

# Montessori Pathways' News



"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better."

-Magda Gerber

## Flower Lab Workshop at Botanic Garden

Another great opportunity for nature study that our Kindergarten and Elementary students had is their participation in the Flower Lab Workshop at the Chicago Botanic Garden. It was an amazing hands-on experience in learning the parts and life cycle of flowers on a new level.

It was interesting to observe that after 30 min of attentive exploration, our friends' bodies were "screaming" for movements. Our instructor's energetic presentation was not enough to keep the kids concentrated any further. However, after several trips to and from tables with microscopes, our students were absolutely recharged and ready to continue their observations.

It was yet another confirmation of Maria Montessori's statement that movement is a very important part of a successful learning process for kids of any age.



## Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)

October is one of the busiest months. So many things should be done and prepared. It was so easy to be overwhelmed and frustrated. But our teaching team continued to work hard and brought a lot of fun and memorable moments to the education process. Thank you, Pathways' Teachers, for your effort and enthusiasm!!!

Nevertheless, we would like to say thank you to all of our parents, who are helping and supporting us with making this process even more interesting and organized.

Your initiative and cooperation with Halloween Party preparation, participation in parent evenings, bringing different presentations and activities to the class are always appreciated by the teachers and kids.



## Monster Madness Magic Show

As usual, Tim Glander's Magic Show was full of fun, laughter, excitement, and discovery. Our kids were not only able to enjoy some tricks, but also learned safety tips for trick-or-treating.

One of our students decided to challenge the magician by asking that the flowers she brought from home disappear. And guess what? The flowers were indeed gone. The child found them later in her school bag. What a trick!!!



**“It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”**

**~ Mother Theresa**

## Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Montessori education strives to create an awareness, respect and service for not only our immediate community, but the worldwide community as well.

The idea of peace education begins with young children learning to help others as a part of everyday life. As part of our commitment to providing the children an opportunity to participate in the service of others, Montessori Pathways Kindergarten and Elementary students are excited to participate in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

It's a special opportunity for children in the U.S. to express themselves while helping others in need.



## EQUAL EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER

Dear Pathways Families,

**Thank you** for participating in the Equal Exchange fundraiser! Generous contributions from 31 Pathways families helped us raise **\$1,790.80** this time and \$1,080.00 from Hardy Mums Sale fundraiser with a total of **\$2,870.80**, which will be used for the playground restoration in spring.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping us reach our fundraising goals! With your purchase, you have also helped support the authentic Fair Trade movement and the small-scale farmers who produced your products.

We hope you let your kids be involved in choosing the items/gifts, and discuss your decision to help with them. It is a very important lesson for them and a good chance to be proud of their parents.

We will distribute all ordered items to you as soon as they are delivered to our school.

## Kids are Helping Kids at Pathways



## Giving with Gratitude Week

**(November 11— November 15)**

As Thanksgiving approaches, we would like to teach our students not only the importance of giving thanks, but also the importance of giving. Therefore, every year, we participate in the **Annual Community Harvest**, which will benefit clients of the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.

We are asking that each family provide their child with a chance to go to the store with their parents to select and purchase 5-10 items to bring as a donation to school any day from Monday, November 11 through Thursday, November 14.

**\*\*The donated items will be delivered to Crystal Lake Food Pantry on Friday November 15 at 10:00am. \*\***

**~Please let us know if you could help with delivery.~**



LET OUR  
LIVES BE FULL  
OF BOTH  
thanks  
&  
giving





- ◆ **November 1 (Friday) - By appt. - East Room Parent / Teacher Conference Day**
  - ⇒ No School for Morning and School Day East room students.
  - ⇒ Child care is provided for 7:45-4:15 / All Day (6:45am-6:00pm) East room students
- ◆ **November 4 (Monday) - By appt. - South Room Parent / Teacher Conference Day**
  - ⇒ No School for Morning and School Day South room students.
  - ⇒ Child care is provided for 7:45-4:15 / All Day (6:45am-6:00pm) South room students
- ◆ **November 4 (Monday) - at 12:00pm – Elementary Students Field Trip to Raue Center for the Arts for “Pete the Cat” performance**
- ◆ **November 6 (Wednesday) at 6:00—7:00pm – Montessori Fun / Educational Family Night:**
  - ⇒ “Montessori at Home or How Independence Leads to Achievements”- workshop for parents
  - ⇒ Movie / Popcorn Night – Fun Night for Kids.
- ◆ **November 8 (Friday) - at 9:45am – School-wide Field Trip to “Disney’s Aladdin, Jr.” Performance at Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.**
- ◆ **November 11 - November 15 – Giving with Gratitude Week** (Crystal Lake Community Harvest Food Drive)
 

Montessori Pathways students will be collecting food items that will be donated to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to help families in need.
- ◆ **November 22 (Friday) - at 9:00-10:30am – Elementary Students Trip to Crystal Lake Library**
- ◆ **November 28- 29 (Th- F) – No School (Thanksgiving break)**



- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **December 23—January 3— No School (Winter Break); Winter Camp is available (if no less than 7 students daily)**

## NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



### Ms. Bridget

October has been a month of trying new things. The students have tried pomegranate, had a Japanese tea ceremony and one even tried on a sari!

**Asia was the continent of study this month.** The first country we learned about was Japan. Akemi Sensei came in to talk about her experience living in Japan. She taught the kids new words- *hello*, *good-bye* and *thank you* in Japanese. She showed them photos of the bullet train, kids in school as well as traditional dress is in Japan. She served them a Japanese tea which is a very ritualistic ceremony. Green tea is served with small rice cakes with bean paste. I think it has encouraged Pokémon interest in the boys!!



Next we learned about India from Ms. Mala. She showed a power point presentation on India. There are so many people in India! We saw pictures of food, clothing and some children in school. We learned about all the different languages in India. Though Hindi is the main language, each state has its own language. Because it was governed by the British for many years, there are many English speakers as well as English cultures and religions brought into India. Finally, she brought in the material for a sari. Annabelle was brave enough to be the model for Ms Mala to demonstrate how to put a sari on. It was beautiful but very hard to walk in.



We would like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Melody (Ashley and Lexi's mom) who brought Henna design project to our students. It is also a part of Indian culture and was a lot of fun for our kids.



Finally, we heard about Iran from Ms Maryam. She brought in great pictures of the map of Iran, the dress of people and students of Iran, and foods of Iran. She spoke in Farsi to us, which is the language of Iran. Persian people used to be Zoroastrians but now are mainly Muslim. She then shared some sweets of Iran as well as taught the kids how to cut a pomegranate and they got to eat it!



It has been so fun watching the kids get excited about the new cultures. The more the students know about people all over the world, the smaller their world becomes. Montessori believed that her students should be world citizens. This is one way that it can be achieved.

Also in October, we visited The Chicago Botanical Garden. The kids dissected a flower, reviewed the parts of the flower and recalled the purpose for a flower. They looked at the parts also under a microscope. Finally, they planted a seed in a pot to take home with them.



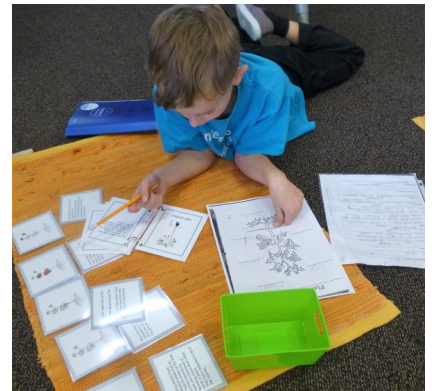
We have been busy working on our Science Demonstrations. The students chose their demo from many books that I brought in. We then researched each science concept at the Crystal Lake Library. Finally, they practiced presenting their steps without doing the demo and then presented the steps while doing the demo to our whole class. I was impressed with how much they knew about the why of how their demonstration happens. They are so excited to present to parents on Wednesday night!

Finally, the kids have been planning and preparing for the Halloween party. The committees get together to choose what they want at the party. There is then a sign-up on the door and then they will host our party on Halloween. We have parents who will do some crafts with the kids and then we will enjoy the festivities.

It has been a fun and active month.

# OCTOBER PHOTO GALLERY

## Elementary Class



## NEWS FROM THE ART CLASS (KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY)

Ms. Jennifer



The trees are beautiful this October! These Fall colors inspired our newest mixed-media collage project, "Hoo Loves Fall?"



There were several steps to this project & a lot of little pieces to keep track of & apply. Students helped each other through every step & really advocated for themselves, referring to the model & each other's work to make sure they had every detail accounted for. I'm so proud of my Montessori friends! Nice job!



We started out by gluing tissue paper squares to a book page in a diamond pattern, overlapping them as we went, & allowing some of the text to show through. Once those were dry, the students used a new crank-style die-cut machine to cut out a stout, little owl to be the feature of our project.



This month, your children have also enjoyed assembling paper jack-o'-lanterns & skeletons, as well as using Halloween cookie cutters with clay in between larger, more involved projects.



Next, the students built up the background for the piece with paper foliage, felt, & pom-poms and placed their owl upon a nest of grass. Finally, each student added the words "Hoo Loves Fall?" to the top, & the words "I DO!" to a cheerful sign tucked into the owl's wing.



And, I'm looking forward to experimenting with some leaf printing in the coming weeks.

Abby & I wish you all a very Happy Fall!

I am SO happy with how these turned out! These little owls are just bursting with personality...the way the students colored the body with tissue paper, the way they positioned the gaze of the eyes, & even in the feather sticking up from the top of their heads.



## NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. OnDreia

First, I would like to tell you how much Kathy and I enjoy your children in our Pre-K and Kindergarten class. They all have great sense of humor. They love telling jokes at this age and we love hearing them. We truly enjoy our group.



This month we have been doing sensorial extensions. Everything from color gradation the Third Color Box, tracing and painting the Triangle Boxes.



In October we have introduced reading chapter book, our 1st book has been "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White. We have been reading a chapter a day. The children enjoy trying to guess what's going to happen next. Each day we ask the children to recap what had happen previously. Reading aloud is the foundation of literacy skills. This exposes children to vocabulary and language patterns that are not part of everyday speech. The benefit of reading out loud includes group discussions, listening skills, comprehension and much more.

We have also revisited the binomial and trinomial cubes, naming the Geometric Solids (cubes, sphere, ovoid etc.) and working with many variations of the Geometric Cabinets and many drawers.

We have seen a lot of growth this month. In addition, we have on going skills that we work on daily, for example, sounds, word building and various mathematical activities. Which we will continue to develop throu out the year

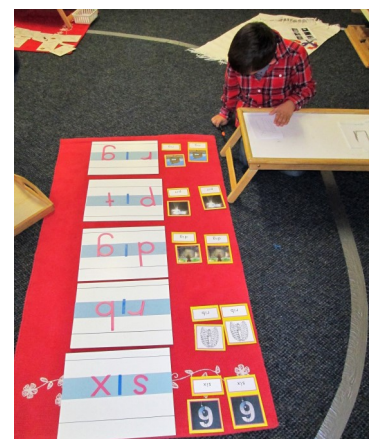


We have also made a couple of crafts to go along with story. We made Charlotte's Web with a spider and Wilber the Pig. When you see these project come home ask a few questions. To further their comprehension. One of our children today first spied a spider on the playground and "asked when is she going to lay her eggs"? We replied we don't know if it's a boy or a girl



# OCTOBER PHOTO GALLERY

## Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group





## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



Wow what a busy month October has been! The weather has changed and is really beginning to feel quite chilly. The children have observed the changes in the colors of the trees and love collecting the leaves for rubbing. In the mornings we now have a change of routine. The children arrive and then take care of all of their outside gear, coats, hats, mittens, and soon scarves and exchange their boots for inside shoes. Children should be caring for all aspects of dressing by themselves. Help your child to dress by letting them do it themselves with minimal assistance. They then enter the classroom and go directly to work. This transition has gone smoothly and gives each child more work time each day.

We have explored seasonal Halloween and fall themes in each area of the classroom.

**Practical Life:** scrubbing a pumpkin, poking a Pumpkin to make a Jack O Lantern and hammering golf tees into a pumpkin. We also washed and roasted the seeds for a snack. Table decorating with placemats, gourds, colorful leaves and a vase of flowers sets our fall mood each morning.

**Art:** Halloween poking of ghosts, pumpkins, and bats, rubbing spider webs and filling them with spiders, pumpkin stamping and coloring, making "monsters" with craft sticks, and decorating our doors with the Halloween Tree and Witch. The children painted these themselves!



**Sensorial:** Leaf rubbings and naming the leaf shapes are all the rage.

**Math:** Pumpkin counting 1-5, acorn counting 1-10, and spider counting. We estimated how many seeds are in a pumpkin. No one came close!



**Language:** Writing Halloween words with both the moveable alphabet and on paper. *Boo* is our favorite word but several children worked on *witch*, *bat*, *pumpkin* and *Halloween!* We read the "Pumpkin Circle Life in a Garden". It has beautiful pictures and discusses the life cycle of a pumpkin. We also read a few other silly Halloween books!

**Science:** We explored parts of a pumpkin, and the life cycle of a pumpkin and used our collected leaves to match to the shapes in our botany cabinet.

**Geography:** Columbus Day led to exploration of the globe observing where Spain and North America are. The children thought it was funny that Columbus sailed the opposite direction when Asia is so close to Europe and Spain on the globe. Older children made a map with the 3 ships and the continents.



Overall, we have been focusing on organization of our actual workspaces, be it a rug, table or table mat. The children struggle with gathering all of the materials needed for a task staying organized throughout the work cycle and cleaning up. We give them a verbal list of things to gather. It is interesting to watch who can remember the list and whether they gather them one at a time or all together. Then keeping the work organized from start to finish.

We have also presented how to cut on a line and use glue. Children need to be reminded to place the glue on the item to be glued rather than all over the page. The older children can use a glue bottle, squeezing little dots next to the edge of the paper to be glued. This is no small task as it is tricky to release a small dot with precision.

Our Halloween Party was a big success! Thanks to the outpouring of volunteers! A BIG Thank you to all of you who donated time and supplies to create our special day. We couldn't have done it without you! KUDOS, great job South room Parents!

See you all at conference time!

# OCTOBER PHOTO GALLERY

## South Room



## NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. OnDreia, Ms. Carole

Ms. Carol and I would like to let you know how much we are enjoying working with your children every day. They are amazing children and all of you should be so proud of each and every one of them.

October is flying by and Fall is definitely in the air both inside and outside our classroom. We have enjoyed experiencing the changing of the season with your children. In the classroom we are trying to keep to the Fall theme in most of our works. We have studied Life Cycle of a Pumpkin, Parts of a Pumpkin, Parts of a Scarecrow, Autumn Sequencing, graduation of Frankenstein (smallest to biggest).



In the math area we have been counting pumpkins and leaves and stamping to go along with that.



We have also been busy creating all kinds of fun crafts this season, like leaf rubbing, making fall trees with tissue paper, making pumpkins with paper plates and tissue paper, parts of a pumpkin from the inside out and Candy Corn, and making their own 5 little pumpkins, ask them to sing that song to you!



During circle time our children have enjoyed learning new songs including "Five Little Pumpkins", "I'm a Little Scarecrow", "When Susie Was a Baby", just to name a few. Some of our favorite books that we have read have been.

In Practical Life area we have added gourd washing, tweezing leaves, window washing, bracelet making and corn tweezing.



Some of our favorite books that we have read have been "The Scarecrow" by Beth Ferry, "Little Owl's Day" by Divya Srinivansan, "The Busy Little Squirrel" by Nancy Tafuri, "Franklin's Halloween" by Paulett Bpurgeois, "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Bat", "Pumpkins, Pumpkins Everywhere" by Smriti Prasadam Hall, "Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane" by Victoria Sherrow. We do love our stories in our classroom, and I want to thank all of you that order books from Scholastic book club and we received a few free books for our classroom. Which we have enjoyed reading.

I would also like to thank all parents that have volunteered to help with our Halloween Party. Please remember if you didn't have a chance this time, we will have other opportunities.



As cold and flu season is coming upon us, we are trying to encourage the children to use their elbows or a tissue to sneeze or cough into and use good hand-washing skills. Teach your child to wash their hands often, using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is ideal. If your child is ill, please keep them home for a faster recovery.

# OCTOBER PHOTO GALLERY

## East Room



## NEWS FROM THE LATE AFTERNOON



Ms. Donna

Our late afternoons are very busy. These are some activities that our kids had a lot of fun with:

### Games:

Musical Chairs

Farmer In The Dell using Halloween characters

Cover the Pumpkin (roll the dice and then cover the number on the pumpkin with small Halloween erasers)

Mancala

### Songs:

Columbus Sailed with Three Ships

Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on A Gate

### Art:

Egg carton painted bats

Egg carton witch

Hanging pumpkins

Color the shapes on the pumpkins following the color shape key

**New Works:** Mr. Potato Head; Stacking Cups

**Outside:** Balance Beam, Hockey, Soccer, T-Ball, Basketball, Jump the wiggling Rope, Musical Instruments



# MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS

