



Children's House

Montessori School

Newsletter

January 2021

A Message from the Head of School

Dear Children's House Community,

Welcome to 2021! We are looking forward to new and wonderful things ahead. I would like to welcome our new students who started with us this month. We are so happy to have you with us!

This week, the re-registration for next year will begin. You will receive information by email, so keep an eye out for that. If you have friends, or meet people looking for a school, please send them our way. We are planning to open back up to full classes of up to 25 (12 in the Toddler room) next year, unless it is still unsafe to do so. For the time being, we'll continue to offer up through sixth grade. However, we will have an option for seventh grade as well. We'll be offering an FLVS/Montessori hybrid. Seventh graders will do their Math and Language Arts through FLVS, and their Social Studies and Science with us. They will also take Spanish, Yoga, Music, Art and Technology. This will be a small group of students, and they will join the Upper Elementary class for things like lunch and play time.

The last few weeks we've had the Parent/Teacher Conferences as well as Transition Meetings for those students moving from one environment to another. We had all of these meetings using Zoom. Each meeting went well and I'd like to thank all who attended. Next month, we'll have the Open House Lesson Night. Normally, this is a time when parents come in to observe children as they go through different lessons in the classroom. We will be doing this in a different way. The teachers in Primary, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary will be recording each child doing a lesson, and that will get emailed to the child's parents. The emails will go out on February 24.

The garden staff will be holding a plant sale in April. A selection of plants will be available for purchase before and after school. Look for more details to come! The proceeds will be used to purchase garden supplies and plants.

The Dash for the Future is scheduled for Friday, March 19. This will be another event that we'll need to be creative about this year. We are thinking of ways that we can make it work, and if we are able to come up with a solution, I'll let everyone know what the plan is.

Take good care,
Ms. Kelly



*Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
Only love can do that.
~Martin Luther King Jr.*



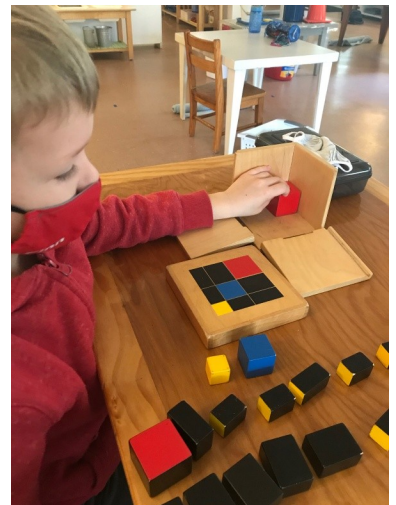
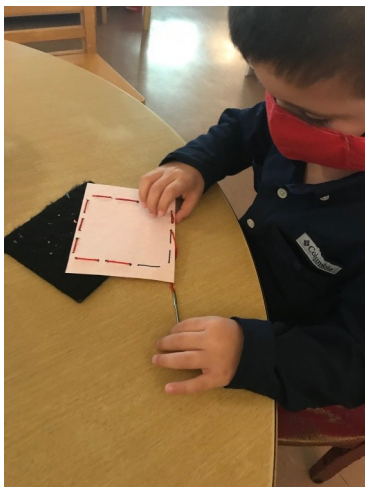
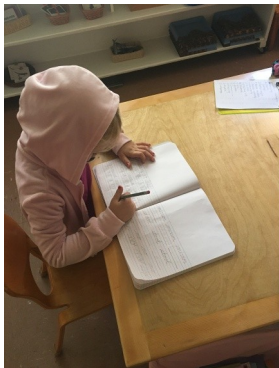
Upcoming dates of note

- Feb 15 President's Day, **No School**
- Feb 19: Enrollment Agreements Due for Re-Registration
- Feb 22: Open Enrollment for new students begins
- Feb 24: Open House Lessons
- Mar 22-26: Spring Recess, **No School**

Primary with Ms. Amy and Ms. Cory



This month children in the primary classrooms have been introduced to the concept of time and how we measure time in our daily lives. We learned about clocks and calendars, days of the week, months of the year, seasons of the year, and hours, minutes and seconds. Four new children joined the classrooms - Amelie, Krishton, Griff and Finn! Amelie transitioned from the toddler environment this week and has settled right in. On Fridays we enjoy our lunch outside in the primary garden in the beautiful weather.



Primary Garden

The Primary students were busy caring for the plants in our garden. Though many are dormant during the winter or damaged from the cold, there are still plants that require watering and weeding. The cold damaged some leaves on our banana trees and the students helped with trimming the damaged leaves. The dead ginger plant leaves from along our patio fence were removed by the students and put into our compost.

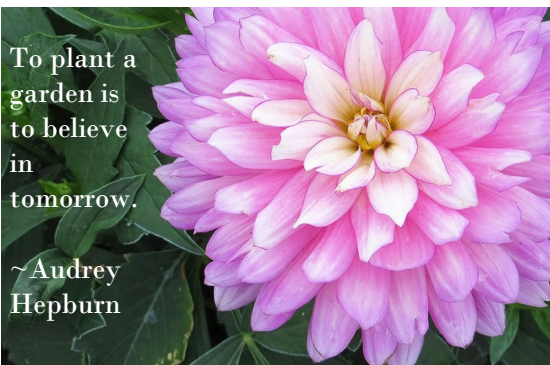
In preparation for our spring plant sale, students made cutting from a variety of plants.

Students enjoyed caring for the rabbit and the chickens. Feeding the animals is a favorite garden activity. The chickens love freshly harvested mustard greens. As well as our domestic animals, students fed the squirrels and the birds. Both squirrels and birds love Cheerios cereal.

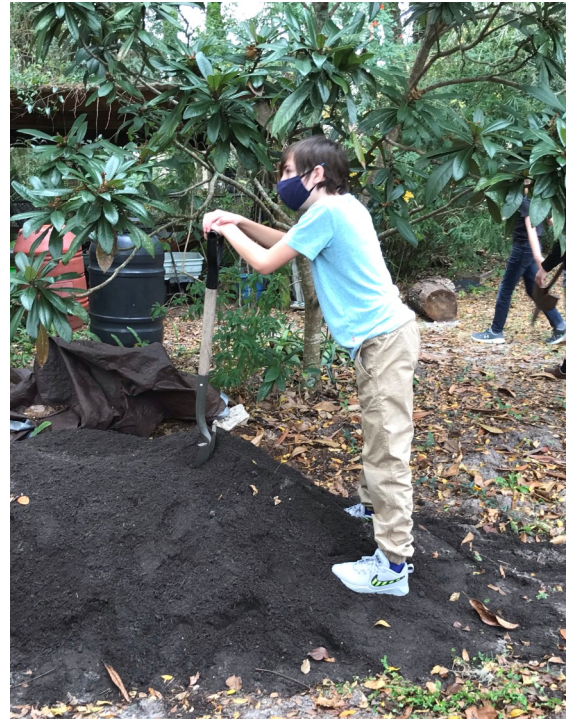
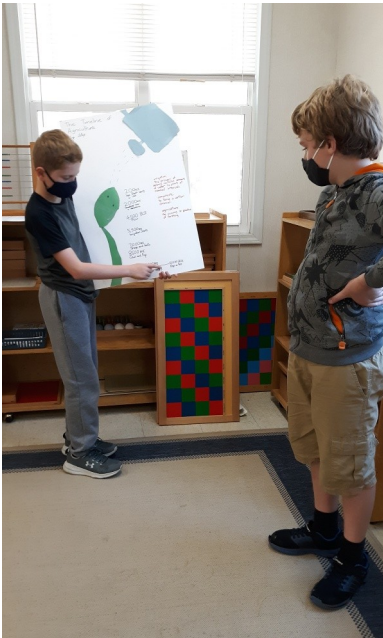


A few Monarch caterpillars were found on one of the garden milkweed plants, hopefully we will be able to observe their metamorphosis into monarch butterflies.

Funds from the Volusia County Farm Bureau Mini Grant were used to purchase a load of compost for the gardens. A big thank you to the upper elementary students that helped unload the compost from the truck. Money from the mini grant was also used to build borders for two of our primary garden beds, one of which will become a root vegetable garden. Now that the new garden borders are on the root vegetable garden, it is time to start preparing things to plant. We have some potatoes sprouting and the students planted radish seeds.



Upper Elementary with Mr. Keegan



It isn't the mountains ahead that
wear you down,
It's the pebble in your shoe.
-Muhammad Ali

The Upper Elementary classroom has been studying early hominids touching on topics such as cave art, tools, the ice age and the Bering Land bridge. The students drew primitive cave drawings. Each student also had to produce both a written report and an accompanying visual aid. In math, 6th graders are looking at decimal fractions learning to multiply or divide with them. 5th graders are learning to reduce fractions and how to produce mixed numbers. In earth science, 6th graders are studying the origins of the oceans and beginning a unit on the earth's water systems. The class is also reading the book "The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler".

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Yoga with Ms. Sunny

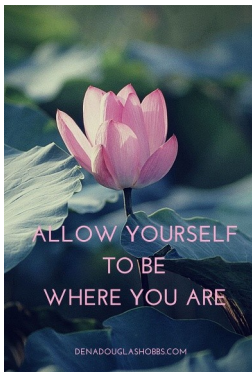
The classes in yoga are doing a great job. They participate in the yoga poses told, they learn to do new poses, and they play games with poses! Some of the kids are using different poses to make new poses. They are also aware of their movements. They learn their movements, like candle, butterfly and even handstands! Yoga is a great class!

Written by Alexander
Grade 5



You have to center yourself, to let all of your emotions go... Don't ever forget that you play with your soul as well as your body.

~ Kareen Abdoul-Jabbar



Lower Elementary with Ms. Patsy and Ms. Kalie

In this school newspaper we will be interviewing a few students here, we will also be showing you some pictures of what we do in the class.

In the picture below (A) there are children doing the money game, a work that helps with counting money. How you do the work is you take the first card and if the first card says, for example, 27cents and it also has, for example, 40 cents in coins, you would have to look for a card with 27 cents in coins.

The next picture below (B) is one of our classmates writing in their journal. In the morning or the afternoon, we write in our journals. There is a prompt everyday.

In the next picture down below (C) is the two children who are writing about the fundamental needs chart. The fundamental needs chart is a chart that tells people what the early ages need to live. The fundamental needs chart is in two parts, spiritual and material needs.

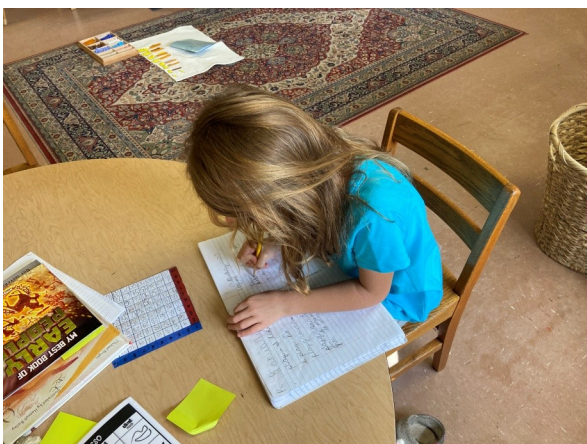
Written by Sunny, Mark and Langston
Grade 3



A

If we merge mercy with might
And might with right
Then love becomes our legacy
And change our children's birthright.

-An excerpt from a poem by
Amanda Gorman



B



C

Lower Elementary with Ms. Princess and Ms. Nikki

In Ms. Princess' class we welcomed 2021 with a lot of new and fun lessons.

We researched our first 11 United States, wrote reports, then presented them to the class.

We are learning and identifying the parts of the Human skeleton.

We were introduced to prefixes and began studies on ancient Egypt. We talked about mummies, coffins and the fertile soil along the Nile River. We mummified apples and painted coffins. We will continue our Ancient Egypt studies.

By John H.
Grade 1



I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

-Maya Angelou



Lower Elementary Garden

The Lower Elementary students continued to maintain their garden area. After the holiday break the students encountered many weeds in need of pulling and small tree branches in need of picking up. Students also helped remove the damaged banana leaves on the trees at the entrance of the school.

Garden journals were created this month by the students. After each garden session students take a few minutes to document their garden experience.

Students finished up their personal garden steppingstones. They really enjoyed decorating them and were excited to take them home.

A new potting table was designed and built for the Lower Elementary garden with funds from the mini grant. Garden gloves, weeding tools, and weeding buckets were also purchased with mini-grant funds. When spring arrives, we will be putting the potting table to good use. We are so grateful for receiving the mini grants. Thank you Volusia County Farm Bureau!

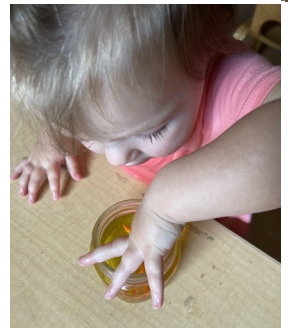
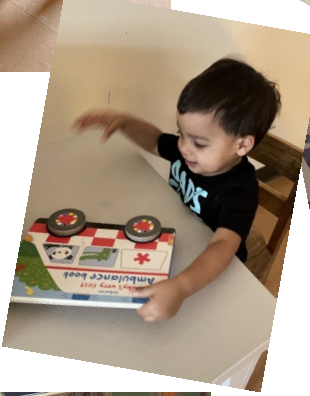


We delight in the beauty of the butterfly,
but rarely admit the changes it has gone
through to achieve that beauty.
-Maya Angelou

Let them be
little.
Because they're only
that way for a while.



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*Toddler with Ms. Tashira
and Ms. Morgan*

January has been a great month! We have met two new friends, Carmelo and Seth, and they love our classroom. This month, we were learning about insects. We had lots of fun activities including making butterflies with pain and sponges, reading books, finding insects in the garden, and digging them out of Jello. We are really excited and



Montessori Lessons, A Glimpse at Literacy



Sandpaper Letters

Montessori children learn to write before they learn to read. One of the first literacy materials the children will use are the Sandpaper Letters. These are upper and lower case letters on thin boards that are raised and feel like sandpaper. The children learn the letter sounds as they trace the letters with their fingers. This allows them to learn the sound while they learn the strokes they will need to know to write the letter.

The Moveable Alphabet

Introduced in Primary and used into Elementary, the Moveable Alphabet is a Montessori material that prepares children for writing, reading, and spelling. Children use it to create first words, then sentences, until they can eventually create short paragraphs.

As you can see, students have used these materials throughout all the years that the Montessori method has been used.



At left: This student is using the Moveable Alphabet for multiple lessons at once. She's practicing color recognition with the Color Tiles, giving the colors in Spanish, and using the Moveable Alphabet to write the Spanish word for each color.

Grammar Solids



Grammar Symbols



The Grammar Solids / Grammar Symbols

The Grammar Solids are taught in Primary. Each solid shape represents a part of speech. The children learn to match the shape to a card showing that part of speech. For example, the Black Pyramid equals Nouns, so they match it to a card with a picture of a house. When they move to Lower Elementary, they begin to diagram sentences using the Grammar Symbols. A better understanding of the function of words creates strong writers.

