

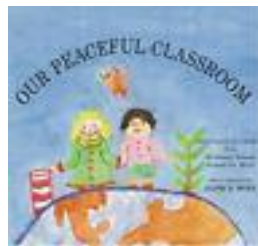


February 2021 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

Montessori Education Week

A main emphasis this month was on the life and work of Dr. Maria Montessori. Both classrooms tied in her teachings using a variety of books, lessons, and activities to help the students better understand where and how many of the activities and materials used in the classroom were created. Ms. Kristin and I shared our own version of Maria Montessori's timeline of events with our classrooms. Here are some of the books we read, and the significant historical events that were shared with the children:



Maria's Timeline of Events in Classroom B (on left) and Classroom A (on right)



A couple classic photos from the first Casa dei Bambini in Rome, Italy from the 1907 grand opening in the courtyard.



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

Many of Dr. Montessori's teachings focus on the idea of the Prepared Environment, and there is much emphasis on student observation and the concept of following the child. The boundaries and expectations within the classroom are clear and demonstrated by all. Respect for oneself, others, and for the care of the environment (both indoors and outdoors) is taught.

The Prepared Environment is simply defined and designed so that the child has the maximum ability to learn and explore. The phrase "prepared environment" refers to a well thought out classroom or home environment, designed with the child in mind. The goal is to foster a spontaneous, natural love for learning and independence in the child. The teachers are the guides to the classroom and the window to learning; they are not authoritative figures. Because the emphasis on respect is given by the adults within the environment, the child often follows by example.

Here are a couple of photos of Dr. Montessori and the idea of a prepared environment.



"Leaders help others be better"

Andrea Rossick

Montessori Testimonials

This past week, you had the opportunity to read the teaching staff testimonials; I hope you enjoyed them all! The next two testimonials I want to share come from two very important members of Sunrise (both past and present). The first testimonial is from Sunrise's former Director / Head of School and founding member, Karen Roeber. The second testimonial is from Sue Roecker. As you know, Sue is also one of the founding members of our school. She has dedicated many countless hours to the development and growth of this program, and she continues to volunteer her time on the board as our secretary and in the administrative work in the office! Thank you to both Karen Roeber and Sue Roecker for taking the leap and bringing Montessori education to Franklin over 16 years ago.

*"After 20 plus years of teaching in traditional preschools and public school classrooms (K-3), I entered a Montessori classroom in 1998 for the first time. I can remember being so impressed with that classroom. It was so different from any other that I had ever been in - there were 20 to 25 children, and they were all working quietly on something. The environment was so clean and the shelves were neatly set up. The children knew what materials and activities they wanted to work on, and when they completed their work, they put the work back on the shelf for the next child to choose. What a wonderful concept of care and sharing, a philosophy that has lasted over 100 years. I highly recommend two books: *Our Peaceful Classroom* and *The Absorbent Mind*. Both books provide a nice insight on Maria Montessori and the classroom".* Karen Roeber

"Like most parents, I soon realized the benefit of a Montessori education not only for my children, but the entire family as well. Both of my daughters attended a Montessori school (one for 5 years and the other for 3 years). Their classroom experiences taught them to be patient, observe the world around them, be kind to each other and their friends and to see things from different perspectives. Montessori encouraged them to ask questions, talk about their opinions, identify their favorite things and face fears. As they entered their elementary years, they brought these skills with them. They felt confident, willing to help their peers and retained the curiosity that encouraged them to try new things. My daughters are now young adults and successful in their careers. I know that the empathy and understanding they exhibit in their daily lives has its roots in their early education. This modeling of respect, patience and recognition that each child is unique, has helped us to form the close bond that we cherish". Sue Roecker

Other Upcoming News & Events

Giving Tree Update

The level of donations this year continues to astonish me! Thank you to Emma LaButti, Angelina and Robert Bartolini, Riyan and Ayan Jhurmarwala and Evelyn Balben for choosing the following items off our Giving Tree list.

- More Math Blast
- Asian Multi-layer Animal Biome Wooden Puzzle
- Parachute with Handles
- Grasslands Multi-layer Animals Biome Wooden Puzzle

Sunrise's Restaurant Fundraiser at the Chateau Update

Marissa May reported that the total funds generated for Sunrise was just under \$100 dollars! This is awesome. The money will be used towards the purchase of classroom replenishment items such as craft and art supplies. Thank you to the families that purchased food from the Chateau last month. I am sure the restaurant appreciated our patronage as many local businesses are still suffering from the effect of the COVID-19 state mandated restrictions. Thank you to Marissa for organizing this event!

School Spirit Day – Mismatch Day



Upcoming Scholastic order

Marissa is planning next month's order to be due on Friday, March 19th. The new order forms will be sent home shortly.

Thank you for taking the time to read our important newsletters... here are a couple snapshots representing some of the students from both classrooms and their team construction efforts!

Andrea Rossick, Head of School



Sunrise Montessori School, Inc. has been selected by local Shaw's store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag Program!

For the month of April 2021, Sunrise Montessori School, Inc. will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag at the Shaw's store located at Shaw's 65 Main Street, Medway MA.



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:

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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, March 5:	No School - Professional development and staff workday
Sunday, March 14:	Daylight Savings Time (your child's internal clock may be off)
Wednesday, March 17:	St. Patrick's Day (the classrooms will be studying the history of this holiday)
Friday, March 19:	School Spirit Crazy Hair Day and Scholastic Orders Due
Friday, March 26:	last day of Session 2 Pizza; Session 3 begins on April 9



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.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

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!

New – Amazon Wish List for Sunrise

We have recently added a Wish List on Amazon. Be sure to check out the following link:

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



Classroom A Newsletter February 2021

February flew right by! Even though it was a short month, we still packed a great deal of learning into each day.

Month of Kindness

We spent a great deal of time at the beginning of the month learning and reading books about how to be kind, peaceful, compassionate, helpful, etc... This led up to our Valentine's Day Celebration. Here are some of the classroom activities that went along with our month of kindness. We hope the children enjoyed opening their Valentine boxes at home and reading all the great Valentines that they shared with each other!

eye dropper transfer



sets work - counting hearts



heart sorting



heart sorting with chopsticks



decorating Valentine's boxes before the celebration time

Practical Life – Table Scrubbing



I wanted to highlight this activity this month as we just introduced this great work. The Table Scrubbing activity is part of the Care of the Environment section in Practical Life. There are approximately 17 steps (I will not list them all) when presenting this activity to the child for the first time. Beginning with putting on the apron, scrubbing in circular motion, emptying water from



pitcher into sink, to returning the materials as found. It requires the ability to attend to a lesson, repeat the lesson, attention to detail, etc... Here are a few photos of the some of the children with their first lesson. Yes parents, your children can clean the kitchen table at home, too!



Fish

We learned about fish this month, and we have a new classroom pet named Hopey to go along with this study. Hopey is a male Blue Orchid Betta fish. How did we come to the name Hopey? Well, first we had all the students put their preferred name choice into a basket, then I closed my eyes and picked one out – and it was the name I wrote! Everyone in the class laughed and thought it was a good choice. We learned that Betta fish are native to the continent of Asia, and they are freshwater fish. The children take turns feeding Hopey (very sparingly) his preferred pellets.



We learned the parts of a fish using our traditional “Parts of” 3-part matching cards work. The focus is on the fish parts; head, lateral line, scales, pectoral fin, anal fin, ventral fin, caudal fin, and the dorsal fins. It takes time for these lessons to absorb, but with repetition, it is possible!

Geography – Europe – Italy – Peninsula

We focused on Italy towards the end of this month because that was where Dr. Maria Montessori was born. On our continent map in the classroom, Italy is the boot shaped, orange country! We also learned that Italy is a peninsula using the Land and Water Form work. A peninsula is a large piece of land that extends far out into the water, and it is bordered by water on three sides. And of course, the gulf is the opposite. Here are a couple of pictures of making the flag of Italy and Gulf and Peninsula work in action!



Montessori Education Week



Dr. Maria Montessori was born in 1870, in the small town of Chiaravalle, Italy. The children learned that Dr. Maria Montessori was a scientist, an engineer, the first woman doctor in Italy, and of course, a teacher! The class loved seeing the historical pictures of the first *Casa dei Bambini*, Italian for “Children’s House” from 1907. We also read a great book from the Little People, Big Dreams series, *Maria Montessori*. What a great series of books these are, and I highly recommend checking out all the people they feature as part of this collection. Early in the school year we read the *Peaceful Classroom* by Aline D. Wolf, but we touched back on it again to help tie in the wonderful story of Dr. Montessori and how and why Sunrise Montessori and all the other Montessori schools were started. Another emphasis was on leadership. We discussed that Maria was an amazing leader, and she focused a great deal of her time on teaching peace, cultural diversity/differences, respect for one another, and kindness to everyone and everything in the world.



Yoga Group Time with Ms. Alka

The children love practicing and repeating the breathing exercises that Ms. Alka teaches. She does this almost daily at our second group/circle time. Thank you, Ms. Alka!

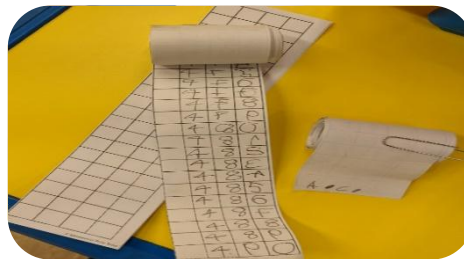
Outdoor Fun is a huge part of learning every morning





Afternoon Kindergarten

In the afternoon Kindergarten, we spend a great deal of time reading from various chapter books or from collection/series selection. This month we finished another chapter book written by Astrid Lindgren titled *Pippi in the South Seas*. We also recently enjoyed *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping* written by Peggy Parish. Other afternoon Kindergarten work might be working in the Math area on our number rolls or Language activities such as reading and writing word families. The work is geared for each child individually!



School Spirit Day – Mismatch Day

We hope you enjoyed reading about all the classroom experiences, learning, and fun we had this past month.

With Peace & Hope
Ms. Andrea and Ms. Alka





Classroom B Newsletter February 2021

Hello Classroom B Families!

We hope that you had a wonderful vacation and were able to have some fun! Here is what classroom B has been up to this month!

Practical Life:

The children have been making bubbles, tying shoes, scooping all things related to hearts and pouring red water! The children continue to polish wood pieces and decorate the classroom with beautiful arrangements of flowers! The pride on the children's faces once they have created a flower arrangement is priceless!



I introduced the children to a classic Montessori activity of "walking the line".

This work involves choosing an item from the practical life shelf that is on the tray specific to this work. The child may choose an empty cup, a small bowl with a pompom in it, a string with a round wooden sphere tied to the end of it, or a small bell. The child chooses one of those items and walks the line on our classroom floor with the goal of not ringing the bell, or causing the wooden sphere to swing wildly. This activity is a wonderful practice for control of one's body, concentration and balance. As the year progresses, I will add other things to the tray, for example, a cup filled with water and a spoon with a styrofoam ball on it! The children really enjoy this activity, and the determination that they have to keep that bell silent is amazing!!



This photo on the left shows children at a Montessori school in Vienna (1935) walking the line. I love to see this picture from 1935 and compare it to the children in 2021 doing the same thing!!

Science:

Having our new pet, Roco, has encouraged us to discover more about Elephant Ear Betta fish! We learned that they are native to the fresh water in Asia, specifically in Vietnam and Thailand. In the wild these fish eat mostly insects, but because Roco is our pet, we feed him special pellets. Roco is called an Elephant Ear Betta because his large fins and tail look like the ears of an elephant! Roco is quite social and loves when the children sit and observe him. He will often come to the front of the tank and watch the children. Of course, he thinks he is getting fed, but the children think he is coming to listen to them talk to him! I would never burst their bubble...no pun intended!

In addition, we studied the states of matter: solid, liquid and gas.

Solids have a definite shape and volume whereas liquids take on the shape of the container they are in, although they do have a definite volume.

We were able to do an experiment at school where we took a plastic bottle (solid), filled it up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with water (liquid), put some Alka Seltzer tablets in and quickly placed a balloon on top of the bottle. The gas that was released from putting the Alka Seltzer in the water caused the balloon to inflate!



History:

We have begun to learn about Europe. We located this continent on the globe and heard interesting facts about Italy. We focused our attention on Italy because this is where Maria Montessori was born. The last week of February was Montessori Education Week so we delved into her life and work and discovered how amazing she was! We learned that Maria Montessori was born in Italy in 1850 and that she was eager to learn. Her parents wanted her to become a teacher because that was the only job that a woman could hold at the time, but Maria wanted to become an engineer. She enrolled at an all boys school to study and realized that she loved biology and wanted to become a doctor. Of course this was unheard of as there were no female doctors in Italy at that time. Maria knew what she wanted and despite many challenges, she graduated from the University of Rome Medical Studies at age 26. As she was working in a mental health hospital, she observed children who were not being stimulated and were being treated as if they were physically ill. She observed them playing with bread crumbs that were left over from their breakfast. She thought that if she were to show them love and respect, she could provide them with materials to play with. She began spending time with the children, giving them various materials to play with and playing music for them. She saw an amazing amount of development in these children and wondered if she made materials available to children without disabilities, would it have the same effect? It did, and people began talking about her amazing discovery! She was asked to open a school for the children of San Lorenzo, Italy who were roaming the streets while their parents worked. Thus, the first *Casa dei Bambini*, or Children's House, was established! She trained teachers in her philosophy, and schools began adopting her method. She traveled throughout the world to spread her message of education, speak out for the rights of children with disabilities, the equality of women and peace education! And as they say, the rest is history!!!



Geography:

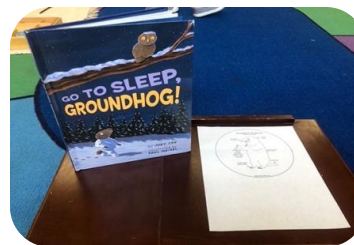
We will continue our study of Europe in March when we learn about Lithuania and Ireland.

I also introduced the children to land and water forms. They know that the Earth is made up of land and water, and that the land are the continents and the water is the ocean. But we have also learned that the Earth is also made up of more specific types of water and land. We started with a lake and an island. We were able to create our own lake and island with a wonderful Montessori material, and we were able to locate some examples on the map of the World.



We also celebrated Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. The children had fun decorating their boxes for their Valentine's cards and also enjoyed making lanterns for the New Year and recreating a dragon dance! We listened to real dragon dance music and danced around the school with our dragon masks!

On February 2nd, we talked about Groundhog Day and learned that groundhogs are also called woodchucks. We read a great story and learned a few facts about groundhogs! We all agreed that they are pretty cute animals!



Music:

This month, Ms. MaryJo taught us about the composers, Franz Schubert (1797-1828, Austria), Hilary Purrington (1990-present, western Massachusetts) and Nicolia Korsakov (1844-1908, Russia). We also learned about various string instruments and bass instruments.

Afternoon Kindergarten

In our Kindergarten class we focused a bit more in depth on the concepts that I presented in the classroom. In addition we have been working on place value, reading sight words and the "Bob books" as well as journal writing. Of course, the children always love their free choice Thursdays where they can choose exactly what material they would like to bring to Kindergarten. And we all enjoy our Friday siesta time! The children are going to start choosing books for me to read to them from our library. If there are books that your child would like to bring in for our Friday reading siesta time, please feel free to send these in their backpacks on Friday!!

One final note, we all really enjoyed our mismatch day on Friday! It was so fun to see how we all chose to be mismatched!!!

Look at all those adorable little feet!!!! After this photo, we had to read *The Foot Book* by Dr. Seuss!



With gratitude and peace,
Ms. Kristin and Ms. Julie