

Montessori Pathways' News

Montessori Pathways

The best way to discovery!



School



"Children must grow not only in the body but in the spirit, and the mother longs to follow the mysterious spiritual journey of the beloved one who tomorrow will be the intelligent, divine creation, man."

~ Maria Montessori

Annual Community Harvest

"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving."

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

We concluded November with a **Giving with Gratitude Week**, when kids and their families were able to donate food and other items to the 29th Annual Community Harvest, which will benefit clients of the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Together we collected and donated **385 pounds** of food and other items.



It was a great chance to teach our students not only the importance of giving thanks for what they get, but also the importance of giving.



Notes from Ms. Alena

(Head of School)

I believe that November is a month that not only begins the holiday season, but also brings the spirit of giving and sharing. Following the Montessori approach, we at Montessori Pathways would like to teach our students the importance of sharing, giving, and helping, which will let them continue to be proud citizens of a country that is ready to help people around the world in any difficult situation.

Kids are Helping Kids

Montessori Pathways' students began this season of giving with the **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF** event. While collecting candy for themselves during Halloween night, many of our kindergarten and elementary students were also collecting money for UNICEF, the foundation that helps kids around the world.

The kids worked hard sorting coins and counting them. This work led students to a lot of coin observation and discussion of the historical figures whose portraits are displayed on the coins.

As soon as all the money is calculated, we will go to the CL Bank to use the coin machine to finalize the collected amount and send a check to UNICEF. The kids are hoping that the amount would be enough for something really good for other kids. Look out for future updates.





◆ Thank you, parents, for all of your help, support, and participation in the kids' learning process, and for giving your kids a chance to feel the Thanksgiving spirit!

◆ Thank you to our Elementary students for helping to load the donated items for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry!

◆ Thank you, Melissa Thomforde, Maddy's mom, and Kristine Skosz, Ryan, Madison, and Kayleigh's mom, for helping us deliver all donated items for the Community Harvest to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.

A Proud Moment for Our Alumni



We are so proud to know that **Hazel Greenlee**, who graduated last year from our Kindergarten, was nominated as Panther of the Month for exhibiting the R.O.A.R. values. R - Respect, O - Ownership, A - Attitude, R - Responsibility.

Congratulations, Hazel!!!! You and your family truly deserve it!!!

"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit."

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

"Will My Child Be Ready for Public Kindergarten?"

While preparing for the Fall Parent/Teacher conferences, we came across this question multiple times in the parent/teacher questionnaires. I would like to touch on this subject.

In the Primary Montessori curriculum, the first two years of the 3-year learning cycle are building the foundation for the third, Montessori Kindergarten year. So it is very important to understand the difference between Kindergarten in a traditional vs. a Montessori school.

In traditional education, kindergarten is the beginning of the elementary level, where children begin with the basics (sounds, numbers, colors, shapes, etc), since it is designed to accommodate those who have not attended preschool. These same concepts are covered at the beginning of the Montessori Primary Class (at 3-4 years of age).

The Montessori Kindergarten, however, is the final stage of the 3-year cycle of the Early Childhood Education.

Please remember that Montessori (Primary and Elementary) functions in 3-year cycles, the benefits and knowledge of which cannot be fully realized by removing the child mid-cycle.

The third year is crucial in culminating and solidifying the work of the previous years. During the Montessori kindergarten year, the child internalizes these early concrete experiences, building a strong educational foundation.

If you've already allowed your children to enter the Montessori environment, give them the chance to complete the cycle of learning that they've begun.



COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS
in December/January

- ◆ **December (TBA)— Helping the Community: Christmas Carols at Nursing Home (Elementary students)**
- ◆ **December 20 (Friday) at 5:00pm— “December Nights, December Lights” - Montessori Pathways’ Winter Performance at First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake.**

* *Please RSVP by December 2nd.*

* *If your child is an All Day student, please pick up your child from school no later than 4:30pm that day.*

- ◆ **December 23, 2019 – January 3, 2020 – Winter Break**

- ◆ Montessori Pathways offers **WINTER WONDER CAMP** for your children during winter break.

*If you would like to sign up your child(ren) for **Winter Camp**, please return the registration forms, along with the payment, no later than **Friday, December 6th***

Note: The camp will operate if there are no less than 7 students daily. Otherwise, camp will be cancelled. The decision will be made by December 6th based on the number of applications.

If you are planning to enroll your child in Winter Camp, please return this form with payment on time.

- ◆ **January 6 (M) – School Resumes**

- ◆ **January 16 (Th) at 12:30pm - Kindergarten and Elementary Students Trip to Legoland for the “Pulleys” workshop**

- ◆ **January 20 (M) - No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)**

- ◆ **January 22 (W) – 6:00pm - Montessori Fun / Educational Night for Pre-K and K Students and Parents:**

- * **“Thinking about the Future. The benefits of Montessori Kindergarten and Elementary education” – workshop for Pre-K and K parents**

- * **Games / Pizza Night – for Pre-K and K Students.**

- ◆ **January 15 – 31 – Returning Families Preferred Re- Enrollment Period**



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

November has been a busy month of going out into the community. We have been travelers this month both in the class and out of the class.

First, we saw two performances at the beginning of the month. We saw "Pete the Cat" at the Raue Theater. The kids enjoy the walk and learn how to use crosswalks, show appreciation to kind drivers and take in the sights of the stores. They ALWAYS ask to stop at Marvin's Toy Store! Pete was good and then we read some Pete Books.

Next up was "Aladdin". It was interesting to see what the kids remembered from the story that I read to them back in September. At the beginning of every school year, I read folk tales, old as well as new to them. Arabian Nights is one of the set of stories I share with them. I usually read Sinbad as he was a favorite of mine as a kid. However, this year, I read Aladdin knowing that we would be seeing the theater performance soon. The kids loved the story and compared it to the movie version. Then we had another version to see and compare to the story book. When I played the music from the Broadway performance after the show, the kids immediately began to act out the parts from the show. This is always a favorite of mine...read the book, see the show.

Thankfully the weather was pleasant this past week, so we were able to go with the kindergarten to the CL Food Pantry. Like last year, we toured the food pantry and dropped off food that we had brought. They love trying to find where their food item will go in the grocery store. We had a lot of Ramen noodle packets! Not many kids knew what Ramen was so that was an education. Also, it was an endcap at the pantry, so they were shocked to see so many packets of them. We might have to have Ramen soon for lunch.



Finally, we made our last library trip before winter sets in. The goal this time was to find reading level biographies for the kids. The librarians were helpful locating the aisle where all of the biographies were located and then the kids checked the books to find a person to read about and do a project. They also got to choose 2 personal books to bring back.

I really enjoy being with the kids on this walk. We observe so much. Since we were studying roots this month, we found a tree that had beautiful exposed roots that demonstrated one of the charts that I shared with the kids. We touched them and tried to pull them. Roots are just SO strong! Then we saw a

clock that had Roman Numerals on it. We also have been working on time, so I showed them that clock. Some of the older kids knew Roman Numerals and so helped us identify the numbers. We also saw the village putting up lights and got our picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We also learn traffic safety and how to walk down the street.



Academically, we have been working on math computation, word usage, worms, planets, constellations, North America, time, roots and staying on topic with "Tracker".

Ms. Amy came in to teach us about American Sign Language interpretation. The kids learned a lot and enjoyed her video. I picked up some sign books to encourage continuous learning.

Mr. Rafael, Ana's dad, taught us about his home country Puerto Rico right before Thanksgiving. He gave a brilliant power point presentation on the history, geography, culture and fauna of the country. He also brought in plantain chips to try as well as cheese with guava paste. The kids enjoyed the food and learning about a different culture. My favorite part was when he spoke in Spanish to Ana about how to set up the snack for us.

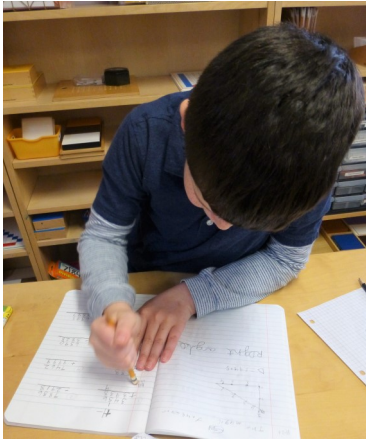


Our November will close with our feast of sharing. Thanks to all of the families who contributed. What a great month we have had!



NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

Elementary Class



NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. OnDreia

November has been a wonderful month. Our students loved talking about family traditions. The First Thanksgiving and all of the things for which they are thankful for. The highlight for us was reading *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown and making our own stone soup to eat together. The soup did have real stones in it and while serving the soup the kids kept asking "where are the stones". Then one child kept saying "it's was a trick, it's a trick". The peasants in the story would not share their food, so the soldiers tricked them into adding food to the stone soup, and those who tried the stone soup loved it.



To go along with our Thanksgiving theme, we have also discussed how hard it was for the Pilgrims that first year in American and how they had to make everything, because they didn't have stores or money to go buy anything. We also talked about how fortunate we are to have all the wonderful things we have. We talked about transportation, their homes, and how they grew all of the own crops and stored things for the long hard winters. The children really enjoy learning about different cultures. I shared some pictures that I had taken a couple of years ago on a trip to Belize. They couldn't believe that people lived in some of the homes on stilts about the swap or how small the homes are and how they are built. It truly is eye opening to see other cultures.



Our students are enjoying building numbers, playing the beginning "Bank Game". They begin by laying out the numbers 1-10, then the corresponding quantities, one child chooses how many 1's to take (9), how many 10's (5) how many 100's (3) how many thousands (2). The child takes the numerals 2359 to the bank and the "banker" gives the customer the correct amount of Golden bead materials. The child returns the numerals 2359 and its quantity to another rug. What number did we build? How many ones, tens, hundreds, thousands made 2359. Then they record it and build a new number.

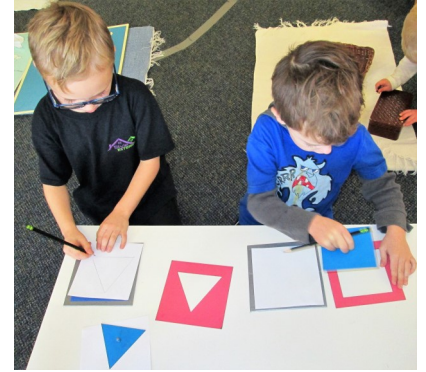
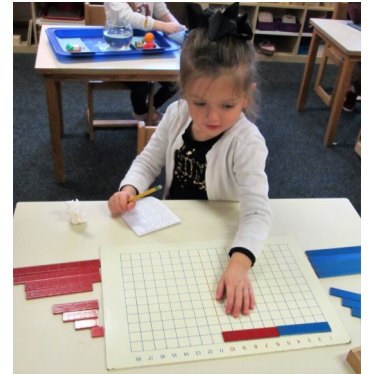
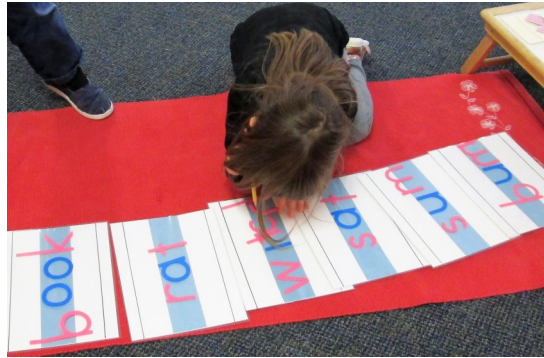


Friendships have really blossomed this month and everyone gets along so beautiful. They are working in small groups, making maps, and word building. (just being great friends helping each other when ever needed).

We had another busy, but great and exciting month. We hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving weekend.

NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



November has been a very busy month. We began our month with conferences. A big thank you to everyone for making the time to meet with us. It was wonderful to speak with all of you. Please remember you can email with any questions or concerns. We were glad to learn there were not many parental concerns to address.

In the classroom, the children have been busy in all areas. Keep in mind most of the materials do not have a final product to bring home. Many of the children are in a stage where they repeat a concrete experience to master the material before moving on to another. Other children are making the same product over and over to master them. These are called Sensitive Periods, a time when a child easily absorbs information in a specific way. The Sensitive Periods are order, movement, small objects, grace and courtesy, refinement of the senses, writing, reading, language, spatial relationships, music, and mathematical patterns.

In Practical Life, the children have been poking turkeys, tweezing corn and sorting beautiful leaves with tweezers and the all-time favorite is "Feed the Turkey" with tweezers and pom poms. Squash scrubbing is always in demand and one of our younger friends spent nearly an hour scrubbing the squash. This activity promotes concentration and attention to detail as well as organizational skills providing a foundation for the more complex activities in our room.



In the Art area, the children have been making fingerprint turkeys (they are adorable), and gluing feathers on turkeys and the keepsake leaf turkey ornaments are a hit as well. Keep your eyes out for them.

Language provides the children for the opportunity to match 3-part cards, one master card with a picture and the word, one card with the picture only and lastly a card with only the corresponding word. The children are currently enthralled with parts of the turkey and scarecrow. Many children just take these out and learn the names of the various parts and others are in a Sensitive Period to write the names of the parts and color the matching picture.

In the math area, the children are enjoying pumpkin counting and matching the quantity to the symbol. The older kids are exploring the 45- Lay Out or Place Value work, Roll Work (making the next number by adding one), Geometry (building shapes).



Science and Geography hold the favorite super-hot topic this month is the Earth and making a globe. Several children have started the long 4- or 5-day process of making a globe and those who are not making one are in awe and are very interested in the continents on our planet Earth.



The Solar system is also of great interest. One child made a beautiful poster depicting the solar system and now others are very interested as well. The children took the idea of the papier-mâché globes and are interested in making papier-mâché for each planet in our Solar System to hang from the ceiling as well.



I would like to welcome our new student Matte. He is beginning to feel comfortable in class due to the wonderful support of all the children in the South room. They have been going out of their way to make him feel safe and at home. Our previously youngest student had a great time showing him a few works and feels like a really "big" helper now!

Thank you to all the parents for participation in "Giving with Gratitude" week. The children enjoyed sharing stories of shopping to help the others at the food pantry. It made an impact on each of the participants. Thank You so much. We also talked about what we are each grateful for Mothers, Fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins, family, homes and food. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

South Room



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM

Ms. OnDreia, Ms. Carole



The past few weeks the children have been learning about The First Thanksgiving. The children have learned the Pilgrims and Native Americans made everything they needed out of the supplies of the land. They were quite surprised to find that there were no toy stores, grocery stores or shopping centers during this time. I think what amazed the children the most was that there was not electricity for refrigerators, televisions or video games.

In addition to the book "The First Thanksgiving", we told the story using a felt board and singing song about the first trip over on the Mayflower and what it was like when they first arrived to America, we also have been discussing gratitude and helping others. We shared with each other what we are most thankful for each day. The children realized after hearing the story of The First Thanksgiving that we all have a lot to be thankful for. Ask your child about the Pilgrims trip over on the ship.

The children have also learned that the Pilgrims and Native Americans used picture writing and sign language to communicate. Below is a list of some of the words we have been practicing. See if your children can remember any of them.

Signing

man	you	go	yes	eat
woman	people	see	no	deer
me	friend	we	good	all

Picture Writing

man	good	man	strength	sickness
women	morning	woman	grass	fish
thank you	friends	brother	medicine	everybody
eat	bad	sister	cloud	lightning



One of the new works put out this month has been baking, which the children love to do. We have a list going so that everyone will have a chance to bake. It is a great work because it builds first and for most patience, since only one person at a time can work on this task and only about three children per day. It is very hard for some of them to wait. But it also increases control of movement, eye/hand coordination, attention span, concentration and fine motor skills.

Most important it is the end product, when they get to take home, they're baking to show mom and dad with pride. There is nothing more rewarding for a teacher like seeing the pride on a child's face when they have completed a task on their own.



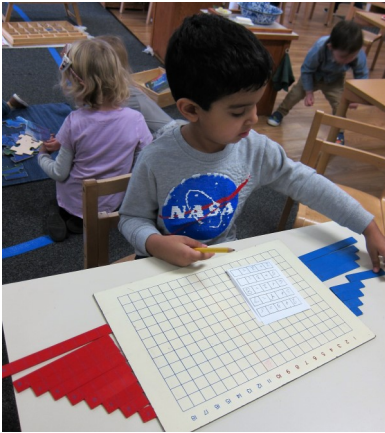
Other activities have been Parts of a Turkey, painted Indian corn which we painted with a Q-tip, and creating their own turkeys, which you most likely have seen when your child brought these projects home. They have also created a Thank You Card for each of you, a watercolor piece of art, a solid paint to liquid and painting with a gentle touch of the brush. They all put a lot of thought into what they are most thankful about you for.



I do have one story to tell you about one of our children. While he was painting on the art easel, he began tell me a story which went like this, "do you love my painting? It's rain coming down, it's wind, it's clouds and then he looked at me and his eyes were filled with excitement and he said it's a STORM". So, my point with this story is to tell you that even the smallest things like painting can be a learning moment for your children. Just take the time to listen to them, because they are always more than eager to share with you and everything in life is so exciting for them at this age. What a great way to express themselves, as well as giving them a sense of pride.

NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

East Room



NEWS FROM THE LATE AFTERNOON



Ms. Donna

As usually, our little friends have participated in so many various activities in November. The most favorite are:

Songs:

- Gobble, Gobble, Says the Turkey
- Gray Squirrel
- Turkey Trot (tune Hokey Pokey)
- The First Thanksgiving (tune Muffin Man)
- I'm a Little Turkey (tune I'm a little tea pot) -

*I'm a little turkey.
My name is Ted.
Here are my feathers,
Here is my head.
"Gobble, gobble, gobble,"
Is what I say.
Run, run, run because
It's Thanksgiving Day!*

Game: "The Turkey Trot". The leader calls out numbers from 1-9. They can be called in any order. Each number has a move assigned to it. 1 - step to your left, 2 - step to your right, 3 - flap your wings, 4 - jump up, 5 - spin around, 6 - touch the ground, 7 - gobble out loud, 8 - swish your tail, and 9 - take a bow.

Poem: "Thanksgiving Turkey"

Art:

- Gray Squirrel
- Owl
- Marble painted turkey
- Toilet paper turkey
- Over lapping turkeys
- Tracing paper
- Native American picture writing

Language: Fall Words, What makes you happy (Thoughts were put on a chart), Look at the Turkey!

Science: Five Senses (sorting pictures that go under these headings, I can hear, I can smell, I can taste, I can feel and I can see)

New Work: Using a straw pick up a colored feather and drop it on the same colored paper

Books:

- "Animal Homes" by Frederick Warne
- "The Very First Thanksgiving Day" by Rhonda Gowler Greene
- "Ten Fat Turkeys" by Tony Johnston
- "My First Thanksgiving" by Tomie dePaola
- "The Story of Thanksgiving" by Nancy J. Skarneas



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS

