



December 2020 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

It's winter! Finally, winter has officially arrived. Outdoor time is a vital part of the students' day at Sunrise. We strive to go outdoors every morning unless the windchill temperature is below 15 degrees. Proper winter gear is necessary everyday even if there is no snow on the ground. Wearing winter gear helps protect little bodies from the frozen ground too. Just a reminder that water-proof mittens are sometimes a better option than gloves. Little fingers have a hard time getting into each finger slot.

Food Pantry Collection Update

Our Sunrise families and extended family members helped donate an amazing 245 pounds of necessary items to the Uxbridge Food Pantry! This is an incredible amount for our current program size. Thank you to the many families that helped make this amount possible and thank you to Jules's parents, Garret and Lisa Mier, for organizing, picking up, and delivering the food!



Thank You, Sunrise Parents, for the Gifts

On behalf of the entire Sunrise staff, thank you to all the Sunrise families that helped make this year's holiday so special! We will continue to enjoy the coffees and teas throughout the upcoming weeks (we enjoyed the yummy fruits and snacks already!



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

31 Hayward St., Suite J2 PO Box 515 Franklin, MA 02038

www.MySunriseMontessori.com

Other Upcoming News & Events

Sunrise Classroom Giving Tree Update

Thanks to the many families for helping the school purchase items from the Giving Tree classroom wish list throughout the year. As you may know, non-profit schools rely on current and former families, and other community members to help our program obtain some of our classroom and program materials. Without this continuous support and dedication to Sunrise, many of these items might not be purchased otherwise!

The following items were purchased in December with monetary donations from Sunrise's former Director, Karen Roeber, Angelina and Robert Bartolini's family and their Nana, Gail Campellone. Also, classroom items were chosen by the LaButti family. Thank you!

- New CD Player
- Peacemaker Messages book
- Tidy Up book
- Classroom Clothesline stand
- Wooden Metal Inset Tray
- Durable Clear trays
- Easel Brush Set with natural handles
- Eye dropper set
- Decanters
- Mammals – A Question & Answer book
- About Mammals book
- Mammal Body Parts

Sunrise School Spirit Day – Pajama Day

Marissa May and Lisa Mier organized a monthly school spirit day for our school! Pictured below is a photo of Classroom A right after they read “A Loud Winter’s Nap” and Classroom B enjoying hot cocoa in their pajamas! As a reminder, it is not required that your child participate in the School Spirit Days, but merely an option if they are willing and happy to do so.



Upcoming Sunrise Friday Spirit Days are as follows:

- January 22nd – Winter Wonderland. Students can wear white to school.
- February 26th – Mismatch Day. Students can wear mismatched clothes (socks, shoes, etc...)
- March 19th – Crazy Hair Day. Need I say more!
- April 16th – Favorite Color Day. Students can wear their favorite color.
- May 21st – Spring Has Sprung. Wear a spring outfit!
- June (To be determined) – Tie Dye Day.

Daily Health Screening Reminder

Please continue to complete the daily health screening each day your child attends school. Some parents have recently asked if it was still necessary. It is. As part of our health and safety plan, the Department of Early Education & Care (DEEC) requires our program to maintain these screenings daily. We appreciate your diligence in this matter. Either parent may complete the online form at any time prior to the school day. You may access the link on our Parent Corner page of the website or just ask Sue for a paper form at morning drop off.

Welcome to our new Classroom A Students and their Families

Sunrise would like to welcome three new families to our program this January.

Vian Chaudhari is the son of an alumni family. His older brother, Rey, attended Sunrise for 3 years from 2017 to 2020.

Sisters, **Matea and Elena Niederer** and twin brothers, **Ayan and Riyan Jhurmarwala**, are new to the Sunrise Community.

To help accommodate the new Classroom A student/teacher ratios, Miss Jessica will now begin at 11am and continue through the afternoon until 5:30pm, working as an additional Classroom A Assistant teacher along with her Lead Afterschool position. Classroom A now has 15 students, and we are excited to welcome our new families!

At this time we are not adding any more students to classroom A beyond the current 15, and we are not adding any new students to classroom B.

Help spread the word about Sunrise Montessori School by sharing our 2 upcoming Open House Events

Please help share the news to promote next year's enrollment. As you know, this year our school started at half enrollment and made many adjustments to accommodate the Department of Early Education and Care's required Health and Safety Regulations. We intend to return to the full enrollment of 40 students (20 per classroom) for the 2021-2022 school year. Our parent representative, Marissa May, will attend an Open House event with her daughter, Sophia, to help educate parents about our program. Also, Marissa currently is speaking with prospective families by request. This is an essential part of the enrollment process this year as we are unable to schedule tours during the normal school day. Currently, I am accommodating prospective families after 5:30pm during the week or on weekends to give private tours of our program. If anyone has any other ideas or thoughts on Spreading the news about Sunrise, please connect with either Marissa or me!

Post card size Open House flyers are available in the entranceway. If you would like some to hand out or post at businesses with community bulletin boards (like gymnastics, dance, athletic clubs, etc...) please let us know, and we will get some to you.

Current Family Re-enrollment Period and Process

The time is coming very soon for all our current families to think ahead about reenrollment for your currently enrolled child or possible new enrollment of a younger child. It seems like a long way off, but it is important to ensure your child(ren)s' space is secured in January before new student enrollment begins during the open house events. A letter providing the new tuition rates and options, along with a returning student application form (fillable online) will be emailed at the beginning of January for you to respond with, even if you are unsure – please let us know! There is no application fee for reenrollment of current students.

The search for a new Sunrise Treasurer is still on!

A reminder that the Board of Directors is searching for a candidate to fill our Treasurer board member position. Please contact Sunrise's President, Syed Azar, at president@mysunrisemontessori.com or me at headofschool@mysunrisemontessori.com for details or to ask questions.

Open House tours
January 23 & February 6, 2021
from 11:00am to 1:00pm



(a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization)
31 Hayward St., Suite J2
Franklin, MA 02038
508.541.8010
www.MysunriseMontessori.com
Please wear a mask & observe social distancing.



Discover the importance of the hands-on approach that Montessori provides and learn how the teachers at Sunrise support your child's social, emotional and cognitive growth.

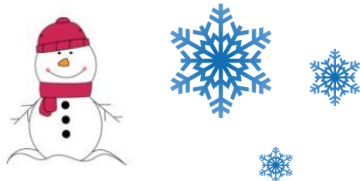


Special Thank you to our families:

I wanted to take an opportunity to specially thank our Sunrise families and community members for their donations and support of our school.

Thanks for reading our newsletter!

Andrea Rossick,
Head of School



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

Head Teacher

Kristin Masefield:

Kristin@MySunriseMontessori.com

Sunrise Parent Representatives:

Marissa May

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

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

Friday, January 1: Happy New Year
Monday, January 4: Classes and Extended Day program begin again

Re-enrollment period for current students, priority enrollment for younger siblings and students from alum families.

Friday, January 8: Pizza Day
Friday, January 15: Professional Development Day; no classes and no extended day program
Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday; no classes and no extended day program
Friday, January 22: Pizza Day
Saturday, January 23: Admissions Open House from 11am to 1pm. Open to the public.
Friday, January 29: Pizza Day
Saturday, February 6: Admissions Open House from 11am to 1pm. Open to the public.

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 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.boxtops4education.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

Take a look at the preselected items on the Giving Tree. Use the link found on the [Parent Corner](#) page of our website. Many thanks to everyone for their support!



Classroom A December Newsletter

December was a short month, but fun packed with activities. The children were busy learning about seasonal holidays, winter solstice (the beginning of winter), and creating gifts for their families!



Chanukah, December 10th – December 18th, the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights”, celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, and special foods. With the help of Malcolm’s family sending in dreidels for everyone to play with and take home, many of the students learned how to play the dreidel game. We simplified the game first for the sake of learning what the four symbols represented on the dreidel (Nun represents get nothing from the coin pot, Gimmel means get all the coins, Hey means get half the coins in the pot, and Shin means add to the pot). Each group that participated in the game took turns spinning their dreidel and counting out coins depending on what side of the dreidel was face up, and they enjoyed completing many games over and over again!



Happy Holidays from the Sunrise Parents - In this picture, the students first saw all the wonderful teacher gifts the parent collection helped provide to the staff. This was organized and delivered by our parent representative, Marissa May.

Also, in this picture, the LaButti family purchased a CD player for our classroom and wrapped it up for our classroom (this was one of our Sunrise Giving Tree items). Everyone helped to open the wrapped item Emma brought it, it was so much fun!



Holiday Art Projects

Tree Ornament Decorating



Paper Chain Garland



Pushpin Tree & Bird Centerpiece



How many students long is this paper chain?



Practical Life Activities

Clementine & Clove Ornament



Cranberries in water scooping



Winter Flower Arranging



Zoology - Birds

We started learning about birds as our first study in the vertebrate animal kingdom. We learned the main characteristics of birds; they are warm blooded (their body temperature stays the same), they have feathers, and they lay eggs.

We also learned the parts of a bird with the use of the 3-part matching cards (pictured) and many students made their own parts of a bird booklet and brought them home.





We also learned about the different types of birds with this bird matching work. Some children are reading the words and matching them to the appropriate bird and helping other classmates sound out the words with them!

We discussed the concept of bird migration which occurs mainly in the northern hemisphere, where some birds fly from north to south during the winter season. We also heard that the Massachusetts state bird is the Black-Capped Chickadee, and it does not migrate; we can enjoy feeding it all winter long!

Winter is a time to feed the birds!

The students enjoyed making the pinecone bird feeders by spreading vegetable shortening onto the pinecones and then spooning and rolling the pinecones with bird seed. It was messy and fun!



School Spirit Day – Pajama Day - We enjoyed reading *The Loud Winter's Nap* by Katy Hudson



Outdoor Snow Fun





New Classmates are joining Classroom A in January

As mentioned at the parent conferences, our classroom has 5 new students joining in January. These 5 children are from 3 families. We have an alumni sibling brother, Vian; twin brothers, Ayan and Riyan, and 2 sisters, Matea and Elena joining within the first week of January!

You may have heard about them as Vian, Ayan & Riyan visited the classroom before the break started. We are excited to have them join our program.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read your child's classroom newsletter.

With Peace & Hope for the New Year,
Ms. Andrea & Ms. Alka



Classroom B December Newsletter

Happy Holidays Classroom B families,

Even though December is a short month, it was very busy! We have been learning about the holidays that many people celebrate in December.

We learned that Christians celebrate Christmas. They believe that Christmas is the day that Jesus was born. They also believe in Santa Claus and on a very special night, he leaves gifts for all the children.

In addition, we learned that Jews celebrate Hanukkah where they light a candle on a candle holder called a Menorah. They celebrate for 8 nights, lighting one candle each night. The candle in the middle of the Menorah is called the Shammash. This candle is the helper candle and used to light the rest of the candles. The children also discovered how to play the dreidel game!

The final holiday that we talked about was Kwanzaa. This holiday is a week-long celebration that honors the African American culture. There are 7 candles in the Kinara (the candle holder) and each candle represents the 7 principles of Kwanzaa.



Science

We began our unit on birds. The children are discovering what makes birds different from other animals, and they are learning that there are so many different types of birds around the world. We will continue the study of birds in January and focus on owls.

In addition, we talked about how animals prepare for winter. Some animals hibernate, migrate or adapt. The children enjoyed making their bird feeders to help the birds find food easier, especially when there is snow covering the ground. Again, we will continue to learn about what and how animals prepare for winter.

Geography

We are continuing our journey throughout our continent, North America. We have seen how big it is on the map and many of our children have been working with the continent puzzle map of North America. We are beginning to identify the larger countries like, the United States, Canada, Greenland and Mexico. We also learned that there are 23 countries that make up North America. We will continue our study of North America into January when we will focus on Mexico. We have even started learning our numbers in Spanish!



At the end of December, we enjoyed our annual winter solstice pajama day! We learned that there is an imaginary line around the Earth called the equator, and the land above that line is in the northern hemisphere. The land that is below the equator is the southern hemisphere. Our continent is in the northern hemisphere and on the winter solstice, the northern hemisphere of the Earth is tilted the furthest away from the sun. As a result of this position of the Earth, this day marks the shortest period of daylight and the longest night. The children enjoyed making special crafts, eating cookies and drinking hot cocoa!



Finally, the children have been having so much fun on the playground! Especially in the snow! They discovered that they don't need sleds to go sledding down the hill; when they are wearing their snow pants, they just lay on their tummies, push off with their hands and slide right down! We also had a chance to make a snowman!



We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and that 2021 brings us some much needed peace!!
Happy New Year!!!

Warmly,

Ms. Kristin and Ms. Julie

