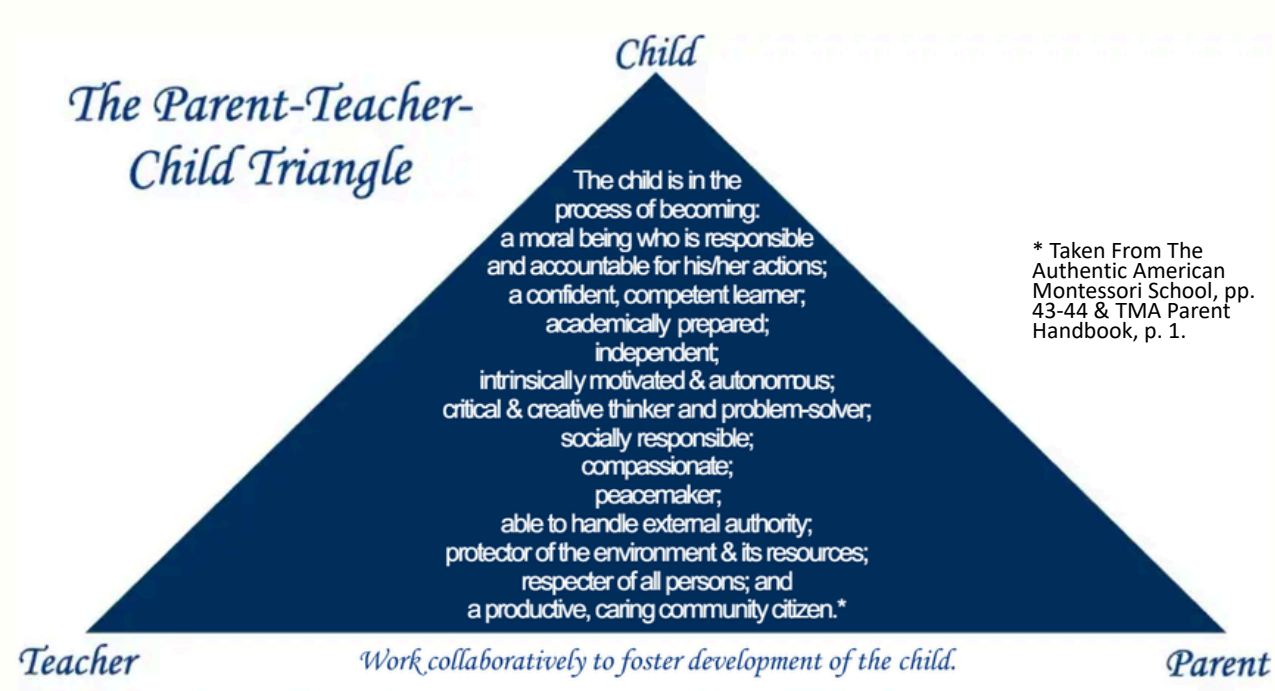




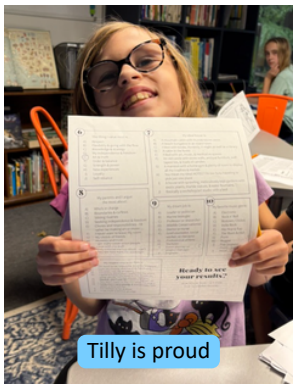
Parent Night Recap

It is our hope to foster a strong, collaborative relationship between the Eagle teachers and Parents/Guardians of our students. The first parent night of the year was Oct. 1st. Thank you to the families who attended! This was a fantastic opportunity for families to ask questions, and to learn more about our amazing curriculum. Sheila and Aimee demonstrated several hands-on aspects of our math curriculum, including the Stamp Game. It was a great opportunity to discuss the importance of packing a nutritious lunch, and to clarify the guidelines outlined in the handbook regarding pre-packaged food. Students that pack are encouraged to help make their own lunch. We encourage families to skip pre-packaged food when possible. Milk is offered to students at lunch and they have water available at all times throughout the day. We plan to announce more Parent Night dates soon, so keep an eye on the newsletter or SchoolCues!

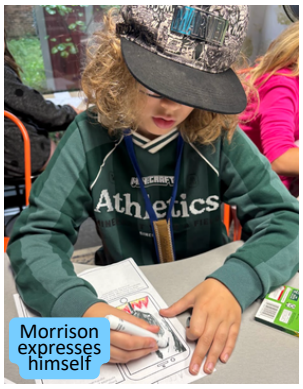
Eagles



* Taken From The Authentic American Montessori School, pp. 43-44 & TMA Parent Handbook, p. 1.


Tilly is proud


Annabelle picks a pear


Morrison expresses himself


Adelaide and Myron in bucket band



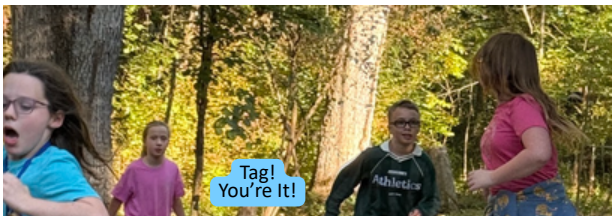

Rosafay and Aubrey support Presley


Gigi, Vivian, and Adelaide


Owls in bucket band


Rowan in bucket band


Paxton keeps the beat


Tag! You're It!

Owl Community Jobs

Every Montessori classroom has classroom jobs that the students do to maintain the classroom.

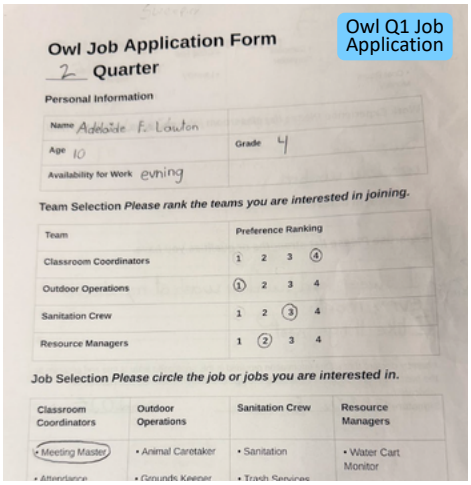
In the Owl room, the students change jobs every quarter. Each quarter every Owl student fills out a job application. This gives them an opportunity to go through the job application and interview process. There are approximately 20 jobs and 28 students. Not every job is everyone's first choice. The students fill out the job application listing their first, second, third, and fourth choice jobs. Every student has had a job so far and many have had multiple jobs over several years. Next, I interview each student. I greet each one exactly the same and ask them exactly the same series of questions. "Good afternoon. I see you've applied for a job at Nightingale Montessori. Thank you so much for applying. How did you hear about Nightingale Montessori? How many years have you been at Nightingale? What other jobs have you done here? Did you enjoy that job?" Then I ask, "If you could list your least favorite job of all the jobs in the classroom, what would it be? If you could pick whatever job you wanted from all of the Owl room jobs, which one would it be?" Then I send them off with exactly the same comments about how we'll be getting back to you soon, and your new job will be posted on the job board Monday morning. I thought I had a fairly good idea of how I would arrange the jobs, but the interview process revealed so many great things, about each student. So I hope every Owl enjoys their new job for the next quarter.

I have assigned all of the 20 job positions to 28 students and they start their new jobs on Monday morning.



Owl Q1 Jobs


Miah reaches new heights


Owl Job Application Form
2 Quarter
Personal Information
Name Adelaide F. Lawton
Age 10
Grade 4
Availability for Work evning
Team Selection Please rank the teams you are interested in joining.
Team | Preference Ranking
Classroom Coordinators | 1 2 3 4
Outdoor Operations | 1 2 3 4
Sanitation Crew | 1 2 3 4
Resource Managers | 1 2 3 4
Job Selection Please circle the job or jobs you are interested in.
Classroom Coordinators | Outdoor Operations | Sanitation Crew | Resource Managers
• Meeting Master | • Animal Caretaker | • Sanitation | • Water Cart Monitor
Owl Q1 Job Application

OWLS



Tasha and Olivia at Glen Helen

October in the Falcons

This month was a fairly exciting month. With the conclusion of our first quarter, our year is flying by. As you might know, one of our founders, Nancy Schwab, has passed and some of our students participated in her memorial choir which took place on October 15th. We just want to thank all of our students and parents who showed up and supported us.

On a lighter note, the Falcons have started the election for class president, secretary, and treasurer. The Falcons also took a class trip to Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center from October 6th-9th. Many of our students loved this experience and said it was an amazing time. Overall this month was an amazing end to the first quarter of the school year.

Written by River Blair





Falcons enjoy team-building activities at Glen Helen




Lochlan holds Wing class pet Confetti



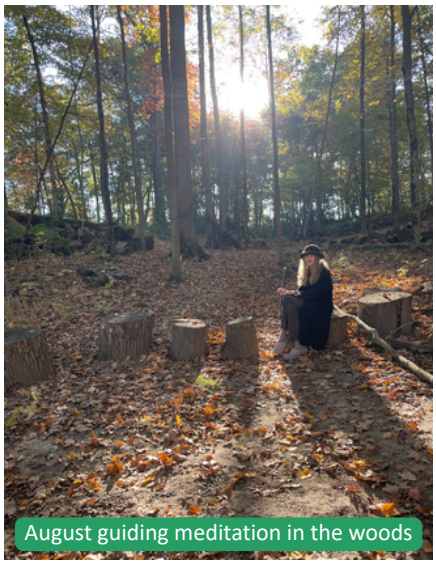
Falcons



Astro works in the woods



Falcons loading fruit trees onto the bus



August guiding meditation in the woods



Nightingale was awarded a $3500 grant from The Whole Foods Market Foundation. We are so grateful!



Jovie and River help plant fruit trees at our community service partner, Ohio Performing Arts Institute



Lily and Lilly plant a plum tree



Falcons



Tim and Bella work together to dig holes for fruit trees



Ka'Myiah and Clifton plant garlic in the kitchen garden

Welcome Home Confetti



Sometime in September, one morning I thought to myself we should get a class pet. A long time ago the Wings used to have a few. So then I asked a few people in the classroom if we should and what kind. A few ideas I had were a bearded dragon or like a bunny. When I asked my classmates, Mina suggested a Chinchilla, leading Daisy, Mina, and I to research and present to the class.

We found out it wouldn't work well so we had to think of another animal. Matt graciously offered for us to take care of his rabbit that he had at home. So then we did more research and gathered up the expenses for the materials needed. We bought timothy hay, pine shavings, a rabbit hutch, etc. Once everything was set up, Confetti was ready to join our classroom.

On the first day she was quite shy and a little stressed from the sudden move.

But by the second day she was quite active and playful. While the other students were in Government class, I laid in the rabbit pen reading my book for my English class. During that time she was running around and very interested in me. I didn't give her much attention so I didn't overwhelm her, but she thought otherwise. She even thumped because I hadn't given her enough attention. It was also fun to take her for a walk in her harness outside; she ran around and had lots of fun. I think our new class pet Confetti is a good addition to the class and has made everyone a little bit more happy.---**Madison**



Madison lets Confetti get used to her

Daisy: She has been a great new addition to the classroom! She is so sassy and fat…. And I love touching her Dewlap even though it makes her a little embarrassed lol.



Wing students are excited about Confetti's arrival

Peter: She is so cute and surprisingly chill around us! There should be more time to pet her (:





Ali and Aliya become acquainted

A few weeks ago we had an idea that we should get a class pet, it started off with us wanting a Chinchilla. We made a slide show to show that we have been researching and that we are responsible enough to care for an animal. After researching a bit more we decided that a Holland lop would be the better choice for our classroom. Our Teacher, Matt, had mentioned that he had one named Confetti at his house, and with the permission of his daughter we got the okay to get a class pet! We started by planning what we needed for Confetti and looking at how much money we would need to raise. We ended up raising $178. We purchased the cage, the hay, the bedding, and even made some handmade enrichment toys. Now Confetti is happily living in our classroom enjoying constant pets and cuddles, enjoying a daily walk outside, and eating Luffa. ---**The Wings**

Wings



Mina: She has gotten so comfortable with us so quickly! She has adjusted so well to everyone and she is just so fun to be around! She makes literally anything look cute!



Ja'Miyah: Confetti has been a great addition to our classroom so far and she has been great to hang around with. We love her playful attitude and how she acts--she is so funny.

Ali: I think she is extremely fun and sassy around certain people! She loves to be petted sometimes and she loves herself some food!











Wings





Psychological Growth and How You Can Support the Adolescent

The rapid psychological growth of the adolescent results in what Montessori described as "fragile and volatile emotions, a sensitivity to criticism, a lack of confidence, and a sense of expectation."

Adolescents face the transition of leaving the family and entering the adult world, which is exciting and scary for both the adolescent and family members. They are also trying to figure out who they will be and what role they'll play in society at large. This need for psychological self-determination leads to exploring their internal and external environments, resulting in increased risk-taking, impulsivity, and egocentrism. But they are also learning to think critically and show the beginnings of metacognition.

Adolescents live in a time of conflicting feelings. In creative expression and other work, they want to be recognized but are insecure and self-critical. They are testing values and paradigms of the world but are intolerant of shortfalls or hypocrisy in others. They are also very sensitive to social justice and the dignity of people.

The chief symptom of adolescence is a state of expectation, a tendency towards creative work, and a need to strengthen self-confidence. Guiding adults can support adolescents by offering psychologically safe conditions that provide opportunities to understand better the adult society they are about to join. These conditions include:

- Supportive relationships based on respect and personal dignity
- Exploration, especially issues of morality and areas of social or intellectual risk
- Self-expression, creative work
- Collaboration on productive work with peers or adults, which contributes to self-confidence, independence, self-sufficiency, and adaptability
- Solitude for reflection

An excerpt from “The Adolescent: A ‘Social Newborn’ Emerging”,
Tina Quirt Booth, AMI 12–18 Trainer
https://montessori-ami.org/trainingvoices/adolescent-social-newborn-emerging



Ecology students working on a winter shelter in the woods



Wings