



January 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sunrise Community,

January has been an amazing month, and we have so much to be grateful for and to look forward to! Our special guest visitor this month was Storyteller Diane Edgecomb. <http://www.livingmyth.com/> The students enjoyed an interactive large-group presentation with Diane. During her visit, she shared Winter stories, including the classic fairy tale "Snow White and Rose Red," in which a bear comes to a little cottage seeking shelter in a blizzard and, at the end, turns into a prince full of kindness. Diane also shared the story of "Glusgabe and the Wind Eagle," a Native American legend in which Glusgabe – the Native American giant said to live in the mountains of the Northeast – ties up the Wind Eagle so he can paddle his canoe without being blown back to shore. Lots of fun ensues as Glusgabe learns that it is more important to ask for what we need (use our words) than to just act. Diane was given permission to retell this story from Native American author and storyteller Joseph Bruchac.



Sunrise's 20th Year Gala Celebration is in full swing – [March 6th at Lake Pearl in Wrentham](#)

Everyone received an invitation to the gala this past month. We encourage all parents to attend. Sunrise has also invited our former family members, past board members, and staff. It will be an amazing, fun evening for parents to enjoy time with other Sunrise community members. Please visit the link below to purchase your tickets. If you can't attend, don't worry. There will be a special opportunity to support our school and purchase a commemorative brick for our new entrance walkway. Details about the brick program will be announced very soon!

It takes a village; let's come together to honor Sunrise and the dedicated founders, volunteer board members, staff, and, of course, yourselves. Thank you to the families who have already purchased and reserved their tickets for Friday, March 6, beginning at 6 pm – 10 pm.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/sunrise-montessori-school-20th-anniversary-gala>

FYI... To allow the current staff to prepare for the event, the Extended Day program will close early on Friday, March 6th, at 4 pm. Extended Day participants, **please plan accordingly for the early closure.**

Celebrating 20 years of Montessori preschool and kindergarten programs in Franklin!

31 Hayward St., Suite J2 PO Box 515 Franklin, MA 02038

www.MySunriseMontessori.com

Other News & Events

Sunrise Open House Events for Prospective Families

I am pleased to share that our January Open House was a great success. Thank you for helping spread the word about our wonderful program! Additionally, thank you to one of our board members, Mark Letourneau, along with his wife, Kelley, and their children, Reid and Easton, for offering a parent's perspective to prospective families at the event. Open enrollment for available 2026 – 2027 spots is now available. Please tell your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Sunrise continues to provide enrollment tours to interested families throughout the spring and early summer months.

Valentine's Day at Sunrise

This fun holiday celebrates friendship, love, and kindness. Typically, students bring handmade or store-bought valentines (small cards) to give to their classmates. The classroom teachers sent individual emails with details about the holiday and the expected date and time it will take place. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Please Note: Due to allergies and food sensitivities, we request that families **do not** send any candy or food with the Valentines. Other non-food ideas are welcome and encouraged! We appreciate your support with this in advance.

Sunrise Donations – Thank You

Thank you to Elaine's mom, Ziyuan Zhao, for thinking of the staff in the New Year. She made delicious cupcakes with beautiful, candied fruit decorations and fresh whipped cream.



Thank you to Finley's dad, Tim Kadish, for his generous donation to our program. What a magnificent piece of art we now have displayed in our Extended Day program. If you haven't already noticed it (many of you have), please drop in and check out his work or visit his page at:

[Visual Entrance to Fine Arts Studio Website: Timothy Kadish](#)

Montessori Schools of Massachusetts Conference

In early January several of our staff attended this annual conference at Dean College. The day was filled with informative workshops, hands-on learning experiences and a chance to connect with other Montessori educators from the New England area. Our staff received Professional Development certificates as part of their annual requirement from the MA Department of Early Education & Care.

Dependent Care Forms

Rebecca Reda, Sunrise's bookkeeper, prepares the dependent care forms for tax filing purposes. Please reach out directly to Rebecca at MySunriseBilling02038@gmail.com if you have not already requested a dependent care form. Contact me if you have additional questions.

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.

Ways to support Sunrise Montessori School

Sunrise is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our program operates on tuition, grants and donations from our community members. Our school is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, made up of our co-founder(s), and former and current parents. We rely on the generosity of others to help support our program. Your contributions and support are greatly appreciated.

1. **[Sunrise Amazon Wish List](#)** – a great way to support Sunrise's classrooms. If you like to shop online, this is a great way to support our classrooms. Classroom and program material items are added each month to purchase and ship directly to our program. Please check out the following link: [Sunrise-Amazon-Wishlist](#)

2. **[Sunrise Venmo Donation Option Venmo | Sunrise Montessori School Inc.](#)**

Sunrise accepts donations through our Venmo option. Last year we created this donation option for our Spring Fair ticket sales and/or to make general donations. We are excited to continue this donation option. If you donate through Venmo, you may choose to highlight which area you would like to support:

- Sunrise Staff Professional Development Fund – donating to this fund helps support our staff to participate in quality professional development opportunities such as The Montessori Event 2026 through the American Montessori Society (AMS) held in **March 2026** in Washington D.C. and the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts (MSM) Conference held in **January 2026** at Dean College. Professional development is a requirement for our staff, and it is important that every member be provided the highest quality of training to best serve the students and families within our program.
- Classroom Materials, Supplies and/or Outdoor Playground Development – donating to this option helps contribute to keeping our classrooms and playground updated and beautiful. Material replacements are often costly in a Montessori environment as many of the materials are ordered through specific companies.

Maintaining and updating our playground with quality materials is our highest priority. We appreciate our family involvement and commitment to our program. Please reach out anytime with questions or comments.

3. **[Participate in passive fundraisers throughout the year](#)**. Please consider supporting Sunrise through a passive fundraiser. There is no additional cost to you, but our school benefits either through school related supplies, vendor credits or a monetary donation.

For Small Hands

Montessori items for your child. Order anytime throughout the year, use school code # #130133 and Sunrise will receive credit. <https://www.forsmallhands.com/scp/130331>

Mabel's Labels

This popular fundraiser provides high quality labels for everything your child brings to school. Click onto the button to "[support a fundraiser](#)" and choose Sunrise Montessori School Inc (Franklin).

Scholastic Book Clubs

Parents, grandparents, family and friends are welcome to select quality paperback and hardcover books for children. The school earns points which can then be used to purchase classroom supplies, furniture and more books! Sign in to your existing Scholastic account (for parents who have previously ordered) OR set up an account through our class page: <https://orders.scholastic.com/KNYN8> **See the latest January/February flyers online.** Books are delivered to the school. Parents may even order books for older children as the flyers range from preschool through Grade 6.

Think Ahead about Sunrise's Summer Program

Several families have inquired about our Summer Program. We have 4 weeks scheduled again this summer. You may choose either the 5-morning or 5-full day option, and you may sign up week to week or for all 4 weeks.

The weeks are as follows:

- Week 1 – June 22-26 **No program the week of June 29 – July 3**
- Week 2 – July 6-10 • Week 3 - July 13-17 • Week 4 - July 20-24

During the summer schedule, Sunrise does not offer the before- or after-care program. ****Note, we are considering extending the afternoon option during the summer and want to hear feedback from you. Please let us know your interest in either a 4pm or 4:30pm pick up option for the summer program no later than the end of February. If there is sufficient interest, we'll add this option.**** The weekly themes, rates, and registration details will be provided in a separate flyer in the upcoming weeks.

Community Connection

If you aren't already part of the Sunrise Parent Facebook page, please visit the link to join. This is a great way to connect only with the Classroom A and B parent community. Please help share your childcare resources, as this has been a recent request on the page. We want to stay connected and help support our families! Thank you, parents. [Sunrise Parent Community 2025-2026](#)

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 Teachers

Samantha Renaud, Montessori Head Teacher Classroom-A@MySunriseMontessori.com

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Sunrise Parent Representatives:

Erica Cucino, Stephanie Rogers & Manisha Thanneeru ParentRep@MySunriseMontessori.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 13: [Scholastic Book orders](#) deadline.

February 16 through 20: School Vacation Week! No classes, no Extended Day.

February 22 through 28: Montessori Education Week. Montessori schools around the world will celebrate the 118th year of Dr. Maria Montessori's approach to early childhood education.

The classrooms will learn about her accomplishments, her life and her influence on education.

March 6: Sunrise 20th Anniversary Gala Event at Lake Pearl in Wrentham. Get your tickets online.

Extended Day ends early at 4pm that day.

March 20: Professional Development Day. This is an in-house work day for all staff.

No classes and no Extended Day.

Pizza Fridays: February 6, 13 & 27; March 6, 13 & 27

Sensation Station: Classroom A attends on Thursdays; Classroom B attends on Wednesdays



Classroom A Newsletter January 2026

Dear Classroom A families,

Happy New Year Everyone! We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. We can't believe we are already halfway through the school year. This month has been very busy as we settled back in after the winter break. We have had a cold month! It is very cold outside, so please remember to send warm clothes for recess, such as hats, mittens, snow pants, and winter coats.



Please send all winter gear every day with these cold temperatures (even if there is no snow). We love to go outside as much as possible. When the temperature is above 15 degrees (including the wind chill), we will be outside. Please label all your child's belongings, as clothing can get mixed up when they are getting ready for recess or taking their outdoor clothing off.

Sensory bin

This month, the children are learning about the four seasons in the Sensory bin. We read a book called "Little Tree" by Loren Long. The book describes the four seasons and how trees change with each season. In the sensory bin, we have winter, fall, spring, and summer.



Geography

This month in Geography, the children are learning about Antarctica. They enjoy learning about parts of a penguin and are also learning about the animals found in Antarctica. The children are being introduced to different types of icebergs.

Cultural Studies

This month, we talked about New Year's Day, which happens on the first day of January. The children learned that we celebrate the New Year

Each year, on the third Monday of January, we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. The children learned that he was a peaceful leader in the Civil Rights Movement and that he is celebrated because he helped change unfair laws based on a person's skin color.

Kindergarten Corner

This month, the Kindergarteners took a more in-depth look at the parts of a penguin. They created a penguin book, coloring and labeling all its parts. They are also continuing to work on reading short-vowel word families. They are doing a great job!

Valentine's Day Celebration

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Wednesday, February 11th!**

If your child would like to participate, please send them to school with a Valentine for each student (we have 17 children).

Please send a box or something to put the valentines in.

Your child may decorate the box however they would like!



Classroom Visitor

Last month, Tim Kadish, Finley's dad, came in to share an amazing project with the class. He taught the children about shapes and lines. The shapes and lines you draw create a picture on your paper. Thank you, Tim, for donating the hamster picture. The children love to walk close to the picture to see the shapes, and they enjoy walking backwards to see the hamster more clearly. Thank you, Tim, for sharing your passion with our classroom!



If you or someone special in your child's life would like to sign up to be a guest visitor, please sign up via the following link:

[**Guest Visitor Sign Up Classroom A**](#)

Throughout the school year, our classroom honors birthdays. Please schedule your child's birthday celebration now via the following link: [**Birthday Walk Sign Up Classroom A**](#)

A big happy birthday to Isla!



Flower arranging is an excellent way for the children to make the environment their own as it is a part of the **Everyday Living** curriculum. We invite you to sign up for a week during which your child may bring in a bouquet of your choice! Please sign up here:

[**Flower Sign-up 2025-2026**](#)



Please remember to send warm clothes for recess, such as hats, mittens, snow pants, and winter coats. Even if there isn't snow on the ground, the children climb, sit, roll and play on the equipment, sandbox and ground. Snowpants keep their legs from getting too cold.

We go outside as much as possible. (When the temperature is above 15 degrees with the wind chill, we will be outside)



Sincerely, your teachers,

Ms. Samantha, Ms. Marieliam, Ms. Karen and Ms. Sarah



Classroom B Newsletter January 2026

Dear classroom B families,

Happy New Year! We are so happy to be back at school after our long winter break! The children are working hard in the classroom as they settle back into the school routine.

We have also been having a lot of fun in the snow recently! The children in both classes worked together to build a snowman!

Traditional Indian Clothing



This month, Mehr's mom, Sakshi Saini, joined our class to teach the children about traditional Indian clothing. She brought in many beautiful garments, including *saris*, which are a traditional dress many women wear. She also brought in traditional men's clothing called a *kurta*. Sakshi pointed out that many saris have detailed embroidery.



After the presentation, the children participated in a craft activity, decorating their own sari or kurta. Thank you, Sakshi, for providing this presentation and craft for our class!

Storyteller Presentation

This month, we had a special visitor, Storyteller Diane Edgecomb. Diane is a storytelling and story-making artist committed to the transformative power that happens between teller and audience at live performances. The children really enjoyed her creative and funny way of telling the story.



Diane asked volunteers to help her tell the story of *The Freezing Snowman*. Here volunteers from classroom A and B are using props - a scarf, hat and mittens while Diane (as the snowman) asks them for the warm clothes. In the story the snowman does not know how to ask politely. The children help to teach the snowman to ask for something with kind manners, such as saying please. This presentation blended wonderfully with our Grace & Courtesy curriculum.



Science

Our class has been learning about magnetic and nonmagnetic properties this month. The children learned that magnets are special objects that can attract certain metals. Magnets work due to an invisible force called magnetism.

Math

The children have been working with counting 0-10 and 11-20 with woodland animals. Initially they begin with numbers 0-10 and then move on to 11-20. These materials change with the seasons.

The children often get excited seeing a new counting material on the shelf!



Geography

Throughout January and into February the children are learning many fascinating facts about North America. They discovered that North America is the continent where we live and is made up of several countries. Each country has its own states or provinces. We also discovered that throughout the continent there are different geographical areas called biomes.



Kindergarten corner

The life cycle of a frog is one of those special and memorable curricula topics. Everyone was very excited to learn everything they could about frogs, starting with the adult frog laying eggs. After several weeks, the eggs hatch into a tadpole with a long tail. As the tadpole grows, it undergoes metamorphosis and will develop back legs.

Next the front legs will grow, and the tail will shorten, as the tadpole becomes a froglet. The last stage is an adult frog.



Valentine's Day

Classroom B will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 12th. Please send a decorated box and Valentine cards (for 18 children). Detailed information was sent to families on Friday, January 23rd. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Classroom Sign-up links:

If you would like to visit the classroom to read a story, teach the children about a special holiday or family tradition, or plan an activity for the class (or anything else), please sign up to be a guest visitor. We love to have the children's family members visit our class!

Thank you to Karen Roeber, Mehr's mom, Sakshi Saini, and Colton's mom, Shauncey Malin for being guest visitors in January!

[**Guest visitor sign-up: classroom B**](#)

As a part of our Everyday Living curriculum, the children often enjoy flower arranging. If you would like the sign-up to bring in a bouquet, please sign up here.



Flower Bouquet sign up: Classroom B

Thank you, Henry, Estelle, and Luciano for providing flowers this month!



Birthdays!

If you would like to celebrate your child's special day, please click on the link and sign up for a birthday walk. As a reminder, we love to share pictures and a special story for your child's birthday walk (treats and student gifts are appropriate for home celebrations). [Classroom B birthday walk sign-up](#)

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Marianne, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Judy



January 2026 Extended Day Newsletter

Happy New Year! We welcomed 2026 with some New Year's resolutions, winter-themed crafts, and science experiments.

Our group project this month was all about making New Year's resolutions. We defined a resolution as something positive that we want to try or do more of in the new year. Some examples of resolutions we thought of included spending more time with family, trying new foods, and playing at the trampoline park more often.

For **arts and crafts**, we embraced winter with snow-themed projects like making snowflakes and engaging in winter sports like skating. We also had some open-ended craft activities, and to end the month, we focused on a Winnie the Pooh theme.

In **science**, we did a snowstorm-in-a-jar experiment and a dissolving-snowman experiment. For the snowstorm in a jar, we mixed water and white paint in a cup. Then we poured baby oil into the jar and added our water mixture. We learned that water and oil do not mix because oil is less dense than water. Next, we added Alka-Seltzer a little at a time, triggering a chemical reaction that produced bubbles that looked like snowfall. In the dissolving snowman experiment, we used biodegradable packing peanuts made from starch and drew snowman faces on them. We had two cups of water—one at room temperature and one warm. We placed two packing peanuts in each cup. The packing peanuts in warm-water cup dissolved immediately, while those in the room-temperature cup took a little longer. The science behind this is that water molecules pull apart the packing peanuts' molecules.

Our Extended Day program continues to grow in enrollment. Please inform the office in advance if you plan to add your child to the program. Remember that the extended day begins after the full day pickup ends (2:30-2:40 pm). If you have any questions, please ask Andrea.

Ms. Jessica and Ms. Amanda



The morning and afternoon Extended Day Programs offer a safe, fun and welcoming environment where children are offered age-appropriate activities which promote learning opportunities and social interaction with staff and classmates. This program is held in the front classroom of the school and on the playground.