



December 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The month of December is just about over, and another new year is approaching! Before we move into the new year, here are some highlights from this last month of the year.

A Heart felt Thank you from all the Sunrise Staff

What a beautiful presentation of the Staff Gifts! Thank you to all the parents who helped make these gifts so amazing! Our school is truly blessed to have such a caring and generous parent body that gives to both our school and to all the staff members.



Family Potluck Night

The Potluck event was wonderful, and it felt great to be together as a community. Storyteller Andrea Lovett did a great job sharing the tale about a Young Fox looking for clues about winter and the Native American story, Abenaki, the story of how a chipmunk got its stripes.

Thank you to the families who were able to attend and for bringing a special dish to share. The food was excellent, and it was great socializing with everyone!

A very special thank you to Marissa May, Suzannah Barry, and Lisa Nardella for organizing the staff gifts and for Lisa's help with the Potluck set up.



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

Re-enrollment Period and Process begins for Current Families

Once school is back in session on January 3rd, all Sunrise families will receive important re-enrollment information via email. This email will be accompanied by a letter providing tuition rates for the 2022 - 2023 academic year and options, along with a returning student application form (fillable online). To secure your child's preschool or kindergarten space for September 2022, please complete the returning student application form no later than January 21st – there is no application fee for reenrollment of current students, but it is important to secure your child's space before the new student enrollment begins on January 22nd. If you need an application for a younger child, please let me know as this form is slightly different. After you receive the re-enrollment email next week, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sunrise Open House Events for new prospective families

Please help share the news to promote next year's enrollment by sharing our Open House Flyer with your coworkers, neighbors, family, and friends. Attached to this newsletter is the open house flyer. The dates are on Saturdays (January 22nd and February 5th). The time for either date is 11am-1pm. I am happy to announce that both our Parent Representatives will be present for these events to help meet new families and provide a parent's perspective view!

Health and Safety Illness Policy Reminder

To help keep our students, families, and staff healthy, I would like to remind the Sunrise Community about our illness policy.

Here is an excerpt from our Parent Handbook (page 13 and onward) on illnesses:

It is important that sick children remain out of school when they are ill or have not fully recovered from an illness. This decreases the likelihood that germs will spread. Look for the following signs or symptoms if you suspect your child is sick before bringing him/her to school. Also note the following applies to household members as well:

- Known exposure to someone who is either suspected of or confirmed with COVID-19
- A temperature of 100 degrees or more, even if your child “feels fine”
- Chills, fever, or any other signs of illness
- A new loss of smell, taste, unexplained headache, or muscle aches
- A persistent cough – germs spread quickly when children cough and cover their mouths with their hands and then touch materials
- A runny nose with thick yellow or green mucus
- Red, itchy eyes which may or may not appear to be conjunctivitis (viral or bacterial)
- If your child has vomited within the past 24 hours
- If your child has diarrhea or persistent loose stools within the past 24 hours
- If your child appears lethargic or is not acting in his/her normal manner and is overly tired.
- Any evidence of a viral or bacterial infection which may be contagious such as strep throat, chicken pox, fifth's disease, etc.

Please remember to notify the office via email or by phone if your child is sick (and state the illness) or if they will be absent for any reason.

New Pizza Session begins January 7 and runs through April 1, 2022 for students who eat lunch at school.

Sunrise Donations Update

I am amazed at the ongoing donations that are given to our program. Thank you to the following students, their families and friends of Sunrise for their generous donations this past month:

Jacob Anderson, Isla Hix, Ayan & Riyan Jhurmarwala, , Niko Kritikos and Karen & Paul Roeber.

Amazon Wish List: Peace and Being Present books

General Donation: Lysol Cleaning Wipes, Tissues, Hand Soap, and a generous supply of Bird Seed

Monetary Donation: to be used towards the Giving Tree

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

Andrea Rossick:

Headofschool@MySunriseMontessori.com

Head Teacher

Laura Holland:

Laura@MySunriseMontessori.com

Head Teacher

Kristin Masefield:

Kristin@MySunriseMontessori.com

Sunrise Parent Representatives:

Susannah Barry & 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

Winter Break from December 20 through December 31, 2021

January 3: Welcome back; classes and extended day program resume

Priority enrollment for 2022 - 2023 school year: current students, younger siblings & alum families

January 14: Professional Development Day - no classes and no extended day

January 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday - no classes and no extended day

January 21: Re-enrollment forms due from current families, younger siblings and alum families

January 22: Admissions Open House for 2022 - 2023 from 11am to 1pm. Open enrollment begins.

February 5: Admissions Open House for 2022 - 2023 from 11am to 1pm.



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 activate 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. Add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier each time you shop. Or click on the QR code. 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

Check out the newly listed items on the tree, just inside the front door. Also listed through the school's website.

Amazon Wish List for Sunrise

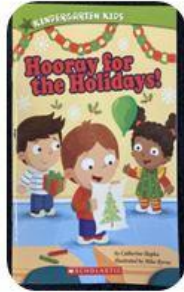
Did you know? Sunrise has a Wish List on Amazon. Be sure to check out the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3mpcpa3> New items are added each month.



Classroom A Newsletter December 2021

Dear Classroom A Families,

We had a busy month full of celebrations! At the beginning of the month, we started off celebrating Hanukkah and the meaning of lighting the candles each night. Children loved practicing spinning the dreidels and playing dreidel! Then, we read *Hooray for the Holidays!* By Catherine Hapka and learned about ways people celebrate the different holidays in December, including Christmas, Kwanzaa, and St. Lucia's Day!



This month in Science, our classroom was learning about the changing of seasons from fall to winter. We talked about evergreens and Christmas trees that stay green all year. Children enjoyed making salt dough tree ornaments as well that we used to make the classroom holiday gift for families!



We also learned about hibernation! We read *Snack, Snooze, Skedaddle: How Animals Get Ready for Winter* by Laura Purdie Salas and talked about the different ways animals prepare for winter and how some hibernate and some animals migrate!



Our class had a wonderful time celebrating the winter solstice by wearing cozy PJs to school, making winter crafts, and having a hot chocolate treat to celebrate the longest night of the year! We learned that the winter solstice is when half of Earth is tilted the farthest away from the sun and the least amount of sunlight reaches Earth. We know that the sun gives us light and heat, and we learned how people celebrate the light returning as the days get longer and longer after the winter solstice!





In Geography, We continue to read the book *North America* by Allen Fowler and *Discover the Continents: North America* by Emily Rose Oachs to learn more about the continent of North America. Children have enjoyed learning about all the different holidays that are celebrated in North America, and around the world in December.

During Kindergarten Afternoon class, Kindergarteners learned about the history of Hanukkah, played Dreidel, and created their own Menorahs! Afterwards, we began learning all about the life cycle of coniferous pine trees, and how some people decorate these trees with lights and ornaments when celebrating Christmas! We read the book *The Night Before Christmas* by Jan Brett and listened for the end rhymes throughout the book. Then we made our very own rhyming tree booklets!



Kindergarteners learned about geometric solids; rectangular prism, cube, cone, pyramid, and cylinder. We made salt dough ornaments, and learned all about birds! Kindergarteners enjoyed making bird nests and pine cone bird feeders, pomander balls, and potpourri to take home!



We want to say Happy Birthday to Avery, Ellie, Jacob, and Aaron who celebrated birthdays this month!

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and see you in the New Year!

Thank you!

Sincerely your teachers,

Ms. Laura and Ms. Alka





Classroom B Newsletter December 2021

Hello Classroom B Families!

Even though December is a short month, it was very busy! The children learned about the holidays that some people celebrate in December. For example 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 to all the children.

In addition, we learned that Jewish people celebrate **Hanukkah** when they light a candle on a candle holder called a Menorah. Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 nights, with one additional candle lit 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. We also learned how to play the dreidel game!

The final holiday that we talked about was **Kwanzaa**. This holiday is a weeklong 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 have begun our study of birds. We are learning what makes birds different from other animals and 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.

We also have begun to talk about how animals prepare for winter. Animals either hibernate, migrate or adapt. We have learned that animals like bears, turtles and frogs hibernate while monarch butterflies, humpback whales and geese migrate. Again, we will continue to learn about what animals do to prepare for winter.

Geography:

We are continuing to learn about 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 be able 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.

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 and eating yummy cookies!



We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and that 2022 brings us some much needed peace!!
Happy New Year!!!

With Peace and Gratitude,
Ms. Kristin, Ms. Angela and Ms. Jessica

