



December 2019 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

What's the Weather?

This is the question of the month! Many parents have asked about outdoor recess and weather temperatures. Sunrise encourages outdoor time as much as possible, and we go outdoors every day at the end of the morning work cycle if the temperature is above 15 degrees (looking at the wind chill factor of course). That means proper outdoor clothing must be sent in daily, including snow pants, snow boots, winter jacket, gloves and hats - even if there is no snow on the playground! Because most of the students are picked up from recess, we are unable to store your child's outdoor clothing at school. Also, please remember to label all your child's outdoor clothing.

Sunrise Giving Tree Update

In December, there were many families who helped the school purchase an extraordinary amount of Classroom Wish List items. Thank you to Sara Corrao, Michaela and Griffin Greenwood, William Menning, Olivia and Emma LaButti, Dominic Dubois, and Vishwa Chiranjeev for choosing these items off the Giving Tree for our school!

The following Giving Tree items have been purchased for the classrooms:

- Red Letter Alphabet Book
- Classification of Vertebrates Book
- Writing Tray with Lid
- Sorting and Grading Activity
- Box of Squaring Chain Labels
- 3 Part Card Pockets
- Sand Timers
- Colored Porcelain Creamer
- Egg Slicer
- Precision School Balance with Weights

Pot Luck Dinner

It was nice to greet so many families at the Pot Luck Dinner on December 19th. We hope you enjoyed socializing with other Sunrise families and got a chance to try the various foods, desserts and beverages. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food to share.

The children worked hard on their songs and were happy to entertain their parents and teachers. Each time I see everyone together I am reminded of the wonderful and supportive community our school has!



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

Winter Break – December 20th-January 1st. Classes and the Extended Day program resume on January 2nd

Next Pizza Session – Begins January 9th and runs through March 19th. A sign up form for this 10 Week Session is available in the front room or just ask us to send home another if you still need one.

2020-2021 Enrollment Begins in January

The priority enrollment period for our current students, their siblings and alumni families begins in January and ends in February. There is no cost to re-register your child, but newly enrolled siblings do pay a \$50.00 application fee. In February, enrollment is open to the public. Our goal is to hear back from all of our current Sunrise families before February open enrollment begins. A re-enrollment letter will be sent to everyone at the beginning of January; it is important to respond in a timely manner to secure your child's space in our program.

Sunrise Open House Events for Prospective Families:

January 25th & February 8th 11:00am-1:00pm

Please tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about our upcoming open house events. If you know someone who may be interested in enrolling their child at Sunrise, please refer them and remind them to list your name on their admissions questionnaire. You are then eligible for a \$100.00 referral credit on your account after the new student enrolls and their place holding deposit is paid. See the Parent Handbook for details on this promotion.

Children's Museum in Easton "Science on the Go" is coming here on January 8th

This year, the students will enjoy an interactive presentation on "Hibernation and Migration" for our study of Animals in Winter. The Science on the Go team does a wonderful job bringing the fun to us! The students will be learning about animals that are active or not active in winter and what happens to some of the birds in the winter! This program (and others throughout the year) are paid for by your child's annual activity fee.

Kindergarten Curriculum Night is Thursday January 9th from 7:00 - 8:30p.m

This event is open to all Sunrise families to learn more about our kindergarten curriculum. We will provide an overview of what a typical day is like for both the half day and full day kindergarten program.

Together, Ms. Sandhya and Ms. Kristin will present information geared only to the kindergarten level as well as explain the importance of your child completing the Montessori 3 or 4-year cycle. The remainder of time will be open for questions and comments that the teachers and I will answer. Please let me know whether you are attending or not! Childcare is available, but I ask that you let me know in advance for planning purposes if you are attending with or without your child/ren.

Sunrise is now Recycling old Markers to help the environment

Ms. Chandra started Sunrise's marker recycling through the Crayola ColorCycle program. Our school is now recycling all our own markers including dry erase and highlighters of any brand. We will send out markers in quantities of a minimum of 100 but not to exceed 40lbs – and it's free for our school to ship them! If you have any markers that are ready to be recycled feel free to drop them in the blue container on the shelf in our front room area (right next to the long table).

New Sunrise Tote Bags

Our new bags are available to purchase!

This 12" bag has reinforced straps and a pleated bottom for more room and stability.

Pick one up for \$6.00 or buy 2 for \$10.00



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.

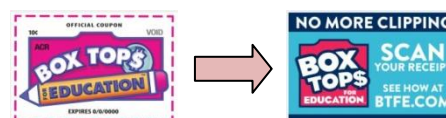
Every time you shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will make a donation to Sunrise Montessori School, Inc.



- To register and begin shopping, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device (not the app).
- 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.
- If you shop on smile.amazon.com using an internet browser on your desktop or laptop computer, your mobile phone, or your tablet, then your purchases of eligible products (marked "eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the detail pages) will result in donations. Purchases that are not made using an internet browser (for instance, using the iOS Amazon Shopping App, Kindle Store, FireTV, Amazon Dash, or Amazon Echo) are not currently eligible for donations.

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've 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.



Special Thank you to our families:

I wanted to take the opportunity to specially thank the families for their snack donations. This month's snack donors were Michaela and Griffin Greenwood and Angelina and Robert Bartolini!

Recently, many families have asked if there are any specific items that Sunrise might need for snack. For January, we could use the following items: Saltine and Ritz like crackers, raisins and/or other dried fruits, applesauce (larger containers only), and rice cakes. Thank you in advance for helping support the snack menu. As you know, Sunrise supplies fresh produce and other items on a weekly basis to serve a well-balanced, healthy snack.

Thank you 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

Andrea Rossick:

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Lead Teachers:

Sandhya Jain:

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Sunrise Parent Representatives:

Sara Allegretti & Kathi Shah

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 "[Digital Backpack](#)". This page can be found in the pulldown menu of the "Current Events" tab. Click on any of the hyperlinks to view the selected form or information page as a PDF.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 20 through January 1: Winter Break. Enjoy the holidays.

January 2: Classes and Extended Day program resume

January 8: Science "On the Go" presentation

January 9: Kindergarten Curriculum Night

January 9: Second pizza session begins

January 17: Professional Development Day; no classes and no extended day program

January 20: MLK, Jr. holiday; no classes and no extended day program

January 25: Admission Open House from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Priority enrollment for current students, younger siblings and alum families begins in early January.



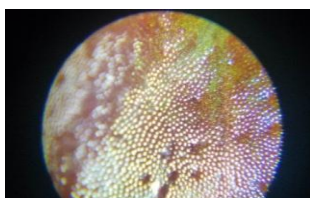
Dear Classroom A families,

Thank you so much for joining us for the Holiday Potluck!!

Along with a lot of holiday cheer, December brought with it baking, Winter Solstice, experiments using our microscope and lots of snow!! The children had a lot of fun building a snow man in our play. This picture is an example of all their teamwork. All the fun in the snow gave us great motivation and backdrop to practice the songs the children presented to you during the Potluck. They sounded AMAZING!!!!



In Science, we continued to study leaves. The children spent 2 morning work cycles just looking at various leaves through a microscope. We saw a Red Cedar leaf, a Begonia leaf (as shown in picture) and other plants around the classroom. I have attached a picture of the microscopic view of a leaf for you to enjoy. Then we learned the parts of a leaf and labeled a real plant's leaf to extend the same lesson. We enjoyed looking at our veins and then discussing the role of veins on a leaf!



This month we embraced and celebrated Winter Solstice! The children spent several days making garlands for birds and chipmunks, using popcorn and cranberries. Since the popcorn smells incredibly scrumptious, we had some fresh buttered popcorn for a snack ourselves too!! All along the children were learning about care of self and the care of the environment.



We also explored the history of Winter Solstice and discussed that the ancient people really appreciated light and celebrated the sun and light more than we do today. They would decorate the evergreen plants and trees with lights and ornaments and share stories/ memories about the ornaments. This history was the motivation behind making our own ornaments from salt dough.

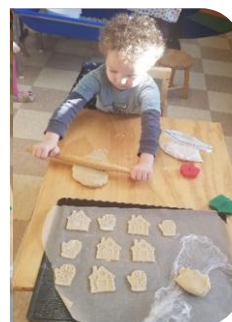
The children made their own Casa Dei Bambini (House of Children). Dr. Maria Montessori started her first school for children Casa Dei Bambini in 1907 in Rome which is the birthplace for most of the Montessori materials & philosophy that we today cherish and enjoy in our classroom. I hope that your children will have their own stories to share and retell around this ornament.



In the same spirit of Winter Solstice, we started a new tradition in our classroom to celebrate this time of year by making a Solstice Spiral and offering light and food to the animals and birds. On the last day of the school, the children made a spiral using the pine leaves and hollowed our squashes and apples that made a little container for the tea lights. Then we chanted our Earth, Water, Air and Fire chant and walked in pairs to place the hollowed-out fruit / squashes in nature and placed a tea light inside it, as we walked to the beat of a tambourine. Since it was a very cold day, we decided to enjoy the warm Squash soup sitting inside the classroom. I was so happy that most of our little friends enjoyed eating the soup!

We also draped our popcorn garlands on the bare trees.

Holiday cheer is incomplete without baking!! So, we started another new tradition of participating in the Potluck as a classroom. This helps us connect to our community event as a group and reinforces the idea that the Montessori classrooms should feel like a second home to the children. In this spirit, we made some winter sugar cookies and Earth cookies, as we have been learning about Earth and planets. I hope that you got an opportunity to sample those delicious cookies during the Potluck!



We really hope that you have a restful and an enjoyable Holiday vacation. We will miss seeing your beautiful children and are looking forward to having much more fun when we meet again next year as we will learn about North America, Hibernation and Roots along with several everyday life skills.

Ms. Alka and I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year!!

Stay Warm,

Ms. Sandhya



Hi Classroom B families,

The holidays are almost upon us, and we can definitely feel the excitement in our class! We have been learning about the holidays that people celebrate in December. We learned that Christians celebrate Christmas. Many people also believe in Santa Claus. On a very special night, Santa Claus leaves gifts for children.

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. During this holiday, they light candles on a special candle holder called a Menorah. Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 nights and on each subsequent night another candle is lit. The candle located in the middle of the Menorah is called the Shammash, and it is the "helper" candle as it is the one used to light all of the other candles.

The final holiday we discussed is Kwanzaa. This holiday lasts for an entire week and celebrates and honors African American culture. There are 7 candles in the Kinara (candle holder) and each candle represents the 7 principles of Kwanzaa. The children and the teachers really enjoyed reading about the various holiday traditions! It is nice to see what other families do as they celebrate! Thank you for sharing.

Finally we celebrated the Winter Solstice! We learned that this is the day when 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 sunlight and the longest night of the year. We enjoyed some yummy cookies and hot cocoa. We made a gingerbread baby, snowflakes and fruit loop necklaces. I think the children really enjoyed wearing their PJs to school! To prepare for the Winter Solstice, the children made their own bird feeder. We talked about how hard it can be for wild animals to find food in the winter, so we thought it would be nice to help them out by making our feathered friends a homemade bird feeder.



The children mixed many ingredients together and spooned these into a mold that they chose (a snowflake or a gingerbread). We allowed the mixture to dry overnight and then wrapped the shapes up to bring home. We talked about hanging these special bird treats outside near a window so that they children could observe the different types of birds which might visit. One of the children suggested that they would make a list of the birds they observed!

Some birds that the children might see include cardinals, finches and chickadees (which happen to be the state bird of Massachusetts)!

This month in Science we learned about the parts of a cranberry and read one of my favorite stories, "Clarence, the Cranberry Who Couldn't Bounce" by Jim Coogan.

We cut open a cranberry so we could see the flesh and the seeds. On the outside we observed the skin and calyx.



In Geography we continued our study of North America and have been learning about Canada and Mexico. We learned a few French and Spanish words and discussed what other languages people might speak in America. For the Pot Luck Dinner, the afternoon children made guacamole. This food originated in Mexico and has become a popular dish in America. The children were amazed at how large the avocado seed is!

This month we welcomed a special visitor - Mason's "YaYa". Her actual name is Tonya. She frequently prepares seasonal crafts for the children to make. This month she was able to come into the classroom to work on the craft with the children. You may have noticed a winter tree craft come home with your child. The children had so much fun with Ms. Tonya and are excited to have her back to do another craft. The teachers love when she comes in, too!



Ms. Tonya working with some children!

Even though the month was short, we learned so much and had a fun time. We are looking forward to January when we will learn a lot about Antarctica and penguins!

Finally, I have to mention how wonderful it was to speak with each of you at the parent/teacher conferences. You have amazing children, and I can't thank you enough for sharing them with me! I truly love each and every one of them and have so much fun watching them learn and grow! In addition, it was a joy to see everyone at the Pot Luck Dinner. It is always a fun evening.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We will see you in 2020!

Truly,
Ms. Kristin