



## April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

### April Showers Bring May Flowers

The flowers in front of the school are blooming and they look beautiful! The colors of spring are always so vibrant and uplifting. The students enjoy walking past the different colored tulips and the bright yellow daffodils as they head out to the playground. You may have noticed that the playground received a bit of a makeover during the break. Thanks to Syed, Sunrise's President, for helping change out a few of the stumps that needed replacing and thanks to Ms. Sue for bringing those in, too. Also, the sandbox has new sand, and a fresh layer of mulch has been added across the playground!



Earth Day typically falls over the spring break. In the Montessori classrooms here at Sunrise, Earth Day is every day! Both classrooms will spend some extra time over the next couple of weeks to honor our Earth. Topics such as recycling, composting, planting, and making art projects from recycled items are just a few themes we will cover.

### New Garden Box

Some of you may have noticed our new garden box was put in over the spring break. A huge thank you to Riley Correia's parents, Kyle and Rebecca, for giving Sunrise such a great gift. Also, thank you to Kyle and the crew from Landscape America, for filling it with compost, too! The students will be excited to put in a few different plants to enjoy caring for over the next several weeks.



### Giving Tree

I am excited to announce that Sunrise received an employer matched contribution (100%) equal to the Camyre family's previous monetary Giving Tree donation! This donation went directly towards the purchase of the playground safety mulch and the new sand for our sandbox! Thank you to both the Camyre family and the John Hancock non-profit donation program for making this possible.

*Offering quality Montessori preschool, pre-k transitional and kindergarten programs since 2005.*

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[www.MySunriseMontessori.com](http://www.MySunriseMontessori.com)

## Other Upcoming News & Events

### Storytelling Event with Diane Edgecomb



I am excited to announce that Sunrise is hosting a storytelling event on Tuesday, May 25th at 10am with Diane Edgecomb (we have a rain date scheduled for the next day if necessary). Diane is a native Bostonian, and she is excited to share her “Welcome in the Spring” presentation (in person) with our two classrooms. This event will be held outside on the courtyard (located in the beautiful center of the complex) with both classrooms sitting

outside on the green. Diane is a one woman show, and her presentation is approximately 40 minutes long. I will take lots of pictures for all of you to view after the presentation (due to the current Department of Early Education and Care restrictions, families are not permitted at the presentation - thank you for understanding). This program is funded by the student activity fee.

### Update regarding Mother's Day, Father's Day, and our traditional End of the Year Ceremony

Per the Department of Early Education and Care, we are unable to hold our traditional events for our Mother's Day, Father's Day or our End of the year Ceremony due to the fact we used to have parents, grandparents, siblings, etc...attend. But don't worry, this year has inspired programs everywhere to be flexible and creative. We will still honor the occasions in a slightly revised manner. The students are already working on special gifts for Mother's Day, and they will do a similar gift for Father's Day as well.

In lieu of the End of the Year Ceremony with all the families on the courtyard watching their children singing and receiving a certificate, the teachers and students will still perform the actual ceremony together, but we will video the event and send a link out to all the families afterwards. I know that this is not the same as watching your child in person, however the students and teachers will be able to perform this together! We know it will be special.

### Update from Department of Early Education & Care

Late last week, the DEEC sent all licensed programs a revised minimum requirement "playbook" which made a few changes to the health and safety protocols. To access this revised edition please visit

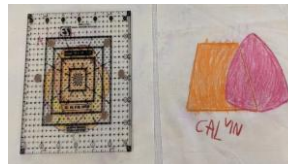
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/revised-minimum-requirements-for-health-and-safety-english/download>.

As part of these new changes, DEEC is requiring that all children, aged 5+ wear a mask while at school. However, children will now be able to mix together in groups, which means we will be able to hold recess together in the morning! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email anytime or if you would like to speak with me directly, I am available after 3pm daily.

### Sneak peek for something fun!

The classrooms are working hard to each complete an exciting group project that will be part of a mini fundraiser raffle in May for the Sunrise Community.

Classroom A is making a Wall Hanging Quilt. Each child created their own quilt square from tracing and coloring metal inset shapes, titled “Get into Shape”.



Classroom B is making an art project inspired by the Russian painter, Wassily Kandinsky, titled “Heart Art”.



These projects will be completed and ready for a May online raffle (at the end of May). Details will be provided next month!

## Weather

As the weather gets dryer and warmer, the sun will peek through the trees more during outside recess. We want to avoid sunburns on sensitive skin. Therefore, please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school. If your child has a hat or baseball-style cap that he/she likes to wear, this will also help with the sun on cloudless days. A "flappy-style" hat also will prevent the backs of necks from getting too much sun. The flying insects and bugs will also return to our playground, so consider applying bug sprays at home as well.



## Sneakers for the Playground

Due to safety reasons, children should wear sneakers on the playground now that the weather is warmer. Party shoes, sandals, etc... do not provide foot support for running and climbing while crocs allow wood chips to get under little feet.

## Keeping in touch

If you have any questions or comments, please know that you can reach us via email. As the teachers are working with the children during the day, please note that a reply to your question may come after the afternoon dismissal or later. If your message is urgent and you need to reach someone right away, please call the school at 508-541-8010.

### Head of School / Head Teacher

Andrea Rossick:

[Headofschool@MySunriseMontessori.com](mailto:Headofschool@MySunriseMontessori.com)

### Head Teacher

Kristin Masefield:

[Kristin@MySunriseMontessori.com](mailto:Kristin@MySunriseMontessori.com)

### Sunrise Parent Representatives:

Marissa May

[ParentRep@MySunriseMontessori.com](mailto:ParentRep@MySunriseMontessori.com)

## Website and Facebook

Throughout the year the school uses its website and Facebook page to inform parents of current events and to post pictures from recent events. Please take a look at [www.MySunriseMontessori.com](http://www.MySunriseMontessori.com)

Be sure to check out our "[Parent Corner](#)". This page can be found on the menu tab of our website. Click on any of the hyperlinks to view the selected form or information page as a PDF.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 29 - Parent / Teacher Conferences in the afternoon.

Friday, April 30 - Parent / Teacher Conferences all day.

Friday, May 7, 14, 21 and 28 - Pizza Day

Friday, May 21 - School Spirit Day - Wear your favorite Spring outfit!

Tuesday, May 25 - Special storyteller presentation

Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day holiday; no classes, no extended day

## Passive Fundraisers are just one of the many ways you can support Sunrise Montessori School!

### Amazon Smile

Shopping online is not only convenient, but it can provide a benefit to our school.

When you shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will make a donation to Sunrise Montessori School, Inc. on eligible purchases.



To register and begin shopping, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser or activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. Select Sunrise Montessori School as your charitable organization **PRIOR** to shopping, and .5% of all eligible purchases will go back to our school. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier each time you shop.

Please tell your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Every purchase helps.

### Box Tops for Education

For over 20 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn cash for their school, with products they already buy. You have seen and clipped those rectangular box tops.

Now you can simply scan your store receipt with the Box Tops mobile app to identify participating products and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

Go to [www.bboxtops4education.com](https://www.bboxtops4education.com) to learn more.



### Recycle your printer ink cartridges

Do you have used printer ink cartridges hanging around at home? Don't throw those out – Sunrise has a collection box for printer cartridges. Each month we turn them in at Staples for credit towards office supplies.



### Restaurant Dine-In events

Throughout the year our fundraising coordinators will set up local restaurant dine-in events. Enjoy a great meal and the company of family and friends all while supporting local businesses and Sunrise Montessori School.



### Grocery Shopping / Giving Bags

Purchase a \$2.50 reusable community bag at any Big Y, Shaw's or Stop & Shop store, follow the directions on the attached Giving Tag and direct a \$1 donation to Sunrise Montessori School (must be completed within 7 days of purchase).



## Active Fundraisers

### Scholastic Books

Each month parents will receive flyers from Scholastic Books which offer titles for children of all ages.

Points from your purchases accumulate for the school which are then redeemed for new books and materials for the classrooms.

### The Giving Tree

All of the leaves have been taken from the Giving Tree. Many thanks to everyone for their support!

### Amazon Wish List for Sunrise

Did you know, Sunrise has a Wish List on Amazon. Be sure to check out the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3mpcpa3> New items are added each month.





## Classroom A Newsletter April 2021

### Dear Parents, Indoor Fun

This past month brought a bit of crazy weather, so our classroom just went with it!



Group Mural Drawing



Yoga with Ms. Alka



### Art – Spring in Full Bloom

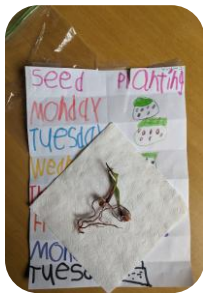
The students enjoyed creating bouquets of “tie dye” flowers. This simple project just takes a few items; coffee filters, markers, pipe cleaners, and a spray bottle filled with water. First, color the coffee filter with markers, then mist with water, let dry, tie off with a pipe cleaner. Beautiful!

### Art - Forsythia in Bloom

Bringing spring into the classroom. With this project, first we learned that forsythias are a type of deciduous shrub, and it has beautiful yellow flowers in the early spring. Then, we made our own blooming forsythia by gluing little pieces of yellow tissue paper onto the branches we drew on blue paper. The forsythia branches added a bit of fragrance to the art table too!



### Botany Science – Final Result



Here is the outcome from last month’s seed planting project. We are excited to announce that the Indian corn we planted in the baggies sprouted the fastest (in 7 days) and it was the only seed that sprouted. Perhaps it was the location in window #1. A student commented that maybe the popcorn seed we put in the bag helped it grow. Another student said, “No, that’s not why, it is the sun in this window”. Most everyone agreed with the latter response.



### **A Planting Dilemma and Lesson Learned!**

Bear with me as I explain this project! We decided that everyone was going to plant their own pea seeds in an eggshell, and we did. Well, after no results in almost 2 weeks, we researched and learned that there needed to be a hole in the bottom of the shell for the seed to sprout. We started our project again, this time with a hole in the bottom and finally after about a week, there are now tiny green sprouts growing! I explained to the class that for one to succeed, one sometimes fails.

### **F.A.I.L. = First Attempt In Learning**



The afternoon kindergarteners started their own pea plants in glass jars the same time as the first attempt of the eggshell planting. The kindergarten students concluded that the glass jars produced better results than the eggshells. Great observation, students!



### **Zoology – Amphibians**

This month we studied amphibians. We learned that amphibians include newts, salamanders, toads, and frogs. Amphibians go through a metamorphosis or transformation. We took a more in-depth look at the life cycle of the frog and learned that the female frog lays many eggs at one time in a pond. The eggs float on water in a jelly like cluster. The eggs soon hatch into tadpoles. Tadpoles look more like a fish (it would be great to have some real tadpoles in the classroom) and they have gills that allow it to breathe underwater. We read that tadpoles eat plants and algae from the water and grow for several weeks. The tadpole begins to develop lungs so it will be able to breathe out of water and also starts to grow two hind legs (as pictured). Once the front legs grow and the tail becomes shorter and shorter it is called a froglet! The young frog will continue to grow and in about 2 years it becomes an adult frog!







Pictures of some of the different Frog activities – Parts of the Frog Puzzle, Metamorphosis of the Frog, Parts of the Frog 3-part matching cards, Life Cycle of the Frog, and Frog Matching fun.



### Cultural Studies – Ramadan



This month we learned about Ramadan. It is a month-long tradition, and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. I brought from home, a *sajjada* (Arabic for prayer rug), and the Quran for the students to visualize what the people of the Islamic religion use while praying. We learned that Muslims pray five times a day and those who observe Ramadan fast between sunup and sundown.

### Afternoon Kindergarten Work

The kindergarten students finished their Clock Folders this month. They enjoyed making their own clocks as part of this study (and they helped laminate them, too). We learned that there are 24 hours in a day, and we discussed that this consists of both daytime and nighttime hours (AM & PM). They also spent some time learning how to write specific times, how to draw the correct time, matching times to appropriate clocks, etc... Time seemed to fly by, too!



## Outdoor Fun



Thank you for reading our classroom newsletter!

With Peace & Hope

**Ms. Andrea, Ms. Alka, and Ms. Jessica**





## Classroom B Newsletter April 2021

Hello Classroom B Families!

We began the month of April with a few April Fool's tricks! The children really enjoyed the fun!

### Practical Life : Care of Environment

I added table washing to this area of our classroom. Table washing is an activity that has many steps and requires concentration to set it up, complete the work and then properly clean it up. This has always been a popular work in our classroom over the years. The children seem to gain great satisfaction when they lay out all of the materials they need, scrub away any marks on the table and return everything back in its place. It is so much more meaningful when the children can choose a table that has marks on it rather than always wash the same table over and over.



### Care of Self

In addition, I added hair brushing to our practical life curriculum. This activity includes a model head with long hair that I place in a basket. The children are able to practice brushing the hair and styling it with clips and hair ties. This work is a wonderful activity to build a child's concentration as many children will sit for long periods of time, simply brushing the hair or creating crazy hair styles! In addition, the children have been practicing sewing



using a large plastic needle with no point on the end. We practiced using a laminated picture of the Earth where the children are learning to start from underneath, pull the needle all the way through, then from the top, they push the needle through the hole. Then repeat sewing from under, then above.

### Science

In Botany, we learned about sunflowers and spider plants. We are so grateful that our generous families gave us a sunflower plant to take care of so that we could eventually plant it outside! Another wonderful family shared some spider grass in water with us. We were able to break up the plant into four parts so we have added those to make our classroom beautiful! Having these plants in our classroom allows the children to water them when needed. We have a stick inside each plant that indicates if the plant needs to be watered or not. Depending on the day, each child has an opportunity to water the plants! Additionally, we learned about seeds and had the chance to plant a lima bean, hang them on our windows and watch them sprout.



## Zoology

We've had lots of exciting learning experiences with zoology this month! Again, from our generous families, we were given live caterpillars to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly! We learned that once the caterpillar hatches from its egg, it eats and eats and grows and grows until it is ready to form into a 'J' and make its chrysalis. After about 7-10 days, the caterpillar will emerge as a painted lady butterfly! We are anxiously awaiting their arrival!



Additionally, we studied other insects including ladybugs, ants and bees. We learned that insects are invertebrates that have an exoskeleton, jointed legs and 3 body parts (head, thorax and abdomen). They are part of the group of invertebrates called arthropods. Another invertebrate that we are learning about is a gastropod mollusk, and he is now a pet in our classroom! His name is Mr. Snail, and he was so generously purchased for us from yet another wonderful family! He lives with Roco (the Betta fish) and so far the two are getting along great!

## Cultural Studies : Geography

We began our exploration of ancient Egypt and will continue this into May. So far, we located Egypt on the map and learned a little bit about the landscape there. We discovered that the Nile river is the longest river in Africa. It flows through 10 countries in Africa with Egypt being one of them. The Nile river was extremely important to the ancient Egyptians as they depended on it for many years. Most of the historical and cultural sites that are being found today are located along the Nile river. Additionally, we are learning about Pharaohs such as King Tut, King Ramses, Cleopatra and Nefertiti and mummies and pyramids. We will continue our study of ancient Egypt into the beginning of May.

The picture below is an example of an ancient Egyptian comb that was uncovered at a dig site. The picture to the right is an overview of ancient Egypt and the contents that are in our continent box. Each time we learn about a continent, I put objects, pictures, clothing or whatever is related to that continent inside the box, and the children have the opportunity to lay everything out and explore.



This month has also been full of holidays from several religions. We learned about Easter, Passover and Ramadan. Of course, we also discussed Earth Day and Arbor Day and why these two days are important every day, not just once a year. The children enjoyed scooping "trash" out of our green sand grass and putting it in the trash bin. We sorted various objects for recycling, reusing and composting.



## Artist study



This month we learned about Mary Cassatt. She was an American painter who was born in Pennsylvania in 1844, however she lived much of her life in France. Her paintings often captured the private lives of women and the bonds between a mother and child.



We are also beginning to learn about dinosaurs and volcanoes, and will continue learning about these in May.

We hope that you all had a wonderful April vacation, and I am looking forward to meeting you all at parent/teacher conferences! I always enjoy having the opportunity to talk to you about your wonderful children!!

With Peace and Gratitude!

Ms. Kristin and Ms. Julie