



Nightingale Notes

April 2025

May

Promise Club Theme: Mindfulness for Mental Health

- 1 Owl group to Boonshoft
- 2 **Bookmobile**
- 7 Owl group to Boonshoft
- 8 **All School Picture Day (NM T-shirt)**
- 16 **Bookmobile**
- 17 **Nightingale Graduation Ceremony 2-4 pm**
- 19-22 Wing Trip to Traverse City, Michigan
- 23 **Last Day of School**
- 26 **Memorial Day**



The Annual All-School Picture Day will be Thursday, May 8. All students and staff should wear (or bring to wear) their Nightingale Seasonal T-shirt (based on your birth month—white, blue, yellow, or

green). New students this year can pick up their free shirt from the office anytime before May 8. Other students/staff who need a new shirt for any reason can buy one from Miss Amy for \$15.



Owls, Falcons, and Wings collaborate at Earth Day festivities.



Owl students participate in Wing/Falcon Earth Day Projects.



Alex leads an Eagle group through a titration experiment.



Wing DaeSha and Falcon Za'Ryah greet Eagle group.



Falcons and Wings teach Eagles about local government.

Stone Wall Installation Project

Falcon and Wing students, led by Jayne, built the stone wall around the new NM sign. They are happy to have done the job for half of the price estimated by the contractors. We are excited to use the money earned to purchase fruit trees for long term plans for orchards on the property. The kids have helped choose the varieties of trees and are researching the harvest yields, hardiness, disease resistance and maintenance plans for the orchard. The progress was slowed by the cold weather but now we are ready to add the composted soil from Chris Coleman to the middle and plant a beautiful specimen tree and native plants.

The project started with a volunteer day attended by Sierra and her Chickadee, Skye, Andrew with Paxton and Jovie, Steph W., Jack Westfall, Roy Wood, Jared Martin, Jayne W. and Kaylee with Mike and Hummingbird, Nola. Pictured below are Skye, Sierra, Roy and Jared. The next round of work happened with the Falcon and Wing students. Pictured are Anna, Ben, Serenity, and Aaron. Last steps are to back fill and plant!

This is such a cool project for the kids and we are so excited to see it through and watch their projects and work investments grow for the next generations.



Miss Jayne and Falcon students work on the stone base around the new NM sign.



The finished stone wall



Falcons Anna, Serenity, Ben and Aaron work to level the foundation for the stone wall.



Chickadee Skye, on family volunteer day, helps build the stone wall.

All School News

NM Students Performing and Watching Local Theater

This April, Owl students River and Jovie, and Eagle student Skye participated in a local production of Andrew Lloyd Weber's CATS: Young Artists' Edition. This is the first time the production has premiered in Springfield, especially with a full cast of 2nd-12th graders. The show was put together in about 7 weeks, overlapping with other local community and school productions. Each costume was handmade, from the paint on the unitards, to the crocheting of leg and arm warmers, to the hand-tied tails and the custom cat wigs for each student. Wing students Damirah, Alex, and Shay, and even Head of School Maria supported the performers with their crocheting skills. Several NM students and families came to watch the show and take in the uncanny magic that is CATS. Thanks to Rosafay, Evan, Morrison, Alivia, Paxton, and Willow for supporting their classmates!



River (Owl), Skye (Eagle) and Jovie (Owl) celebrating the success of their performances in Cats: Young Actors' Edition.



NM Eagles Alivia and Willow show support for their peers by attending and enjoying the performance of Cats.



Cats: Young Actors' Edition (photo by Jeremy Mudd)

Spring Is In the Air

Many students worked together to support fundraising efforts for our outdoor kitchen, also in support of Buck Creek State Park's Spring Jubilee! Our students home-made 250 cookies and designed a "decorate your own cookie box" to sell. Students baked and packaged cookies, homemade icing, and packaged sprinkles for our fundraising endeavors. We created a "design your own cookie" station with many students, staff and friends coming to visit. We are excited to expand upon our relationship with the State park and look forward to future opportunities for growth!

Practical life application of mathematics and science is integrated into our daily culinary programs.



Former student Keith with family joins us at Buck Creek.



Mr. Marty and Owl and Eagle children, Myron and Eva, at Buck Creek State Park.



Astro and Madison at Buck Creek Outreach.

Gourmet Grub



Zamirah decorates cookies at Buck Creek State Park.



Decorating cookies for the sale.



Jovie and Paxton Hahn Helped run our booth at Buck Creek.



GG Creations— dinner rolls in the shape of Chickadees



Damarion packages breads and pastries.



Calli fills soap.



Chickadee vegetable presentation



Chickadees spicing lunch



Owl meatballs



Ali spreading joy



Chickadee practical life



Audrey in the greenhouse

Sensorial Exploration

“What the hand does, the mind remembers.” - **Dr. Maria Montessori**

Maria Montessori believed that sensorial experiences begin right after birth. Babies and children use their senses to explore, discover, and learn about their environment. The discoveries made using the hand are extremely meaningful to the child and his/her development. Through her scientific observations of children, **Dr. Montessori** determined that children not only craved hands-on learning activities, but they exhibited joy when doing these types of activities. By touching and manipulating objects, information is delivered to the brain through the hands. Because this method allows children to be an active participant in their learning, the concepts covered are more deeply established in the mind than any kind of rote memorization could be.



Maggie mixes primary colors using her hands.



Henry smells the blossom on the pear tree.



Auggie peels his banana.



Calvin strings beads onto a cord.



GeVaya slices a banana.



Anastasia examines a sensory egg after hearing its acoustic sound.



Brayzen transfers water using a sponge.



Germaine Jr. manipulates a fraction puzzle.



Nola discriminates between the same and different.



Kelly works with some chicks to smash chalk for making paint.

The **Chickadees** are excited to welcome in Spring! We are thankful for the weather as it is slowly warming up. Many discussions abound as we explore the insect and plant life waking up around us.

Recently, we have turned our thoughts to Earth Day and how we can do our part to participate in NM's larger goals of conservation and reduction of waste. One thing you may have noticed is that a child with disposable packaging in their lunch is bringing the empty package home rather than throwing it away at school. We will do our best to help students repack their trash in a way that does not lead to a messy lunchbox. We encourage you to place items in reusable containers if packing lunches. This helps us reduce our school's footprint!

Additionally, in the name of reusing and recycling, the kids have enjoyed making chalk paint and exploring with different recycled items to paint with. We also had a lot of fun making sculptures from saved items that might otherwise have been thrown away!



Chicks reuse special cut paper towel tubes to experiment with chalk paint.



Simone and Eden



Aubri creates using recycled items.



Oliver uses recycled items to design his structure.



Chicks experiment with Chalk paint.

Eagle Science Update -Written by Skye and Morrison (3rd year Eagles)

In Science, we have had a chance to visit and explore some curriculum revolving around the animals on the school grounds like the bunnies, tadpoles, chickens and the ducks at the vernal pool. Prior to our visit with the animals, we did some work in science planting flowers and beans. The flowers sprouted quickly but the beans have grown much more than the flowers. We think we might make a bean maze. A bean maze is when we put a bean plant in a maze and put a cover on it with a hole in it to see if the plant can find the light. We planted Marigolds and a Prairie Mix of Flowers. Each class had the opportunity to plant two bean plants and now we have a lot of beans. Soon Mrs. Kaylee says she will be teaching us about pollinators and different types of birds. We are excited!

Building Character in young children

As the school year is winding down it is more important now than ever for the children to be on time to school. The children thrive on structure, routine and schedule. It is important that they be at school ready to learn by 8:00. Doors open at 7:45 and breakfast, served daily, is free and available to all students.



Bella, Zamara, Skye, Morrison, and Elijah collecting compost.



Morrison, Miss Aimee, and Elijah removing a stump



Eagles working on maps in Geography.



Skye and Morrison edit their article.



Tilly doing dishes in the kitchen



Yash and Lena stacking chairs after breakfast



Sterling, Za'Mara, and Tyson create a band from the natural environment

We Get To

It is hard to slow down and think “I get to,” instead of “I have to.”

These past two months, I have really tried to remember **We Get To** go outside and work in the sunshine and rain. **We Get To** splash in a puddle, and search for goldfish in the pond. **We Get To** look out Ms. Guyia’s window and see a bird perched on the bird feeder. **We Get To** take a break and watch a pair of Mallards enjoy a morning swim in the Vernal Pool. **We Get To** breathe in the fresh air while collecting eggs in the backyard. **We Get To** put down fresh compost to nourish this year's crops that **We Get To** plant together. We Get To dance, sing, run around and laugh with each other while digging in the dirt. We know the work can get hard, strenuous, exhausting and it seems like there's always more to do. That's why we're slowing our pace and really enjoying the beauty of what **We Get To** do. The students have really shown their efforts and joy in their work. We really are proud of their accomplishments and growth this 2024/2025 school year.



Observing the difference in egg sizes during outdoor work-- fingers crossed for a double yolk!



Caroline and Annie



Lee builds weather station.



A couple of Flemish Giants sharing a healthy wheat grass treat



Bella and River work outside.



Spring is Here! The Cherry Blossom tree is in bloom.

April

April's theme for the Promise Club is **Empower Upstanders**, so we made a *Promise to Pledge Tree*. On the tree every classmate traced their hand on green paper. On the paper, the Owls wrote something positive on their hand.

Mrs. Guyia also started the **Running Club**, but unlike last year, it is for the whole class, not just the girls! For the Running Club we will be going to the reservoir and the bike trail. Mrs. Guyia also started an **exercise group** for us to get stronger and not so sore after **running club**.

Spring is finally here and it is beginning to become warmer. Trees are making leaves and flowers are beginning to bloom. In our woods, the wildflowers have started to bloom and they are so pretty! In the winter we put a bird feeder up on the window and now that all of the birds are back, there have been so many birds like robins and cardinals! Speaking of Cardinals, someone hid tiny Cardinals all over the school for everyone to have fun trying to find.

Some of the Owls are in Erdkinder with Jared. In Erdkinder, we do work in the garden, take walks in the woods, and even haul mulch and compost to the gardens. Some students have seen some ducks by the vernal pool. Everybody was so excited for Easter.

This month the Owls also took our state tests the ELA, Math, and Science Tests!

Some of the Owls have decided to create a version of *The Wizard of Oz* that they are calling **Return of the Wicked Witch!** They have been working on a storyline and script, and plan to perform in May. They put out signup sheets all over the classroom. There are already some kids signing up to be in our play and the teachers are helping get this show on the road! Since our play is a sequel to the Wizard of Oz we have added some new characters like a carrot, a strawberry and more munchkins. There are also a lot of the old characters such as Dorothy, Toto, Wizard of Oz, Wicked Witch of the West, and many more.



Rhiddlee, Mia and Becca



Jayne learns how to make scrambled eggs for a healthy snack for the Chickens!



Alivia, Becca and Autumn enjoy a very "Earthy" dinner during Aftercare.



Jaleeya & Ka'Myiah work hard during recess to help refill the GaGa Ball pit!



Finn and Jude work on pulling weeds in the Owl Courtyard.



Myron, Jackson, Evan, and Levi play a friendly board game together.



Siblings, Annie and Braylon accidentally twinning

Nightingale Montessori Celebrates Earth Day 2025

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

—Desmond Tutu

The first **Earth Day** was held in the United States in 1970 when concern about the environment and interest in ecology was increasing. Today, **Nightingale Montessori** has a cross curricular focus on understanding ecological connections between species, systems, to our collective past and our common future. Throughout the week students showed Earth love by; planting trees at our school - thanks **Eagle** team, picking up trash at Buck Creek, planting gardens, removing invasive plants, visiting the gently used Book Fair and visiting Clark County Solid Waste Districts Recycling Center. The week culminated with the secondary students, **Falcons** and **Wings**, presenting their research and activities to the primary school; **Owls**, **Eagles**, and **Chickadees**. The focus this year was problem solving skills and the role of government in environmental protection. Groups presented on local government, state and federal government, grassroots organizations, nonprofit organizations, public lands and sequestering carbon.



Monica, Ma'Kaylen and Ali
plant apple seeds.



Zuriya and Keaton plant
apple seeds.

Survival Skills In French

Expressing basic information

- a) I don't know - Je ne sais pas. (zhuh nuh say pah)
- b) I am done/ I have finished - J' ai fini.(zhay fee - nee)
- c) I don't understand - Je ne comprends pas. (zhuh nuh kohn - prahn pah)
- d) I need help. - J'ai besoin d' aide. (zhay beh - swan deyd)
- e) I am hot. - J' ai chaud. (zhay shoh)
- f) I am thirsty. - J' ai soif. (zhay swahf)
- g) J'ai froid. - I am cold. (zhay fwah)
- h) I am hungry. - J'ai faim. (zhay fayn)*

* French people "are" not hungry, they " have" hunger. That's why the only correct way to express this is : " J' ai faim."
A literal translation to either language would be incorrect.

The Falcons want to thank Jason from Auto Zone on Derr Road for donating supplies for our car wash. We raised money for the field trip to Scene 75, and the car wash was a great success!

*Thank
you*



Falcon News



The Falcons at Scene 75



Jace zooms by in a go-cart at Scene 75.



Ja'miyah and Damarion on Drop Zone at Scene 75



Noah enjoys zipping around on a go-cart at Scene 75.



Ali and Makenzie enjoying a rollercoaster at Scene 75.



Shannin enjoys Drop-Zone at Scene 75.

Wing Integrated Montessori curriculum—Test Phase

The Wings are developing and testing a new curriculum in World History and English this year that aims at fostering more independence, student-led topic choices, and work that integrates more fully with other classes. During the fourth quarter, the English class is working on the Victorian era, while World History has been covering the 19th and 20th centuries. A variety of books on the topics are available to students to help them craft assignments that interest them. This is a bit of an adjustment for some students, but is part of our long-term goal as an adolescent Montessori classroom to guide students through "valorization." Valorization is a process named by Maria Montessori to describe how a young person grows into adulthood with confidence, strength, resilience and capability. We plan to develop this new classroom curriculum further in the coming year so that it includes more subjects and allows more freedom in classroom scheduling and work time.

Madison's Victoria Dress-up Experience

This quarter's English topic is the Victorian era. For my creative assignment I dressed up as a Victorian noble woman for a day. I made the dress by using a dress I had made in the past then used silk and velvet pieces to create the skirt part. I also had a petticoat underneath and wore gloves. It was enjoyable and I learned what it felt like to be a Victorian woman.



Madison's Victorian-era inspired dress up day.



Parker and Joey's portraits



Jazlyn and Madison's portraits



Miss Stephanie's artwork of the NM greenhouse



Lilianna paints cherry blossoms

Wing News



Ladainian works in the shop.



Joey, Ladainian, and Parker enjoying Micro Business



Eagle Teacher, Kaylee, lends her expertise in teaching Wing students how to wrap wire to make jewelry.



Chloe crafts her cutting board.

Wings Honor Ms. Verna



In remembrance of Verna L. Reed's passing, Nightingale students and faculty came together to memorialize her memories and attributes to the classroom and lives of each person.

All gathered at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, April 5th with her family, close friends, and fellow church attendees to remember and mourn her.

Before the service, Mayeli and Alex worked together to make a memory book to give to the Reed Family during the service. Each page was an individual letter from a student.

The students sat in the pews to hear stories once told by Verna herself, or about Verna by those who were close to her during her lifetime.



THE
Nightingale Montessori
**CLASS
OF 2025**

*would like
to invite you to their*
GRADUATION CEREMONY

MAY
SAT. | **17** | AT 2 PM
2025

2525 N. LIMESTONE ST.
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45503

SAMANTHA JULIA WELSH GREAT HALL

reception to follow