



# Nightingale Notes

January 2025

## February

### Promise Club Theme: Empathize and Include

- 6 Mid-term Q3  
Ski Club Scheduled
- 7 **Staff Day—No Students**
- 13 Ski Club Scheduled
- 17 **No School, Presidents' Day**
- 20 Ski Club Scheduled
- 19-21 Falcon Trip to Glen Helen
- 21 **Bookmobile**

## Fun on the slopes!



The 2025 Ski Club Season has begun



### New Nightingale Montessori Street Sign Installed

Nightingale Montessori is delighted with the installation of the new solar sign at its southern entrance. The Wings' Micro Business class will build a 12 foot diameter circular stone base for it when the weather clears. They are figuring out how to find the center of the circle without a giant compass!

When Spring arrives, a native red wood tree will be planted in the center of the stone planter. Just like the embryonic Nightingale in our logo, we established in our brand that our student grace grows out of our inner space.



Rhiddlee is ready!



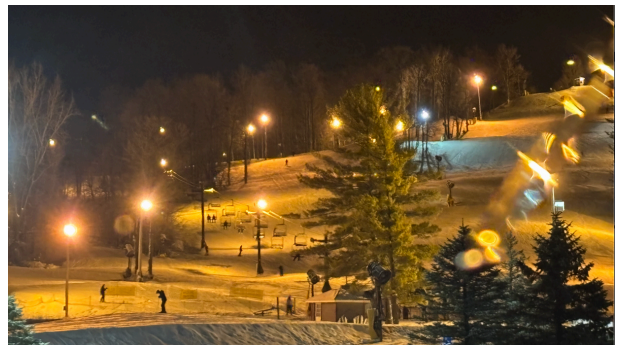
Jude and Jack



NM students can do hard things



Alivia is learning to ski



Night view of Mad River Mountain



### Chickadee and Eagle Peace Night Recap

The Chickadee and Eagle Peace Night was a massive success! We had a wonderful turnout and the children had so much fun. Thank you to all of the families and friends who were able to join us. We are excited to continue the tradition next year!



## Valentine's Day at Nightingale

### Hummingbirds and Chickadees

Students will have opportunities to make Valentines for classmates as part of their classroom work and activities.

Please do NOT buy commercial cards or send candy to school. Parents may send a healthy SMART Snack to share if they so wish. The Hummingbird class is **12** students, and the Chickadee class is **26** students.

### Eagles

Some Eagles will research the origin of and ponder the various customs of the holiday. A presentation will be offered to their classmates.

To acknowledge each other and show our appreciation for acts of kindness, the Eagles will have a small celebration in the classroom. Students may bring a SMART Snack and/or HOMEMADE, "handcrafted" Valentines for friends if they choose. Please do NOT buy commercial cards or send candy to school. Thank you for supporting our stewardship values. If your child would like to make cards for all of the Eagles, there are **35** students in the class.

***Please send ONLY SMART Snack Treats  
and/or Homemade Notes—if you  
choose to participate.***

### Owls and Falcons

Owls and Falcons will be invited to make Valentines and cards that express appreciation and gratitude for one another. This project will be part of class activities. If students want to bring handmade Valentines or a SMART Snack to share with classmates, there will be an opportunity to do so during the lunch hour. There are **35** Owls and **24** Falcons.

### Wings

Wings may choose to independently share a handmade Valentine with a classmate if they choose to do so. If they would like to bring homemade cards or a SMART Snack for the whole class, there are **41** Wing students.





Zed and Merm wash lunch dishes

### Student Chef Showcase

Wing students are busy developing a homemade pizza recipe for submission for the Ohio Department of Education's First Annual Student Chef Showcase. The overall goal is to develop a standardized recipe utilizing food from local and school gardens as well as integrate ingredients from our local food suppliers. The definition of a standardized recipe is one that, "has been tried, adapted, and retried several times for use by a given foodservice operation and has been found to produce the same good results and yield whenever the exact procedures are used with the same type of equipment and the same quantity."

Winning teams from across the state will be invited to Columbus State University to demonstrate their recipe, with the winning recipes being rolled out across the state of Ohio to any school participating in the national school lunch and breakfast program. Good luck Falcons and Wings!

These types of team-building exercises provide valuable experience in teamwork, communication, collaboration, and valuable job skills.



Ali is loving her culinary time



## Fostering Independence

“Every unnecessary help is a hindrance to development.” -  
**Maria Montessori**

**Dr. Maria Montessori** understood that in order to be free, one needs to be independent. She believed that every child is born with this potential for independence. Fostering independence is an ongoing process in the **Hummingbirds**. This path towards independence is often slow and messy; however, there are ways to make the transition happen more smoothly.

One important way we encourage independence is by providing a prepared environment that includes: low shelving to allow the children to manipulate the work, low hung hooks to allow access to their coats and bags, pictures that help the child to identify their hook, stairs that provide access to the bathroom sink for independent handwashing, a child-size toilet, low chairs that the children can climb in and out of, and child-size utensils. All these items help foster new skills and minimize adult interference.



Calvin hangs his coat on his hook upon arrival.

Another way we are fostering independence in the children is by allowing them the time and multiple opportunities needed to master a skill. If we notice the child struggling, instead of jumping in to help, we offer suggestions that may ease the task at hand. We are there to encourage and support this giant step in the child's transition from infancy to independence. When one of the **Hummingbirds** accomplishes a task independently, it increases their feelings of competence, confidence, and willingness to try new skills.

No doubt, you are noticing your toddler trying to complete tasks independently at home. There are some simple ways that you can foster this trait in your toddler. Allow extra time for self-care such as: brushing teeth, washing hands, or putting

on socks and shoes. Resist the urge to jump in and do things for your toddler! Instead, watch how capable your child is when you allow him/her to complete a task. If you notice your child struggling with a task, offer a helpful suggestion instead of doing it for him/her. Instead of asking yes or no questions, offer two simple choices. Too many options will be overwhelming and frustrating. These are just a few tips on how to encourage this innate desire in your child.



Henry carefully chooses work from the shelf.

The **Hummingbirds** also participate in car line drop-off and pick-up just like all of the older students. This fosters independence in the children from the moment they arrive at school. Once this routine is established, your children walk in every day with a sense of pride. They place their items on their assigned hook, take off their shoes, and join their classmates. This is such a wonderful way to start their day!





Lucy transfers equal numbers of objects.



Nola places objects "in" using a pincer grasp.



GeVaya completes a knobbed puzzle.



Brayzen sorts objects according to color.



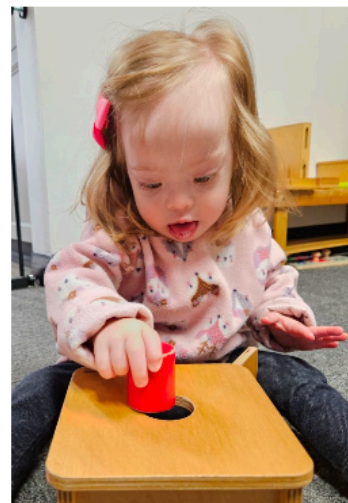
August explores magnetism.



Germaine Jr. stacks objects carefully to maintain balance.



Anastasia examines an object during tummy time.



Maggie places the cylinder in the imbuca box.

**National Bird Day was January 5th.** While we were being hit with a level 2 snow storm, our feathered friends were also thinking the storm was “snow joke”...

Nature intended backyard birds to have foraging habits. That makes it a good thing that we tend to feed them inconsistently. Our inconsistent treating habits help to encourage them to keep foraging.

However, it is times like these when they need our help the most. With the storm covering most of their natural resources, they can use all of the help they can get.

Of course, the Chickadees are happy to help our schoolyard friends. After all, they are a huge part of our eco-diversity, helping to maintain balance with flora and fauna.

So, in addition to Jared filling the seed feeders, the Chickadees made several types of feeders:

**Suet-Lard**, peanut butter, and assorted seeds, nuts, and fruit.

**Cob-feeders** with the same suet combination.

**Ice feeders** with fruit, berries, and seeds. These will last for a while as they melt gradually. They also look pretty when the light hits them.



Aubri, Merm and Oliver

Eden

# Chickadee News



Gintey and Annie

## Some fun facts we discussed about birds:

- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward.
- The male Wren builds the nest to suit the female.
- Robins can hear the worms eating under the soil.
- The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird on Earth at 240 mph.
- The next fastest is the Common Swift at 105mph.
- Owls cannot move their eyes, but instead rotate their heads 270 degrees, allowing 360 degree vision.
- Woodpeckers can peck 20 times per second--that’s about 15mph!

## But wait...there’s “snow” much more in the Chickadee room!

While the Chickadees exhibited maximum effort exploring the snow outside, they were working hard discovering the wonders of snow and winter inside, too. We spent time reading and having discussions about life “Over and Under the snow” and how winter affects different mammals and insects (hibernation, migration, and adaptation). The Chicks were most taken by learning a bit about “Snowflake Bentley.” This brought about a different curiosity: “What? This is a real story?!” “So, he discovered snow?” and “Why did he like snow so much?”

William Bentley’s fascination with snow uncovered the intricate beauty of each snowflake--how each has only six branches, and how no two snowflakes are alike. Using some of the images from Bentley’s photos, the Chickadees, too, focused on those aspects of the snowflake by trying to draw their own.

Yippee Snow! Devoid of areas in the Chickadee yard to sled and excited for the rare opportunity, Tim created a sort of luge in the forest on the North end. This allows all the preschool students to also enjoy sledding.

Kindergarten students were also treated to a special field trip to the Springfield Country Club to go sledding, thanks to Nancy who is willing to drive the NM bus.



Zamirah



Penny and Simone



Caleb



William

## January 2025 Eagle News

Eagle teachers would like to thank the families that made it to our **Reading Information Evening**. It was wonderful to have a full classroom of enthusiastic adults—a little different than our regular days at school, but a much-welcomed change of pace. It felt good to be able to dote on the children and express how much they shine in the classroom. We appreciate all the great ideas about how you encourage reading in your own homes and how you candidly shared some feelings about your children's school experiences. Our team of Eagle teachers were excited to hear that Eagle parents would value more time together and in the classroom environment quarterly. As always, our team welcomes correspondence via email at any time. We appreciate all of you! Thank you again for taking time out of your schedules to meet with us. We look forward to more opportunities to serve you.

**The children have been loving the snow** and working outside with all of the appropriate gear with Kaylee the science teacher in the Eagle classroom. They have made some improvements to the sledding bunny hill formerly known as the stick pile on the Eagle playground. The children tracked animals on the school grounds and into the property's wooded trails. In science lessons they have been studying the three states of matter.

Paxton, Willow, Alivia,  
Kylin, and Bella enjoying the outdoors



Eagles playing on their sledding hill



Cambria, Aubree, and Kenna make snow angels



In Science, Eagles explored animal prints in the snow



Sunrise over the Eagle yard



To usher in the new year, the Owls did a "New Year, New Me" paper to celebrate the coming 2025. On this paper, students had to fill out some questions about what they would want to get better at and what new things that they would want to try for the new year. This was interesting because it gave the students a chance to set new goals for themselves and have better expectations for the new year.

We have started working on our *Wizard of Oz* play and on Friday the 10th we watched *The Wizard of Oz* movie. In our History class we have begun to go over the scripts for the play. One of the reasons the Owls picked the *Wizard of Oz* was because the script for the *Wizard of Oz* can be changed for the kids who are in it. Part of the *Wizard of Oz* includes some songs like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," but there are very few songs. In our *Wizard of Oz* there will be 6 Dorothy's and 4 Scarecrows. All of the students that are in the play will find out what parts they have on Tuesday January 21 or Wednesday the 22.



Jovie and Miss Sheila



Alaeya and Miss Kelly



Miss Jayne and Miss Tasha enjoy their meal



Addy and Mr. Andrew



Finn, Bella, Jovie, Lochlan, and Jackson work on Reader's Theater



Rhiddlee and Miss Taliyah



Caroline and Miss Michele

Before the winter break, the Owls prepared a Holiday Dinner for all of the teachers and the students. The Owls made menus for all of the teachers who were having lunch on Thursday, Dec. 19th. The Owls decided to do this for the teachers because our Promise Club theme for December was "Kindness," so Mrs. Guyia decided that it would be very kind for the Owls to prepare a holiday dinner for the school. Every Owl student was assigned a teacher or two to prepare food for. Everyone made a personalized menu for their teacher with special drawings and each menu had a special message for the teachers. One of the many foods we made was sweet potato casserole and you can find the recipe for that at <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/21261/yummy-sweet-potato-casserole/>.

By River Blair



River and Miss Chrissy



Falcons line up to enjoy the meal



Student script for *Wizard of Oz*





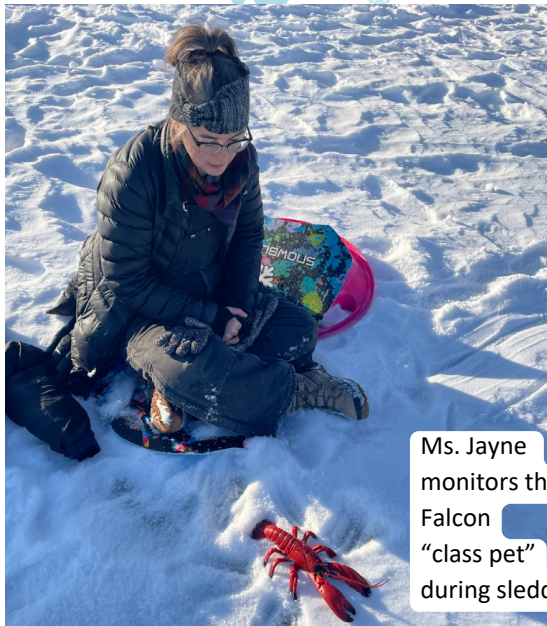


Falcon students attend a Springfield High Girls' Basketball game

The Falcons were invited by Ms. Tasha to see the Springfield Wildcats! Ms. Tasha is the score keeper for the high school girls basketball team and for the boys when they are home. It is important to remember that, even though we do not have a basketball team here at Nightingale, our students are welcome at our local school district. Ms. Tasha is always encouraging our students and trying to spark interest in those who gravitate towards the sport. Thank you Ms.Tasha!

The Falcons watched the Wings go sledding and insisted we have a turn as well. We bundled up and braved the cold. It was a privilege to watch the memories made and the community bonds being formed. For some, this was their first experience sledding! Our kids got to be kids. Ms. Jayne even brought our "class pet," which is a silly lobster the kids enjoy hiding around our room. Outings like this encourage community and bonding that brings peace into our classroom.

Shannin and Jace sledding through the woods



Ms. Jayne monitors the Falcon "class pet" during sledding

**BONJOUR**

**How to Introduce Yourself in French with Ms. Saona**

*Hi, my name is Paul.*

*"Salut, je m' appelle Paul."*  
(sa-loo, zhuh mah -pehl Paul.)

\* We don't translate names. It's best to leave a name in its original form to maintain the individual's identity.



Serenity and Blake enjoy sledding at the country club

Jace, Keaton, Damarion and Elliott on the sledding hill



## Career Exploration

Over the past few weeks, the Wings have welcomed friends from the community to share their career experiences and wisdom. The Wings High School class at Nightingale Montessori intends to create a curious environment where students weigh their endless options and plan for a future that suits their interests and passions. For some, those plans are made quickly and confidently while others develop many different skills and interests and remain uncertain about choosing one career path. To facilitate discussions and a variety of opportunities these career day sessions have been very helpful!

Certified master mechanic and college instructor Dillon Woodward shared his passion for educating students about career opportunities in the skilled trades while recounting his rise through the ranks in the automobile and truck repair industry. Students were interested in learning more about training opportunities in a variety of trades as well as the potential for self-employment and advancement.

Nurse Cristi Stevens shared her career story of working and advancing in the world of nursing home healthcare. She shared her passion for caring for people during what can be a hard time in their lives. Cristi talked about how a nursing career changes you as a person into a more capable, focused, and empathetic person while also offering opportunities for further education and increased responsibilities.

Cole Taylor (NM alum) shared about his work for Microsoft and in the tech industry, discussing the future of the industry with new technologies like AI. Cole explained some of the things he enjoys about working on solving complex problems in a team setting while also expanding his expertise and skillset in an in-demand industry.

If you or someone you know may be interested in sharing valuable wisdom from their career story in a short 20-30 minute informal session with our Wing students, please email Andrew Hahn ([ahahn@nightingaleschool.org](mailto:ahahn@nightingaleschool.org))



Nurse Cristi Stevens



Mechanic Dillon Woodward



Wings sledding at the country club



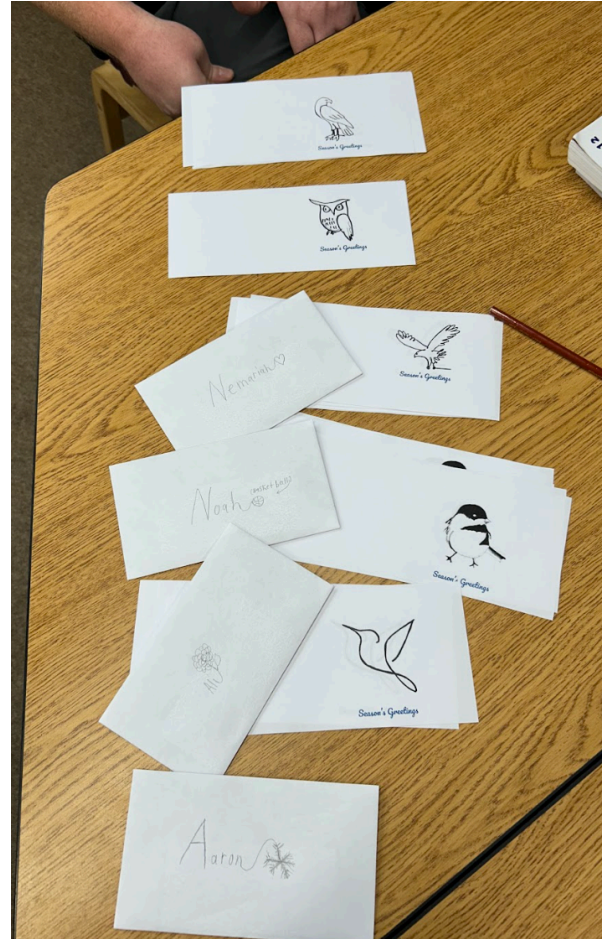
Alex and DaeSha  
embark on a snowy journey

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR BREAK,  
LOVE,  
THE WING CLASS

Just before Winter Break, Wing students participated in making holiday cards for EVERY STUDENT at Nightingale. Students had fun writing messages to students of different ages, and decorating the cards with well wishes for a safe and happy break. It was nice to take a few minutes to think of everyone who shares the hallways with us right before the holidays!



Briniya, Lilianna, and Mayeli working on cards



Wing Holiday Card project

Shay volunteered to make extra cards for some of the classes!



Jack, Carl, Audrey, and Bo working on cards for younger students

Wing students enjoying a winter hike at Buck Creek State Park

