



December 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the children are already excited about the many things going on in their lives. At Sunrise, we are buzzing, too. We are planning for the holiday Pot Luck and rehearsing a few new songs. The songs are so cute, and I find myself constantly singing them in my head. The Pot Luck Dinner is held on December 19th @ 6:30pm. Invitations will be sent home this week, and the signup sheet for what you would like to bring is in the entranceway of the school. Our Pot Luck Dinners are a lot of fun, and there are always a variety of delicious foods to eat. It is also a nice time to see and to talk with other Sunrise families.

The Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin Food Pantry was so happy to receive the food that was donated from Sunrise. We collected 106 lbs of food. Unfortunately, we couldn't walk the food in wagons this year due to snow still being on the sidewalks. Nevertheless, the children got to see the many food donations, and we talked to the classes about where all the food was going. Hopefully, next year there will not be an early snow storm, and the children will experience our annual walk to the Food Pantry in the center of Franklin. Thank you for all your wonderful donations.

Harvest Feast

The feast this year was a very memorable one. The children loved the apple dessert (shared with us from Sandhya's Kitchen), the corn muffins and the butter they made. We didn't throw away food this year, and that was something to be thankful for. In the past we made "stone soup" based on the popular children's book by Marcia Brown – lots of vegetables or squash soup – taking one squash from the Community Garden. One lesson we have learned is that most of the children don't really like vegetables. However, during snack time we will continue to offer a variety of fruits and vegetables; maybe some children will develop a taste for them. We can only hope.

In addition, the teachers performed "Squirrel's Thanksgiving Story" which describes an injured squirrel unable to gather his necessary nut foods to survive winter and how other forest animals joined forces to do so for him. The story ends with lame squirrel saying he had good food and good friends, making it a very Happy Thanksgiving. The children seem to enjoy watching their teachers perform with puppet forest animals and a basket full of vegetables to share.

Conferences will be held this week, and we are looking forward to seeing you. Thank you for sharing your children with us at Sunrise. Every child is unique and special; this is such a rewarding job to do.

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

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

www.MySunriseMontessori.com

Other Upcoming Events & News

Observation Times

Last week we invited all parents to participate in Observation Week. Our goal is for parents to understand as much as they can about a Montessori classroom environment. It is also a nice time to see how your child works in the classroom with their peers and their teachers.

As a follow-up, I sent an e-mail to everyone asking for your feedback / thoughts from your observation time. So far did get a few responses, and we do hope to receive more. Your responses will be shared with your child's classroom teachers. The responses help us to know if parent observations are something we should continue to do, and it also can help us with what we might want to change. Nevertheless, your input is very valuable.

Welcome to our newest family at Sunrise

In November Sally Allspach joined us in classroom A. Her parents are Preethi Viswanathan & Brad Allspach.

Sunrise enrolls children throughout the year, pending available space. Remember - if you refer a family to Sunrise, they mention you on their enrollment questionnaire and subsequently enroll their child, you will receive an enrollment referral credit of \$100.00 Help us get the word out about our programs.

We appreciate all that you do.

Jan Brett's Stories and Crafts

Friday, December 21st from 10:00am to Noon. Our teachers are volunteering their time to help make this fundraiser a huge success. Ms. Kristin will read *Gingerbread Friends* and the craft to follow the story is Gingerbread Friends garland. Ms. Andrea will read the story *Gingerbread Baby* and Ms. Sandhya will make the gingerbread cookies for the children to decorate, Mrs. Roeber will read *Gingerbread Christmas*, and the craft to follow will be making cinnamon ornaments in the shape of instruments. Children will visit all three stations and take a craft from each. There will be a few extra crafts, too – a gingerbread pot holder to decorate and a gingerbread foam to decorate. At the end, we will read Jan Brett's retold story – *The Night Before Christmas*. Two hours of stories, crafts, snack and Gingerbread Fun. Please have your child join us and have some time for yourself. Thank you.

Looking Ahead

2019 – 2020 School Year

The priority enrollment period for current students, their siblings and alumni families will be held beginning January 7th through February 11th, and application forms for the 2019 – 2020 school year will be distributed to families in early January. There is no cost to re-register your child at Sunrise (siblings and new applicants to Sunrise do pay a \$50 application fee), but you should return the enrollment form no later than February 9th to reserve a spot for the upcoming school year. After this date, enrollment is open to all.

Admissions Open House

Saturday, January 26th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Please tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about our upcoming open house. Open House events are open to the general public and no RSVP is necessary. Parents and their children are welcome to explore the classrooms, meet the teachers, watch a Montessori lesson and learn more about our programs. Application forms for the upcoming year will be available. If you know someone who is interested in enrollment, please refer them and remind them to list your name on their admissions questionnaire.

Annual Fund Drive

Our Annual Donation Fund continues to grow, and it is now up to \$875.00.

We have been fortunate that current families, board members, teachers, alumni and matching employer donors have given towards this fund.

No matter how big or small your donation is – it is truly appreciated, and it helps to maintain the quality of education and supports Sunrise.



For Small Hands Catalog

Thank you to all the families who ordered for the holidays from *For Small Hands Catalog*. This was the biggest order we ever submitted for Sunrise. The classrooms will receive a percentage of the sales as a classroom credit from your orders. At this time, it looks like the teachers will receive approximately \$50 per classroom to purchase items. This is something that the teachers always look forward to do. Thank you.

Again, thank you to Rebecca DeBlois for placing and organizing all the orders. Unfortunately there were some items that ended up on back order; however all the orders were shipped this week. Rebecca will have the items to you as soon as they come in. Thank you again, Rebecca.

Box Tops 4 Education

Box Tops are fun to collect with your child and to place on the Box Top Paper that Nicole Hammerschlag provided for us. So far we have collected \$25.50 – Every box top is worth 10c. Thank you for supporting this program. Our goal is to reach \$250.00 by the end of the school year. I think that we can do it.

Restaurant Night

Thanks to Vera and Kevin Holmes – our first Restaurant is scheduled on Monday, January 21st at Uno Pizzeria and Grill at 205 Hartford Ave in Bellingham. This is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday day, but it could be a nice time for Sunrise families to meet each other during lunch time or an early dinner time. Nevertheless, this has always been a fun event and a great time to see other Sunrise's families.

On-going fundraisers

Sunrise participates in the Amazon Smile program. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com.



The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Go to www.smile.amazon.com and sign in as you normally do on your desktop or mobile phone browser.

Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to *Change your Charity* (look under Shopping Programs and Rentals) To select Sunrise as the charity you wish to support, type in Sunrise Montessori School in the search bar.

When you shop online, please keep Sunrise Montessori School in mind. Tell your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors....every eligible purchase helps our school. But remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (*not www.amazon.com or the mobile app*) support charity.

Recycle used ink cartridges - Do you have used ink cartridges hanging around at home? Don't throw those out – Sunrise has a collection box for cartridges next to the office. Each month we turn them in at Staples for credit towards office supplies.

Giving Tree

Since September our Giving Tree has had a lot of apples and pumpkins taken off it. There have been many fall Montessori classroom items added to the classroom. Thank you.

Pizza Lunch Bunch

The new pizza schedule has been distributed for session 2, which begins in the New Year. If you can, please sign up before the holiday break. 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
Be sure to check out our "Digital Backpack". Also see www.facebook.com/sunrisemontessori

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.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and safe travel,

Karen



Director

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note that all current events, news and the academic year calendar are also found on the school's website: www.MySunriseMontessori.com

Thursday, December 6 – ½ day of school – dismissal at noon for all children.

Completion of Conferences during the afternoon. No afternoon Extended Day

Friday, December 7 – full Conference Day – (no school/ no Extended Day)

Wednesday, December 19 – Pot Luck Supper – 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 20 through Tuesday, January 1 - Winter Break. No school/no Extended Day

Friday, December 21 - Jan Brett's stories and crafts from 10AM to Noon

Wednesday, January 2 - Classes and Extended Day program resume

Monday, January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. No school/no Extended Day

Saturday, January 26 - Admission Open House. All are welcome.

Please tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Applications for the 2019 - 2020 school year will be accepted.