



## November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

### November & December Annual Food Drive!

This month started off our annual food drive for the People First Food Pantry in Uxbridge. We are off to an amazing start so far, and our collection will continue until December 16th. Thank you to Jules's mom, Lisa Nardella, for organizing this event! Our collection boxes are in the front room of our school if you would like to send in a donation with your child. Thank you to all the families that have already donated and filled over 2 huge boxes!



### Sunrise Sharing Day

Classroom A and B participated in a safe, sharing celebration before the Thanksgiving break. Last week, the students each made our traditional Sunrise Peace necklaces for each other. These necklaces have the Native American symbol of a broken arrow for peace or a rising sun symbol representing the sunrise. Each student then met the student from the other classroom who made their necklace (socially distancing, of course). It was a great way to finally have the students greet and/or meet one another from the other classroom. Each classroom had their own special treats to enjoy!



### Sunrise Giving Tree Update

As you know, the Sunrise Giving Tree is an ongoing donation option for anyone interested in purchasing something for your child's classroom. This past month we received two monetary donations and an item was selected from the tree as well.

The following items have been chosen this month:

- Magnetic Geoform
- Peacemaker Messages
- Clothesline Stand
- Tidy Up Book

Thank you to Angelina & Robert Bartolini and Sunrise's former Director, Karen Roeber, for their donations.

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

## Other Upcoming News & Events

### Parent Conferences

Conferences are held on Thursday afternoon, December 3rd and all-day Friday, December 4th. A reminder that Thursday is a half day and **dismissal is at 11:30am**. We are not able to offer childcare in Classroom C this year due to the classroom grouping restrictions from the State. Please let either Kristin or me know if there is a conflict with the time you have selected or if you have any questions about the 30 minute conference. Progress reports will be emailed directly to you by Wednesday, December 2nd, and a hard copy will be available at your conference. Both Kristin and I look forward to meeting with each of our classroom's families at the conferences.

### Sunrise and the Big Y Community Bag Program

Our school was selected to be the non-profit recipient for the month of December (this is our second year). Last year our school received over \$30 dollars from shopping bag purchases!

**Where:** Big Y at 348 East Central Street, Franklin

**What:** Purchase a reusable \$2.50 Community Bag

**How much:** For every undirected community bag purchase our school receives \$1.00

**How long:** The entire month of December

**How you can help Sunrise:** Spread the word to your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors that when shopping at that location, they can purchase the community bag to help donate to our school! Purchasers may either direct the \$1.00 donation per the tag on the bags or if undirected, the school will receive the donation for bags purchased in December. See <https://bigy.bags4mycause.com/about/> for additional details.



### Sunrise Board of Directors Position Available

Sunrise's former Treasurer, Mike Wong, announced last month that he is unable to maintain his position on the Sunrise Board of Directors due to work commitments and schedule. Mike stated that he appreciated all of the time that he has served working with the board, and he is confident that the Sunrise board will continue to do great things for the school! Mike and his wife, Bona sent 4 children to Sunrise for many years, and they each have dedicated time in different capacities, Mike as the Treasurer and Bona as a Parent Representative. They plan to enroll their youngest child in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Sunrise would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike for serving in this capacity and for dedicating his expertise and time to the board for many years.

The Sunrise Board of Directors seeks a current parent or a community member who is interested in filling the volunteer Treasurer position. Interested candidates should possess knowledge of small non-profit organizations, have the ability to oversee the Head of School operational budget and collaborate with our bookkeeper on monthly records; accounting experience would be beneficial. Our board meets regularly once per month via Zoom and at times, in person at the school. The meetings are held at night and typically last 90 minutes depending on the agenda. If you or someone you would like to recommend is interested, please contact Syed Azhar, Board President at [president@mysunrisemontessori.com](mailto:president@mysunrisemontessori.com) or myself at [headofschool@mysunrisemontessori.com](mailto:headofschool@mysunrisemontessori.com)

### 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.

### Special Thank you to our families:

I wanted to take an opportunity to specially thank the following Sunrise families and community members for their recent donations to our classrooms:

- Karen and Paul Roeber (former Director and Board President of Sunrise) for classroom holiday projects, handmade classroom materials and PPE for the teachers (gloves), and teacher goodies!
- Angelina and Robert Bartolini for cleaning supplies
- Julianne Mier (Jules) for the cleaning supplies

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](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)

### December Pot Luck

Our school calendar highlights the last day of school before winter break, December 18th, as our Annual Potluck Dinner. As you probably already know, we are unable to hold this event due to current restrictions. The second-best part of the potluck (next to the potluck food) traditionally has been the children singing during the gathering. Currently the teachers are considering videoing our classrooms singing something festive and emailing the parents the link to the video. I would like to request feedback from all the Sunrise families on whether they would like their child to be videoed or not. You may wish to email me directly or share your opinion at your scheduled parent conference next week. The video idea is just an option, and I respect your decision either way! I look forward to hearing your opinions and appreciate any feedback. Thank you.

### 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

Tuesday, December 1:	Scholastic book order due
Thursday, December 3:	Parent / Teacher conferences in the afternoon; early dismissal at 11:30am
Friday, December 4:	Parent / Teacher conferences all day; no classes and no extended day program
Friday, December 11:	Last pizza day for session 1
Friday, December 18:	First pizza day for session 2; last day of classes until Winter Break
<b>December 19 - January 3:</b>	<b>Winter Break. School is closed for the holidays.</b>
Monday, January 4:	Classes and extended day program resume

## 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.boxtops4education.com](https://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 November Newsletter

November is the month to be thankful and to give thanks to others! Our classroom community continues to grow, and friendships and relationships are building as we work on kindness and peace throughout our day.

### Sharing in the Classroom

As one of our Sunrise traditions, the day before our Thanksgiving break the classrooms make Native American necklaces and usually prepare snack together (this year we just made the necklaces). Classroom A made the necklaces for the students in Classroom B and vice versa. These necklaces have the Native American symbol of a broken arrow for peace or a rising sun symbol depicting sunrise. We enjoyed a group snack of corn bread and raisins, and we enjoyed our Sharing Time while wearing the necklaces that the other classroom made for us!



Table Setting  
Rising Sunrise & Peace



This past month our classroom learned about Diwali (it is the most celebrated Hindu/Indian festival). Diwali is a five-day Festival of Lights celebration to bring new beginnings and the triumph of light over darkness (happiness and peace). I am very thankful to Ms. Alka for bringing her special items for our classroom to experience. She shared some children's clothing as an option to try on; the girl's dress or kurti, the boy's shirt or kurta, and a scarf or dupatta. Alka also brought bindi or tikka (the special dot to wear on your forehead) and bangles or bracelets to wear! Almost everyone tried on the clothing and many were excited to create a rangoli (sand art coloring) and hold a diya (oil lamp made from clay).



### Geography

November focused on the continent of North America. We learned that North America is the third largest continent by area, and it has 23 countries! We heard the names of most of the countries on our continent puzzle map as we labeled 17 of them. Some children made "push pin" North American continents, colored the map of North America, and added labels for the countries, while others learned some of the flags of North America and recreated the flags.



## Science

This month focused on Vertebrates and Invertebrates. We started off with identifying that vertebrates are animals with a backbone (we then felt our own backbones) Vertebrates are mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and fish. Invertebrates, we learned, are animals without a backbone such as insects, spiders, earthworms, snails, squids, crabs, and jellyfishes (and more). We also enjoyed looking at a house centipede under the microscope - it was found (not alive and already dried up) behind a shelf.



## Practical Life

The practical life skills continue to expand. Here are few new works that were added to the shelves in November.



Rice & Salt Sifting



Barley Scooping



Pouring & Funnel Work

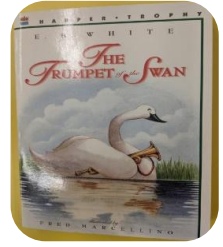


## Language

This past month, we added the Mystery Sound work. Hopefully, some of you have noticed those small rectangular slips of paper with your child's name and a letter printed on them. The mystery sound work has a new object placed in the tin each morning. Keep an eye out for those rectangular papers - sometimes the smallest works are the biggest accomplishment for the youngest child!

## Afternoon Kindergarten Class

The afternoon kindergartners are currently listening to a new chapter book written by E. B. White, *The Trumpet of the Swan*. They are just getting into this book. The setting of the story is in North America (both Canada and the United States). Also, we learned that the male swan is called a cob and the baby swans are called cygnets! They will learn much more about this fantastic book as we dig into the plot!



## Thanksgiving Projects



## With Thanks, Peace, and Friendship Classroom A



Ms. Andrea and Ms. Alka





## Classroom B November Newsletter

Hello Classroom B families,

We began November talking about what it means to be thankful; therefore "thankful" was our word of the month! As you know, Lisa Nardella (Jules M's. mom) arranged a food drive to collect food for The People First Food Pantry. This gave us the opportunity to have a discussion on how there are people who are not able to buy food, clothing or other supplies they may need. This is why we have places called Food Banks or Food Pantries. It is a peaceful and kind thing to help people who are not able to buy things for themselves or their family. So, if our moms and dads say it is okay, we encourage the children accompany their parent(s) to the grocery store to buy some of the items on the list from the food pantry and bring these to school.

In mid December all of the items collected will be brought to the food pantry so that people can get the food they need. We also talked about the basic things that all people need to survive. We need food, water, clothing and shelter. But many of us are lucky to have a lot more than that. We have TVs, phones, toys, games, bikes and so much more! We can say that we are so grateful for being able to have all of those things! We also talked about how it is important to be thankful for our families and friends. We talked about how our moms and dads work so hard to make sure that we are safe, warm, have a good place to live and yummy food for our tummies!

### **Practical life:**

We have added a lot of really fun materials in our practical life area! We introduced cinnamon grating. As you can see, this work uses many fine motor skills to hold the grater properly and the cinnamon carefully so that only the cinnamon stick rubs against the grater. The children were very attentive while I was presenting this work at group time, and I am happy to report that we did not have any cinnamon grating mishaps!



In addition, the children have been practicing nail washing. This work includes many steps where the children have to get their water, pour it into the bowl, and use the brush and soap to scrub their nails. When they are finished, they have to make sure the soap is off their nails, dump their water from the bowl and tidy up for the next friend. The children have also enjoyed activities like corn tweezing, mirror polishing and scooping cranberries from one bowl to another.



## Geography/History:

In this area of our classroom we learned about the Presidential election and what it means to vote. We set up our own voting station, and the children had the chance to participate in voting! We pretended that we were going to get a class pet and that we needed to vote on getting either a turtle or a rabbit. We talked about the pros and cons of owning each animal and the children voted for the animal they wanted to be our pretend class pet. We counted up the votes (2 times just to be sure) and it turns out that the rabbit won! We talked about how it is okay to feel disappointed or upset that maybe your choice didn't win but that's ok, we can still say congratulations to the winner!

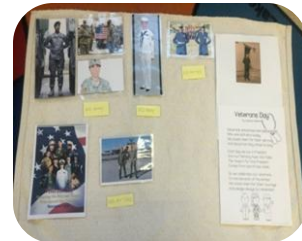


We also discussed North America and the United States. We learned that the American flag contains 13 stripes which represent the 13 original colonies, and there are 50 stars to represent the 50 states. We are practicing the Pledge of Allegiance, and the children are starting to learn all the words.



The children also learned that the United States consists of a wonderful variety of people from many different cultures from all over the world. Just last week we had the chance to learn about Diwali! It is the festival of lights! The children created their own rangoli pattern (a colorful floor design to welcome guests). We learned about the diyas (lamps) that are used during the Diwali festival to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi. The people who celebrate Diwali also worship the Hindu God, Ganesha. This festival is also celebrated to mark the return of Lord Rama back to his people. The celebration also includes yummy sweets (mithai) and fireworks!

As part of our studies of the United States, we also honored the men and women who keep us safe and free. We learned about the branches of military, and saw pictures of men and women in their uniforms standing like soldiers, which is how we practice standing while we are in line! We talked about being thankful for our veterans because we are free to play, go to school, practice what we believe and celebrate!



Since Thanksgiving occurs during November we talked about how the Pilgrims came to America so that they could be free from the politics and rules of their home country (England). They traveled on the Mayflower for 2 months and finally made it to America. The Pilgrims met the Native Americans, who had already been living here for a long time. At first, the different cultures/people didn't get along, and they began to fight. After much fighting, they then decided that it was better to work together and get along. They taught each other many things and learned a lot from each other's traditions. This is how the first Thanksgiving came to be! Of course, we completed the month with our Thanksgiving celebration where the children thanked Mother Earth for all her blessings and had some yummy treats!

### Science:

In science, we focused on mammals and what it means to be a mammal. The children learned that mammals are warm blooded animals that have fur or hair, have backbones, a well developed brain and drink their mother's milk when they are born. The mammals we focused on this month included squirrels and deer. We also learned about the common mammals that are native to Massachusetts, including the black bear, bobcat, raccoon, cottontail rabbits, beavers and many more! Of course, we had to learn about turkeys this month even though they are not mammals. We learned that male turkeys are called toms and females are called hens. Only the male turkeys make the "gobble, gobble" sound while female turkeys make other sounds. Turkeys eat mostly berries and seeds, but sometimes they will eat small animals, too. The flap of skin that hangs over the turkey's beak is called a snood. The skin around the neck is called a wattle. If a turkey is excited or angry, these areas turn brighter red. If a turkey is scared, the skin will turn blue. Turkeys are actually really interesting birds!

We read our annual story, *Clarence, The Cranberry Who Couldn't Bounce* by the local author Jim Coogan from Cape Cod. We learned about cranberry bogs, how cranberries grow, are gathered and packed up for sale. We learned about the parts of the cranberry, and we are even going to collect some seeds to plant in soil to see what will happen!



### Music:

We are so lucky to be able to watch Ms. Mary Jo's videos every Friday! She has taught us about many composers including, Beethoven, Hayden and Mozart. She gives the children little facts about each one, and then we listen to samples of their music. Of course, we still sing and dance to the fun songs she plays for us, and the children just love her!



### Kindergarten:

The kindergarteners began November learning about patterns and symmetry. They have also practiced writing their last names without looking at their name tags! In addition, the K's are working on reading comprehension. Even though the children are not reading sentences on their own, it is important that they are comprehending what I am reading to them so that they are able to recall the information. They then answer specific questions I ask them about the story. One of the books I read was *Screech Owl at Midnight Hollow* by C. Drew Lamm.

As the month progressed, we focused more in depth on mammals. We learned about the types of squirrels that are common in Massachusetts, the parts and life cycle of the squirrel and what these animals typically eat. We also learned additional information about Massachusetts. We discussed the state flag and what the design on it means. The center of the flag shows an Algonquian Native American with a bow and arrow. The arrow is pointing downward which signifies peace. The white star signifies Massachusetts as a state. The children also learned some interesting facts about the state. The state bird is the chickadee, the state insect is the ladybug, the state tree is the American Elm, and the state flower is the Mayflower. We talked

about how Cape Cod sticks out from the state and looks like an arm! They said, “oh, yeah, it does look like an arm!” While we were learning about Massachusetts, we talked about the Wampanoag tribe that lived in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when they met the pilgrims. We compared the Wampanoag people and the Europeans during this time and noticed a lot of differences in the way they looked, the clothes they wore, the houses they lived in and the daily life of each group of people. We learned how Squanto taught the Plymouth colonists how to cultivate corn, squash and beans (the three sisters).

The K's making their rangolis for Diwali!



We wish you all a peaceful and safe Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

Ms. Kristin and Ms. Julie