

# Montessori Pathways' News



## Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)

I believe that November is a month that not only begins the holiday season, but also brings the spirit of giving and sharing. Following the Montessori approach, we at Montessori Pathways would like to teach our students the importance of sharing, giving, and helping, which will let them continue to be proud citizens of a country that is ready to help people around the world in any difficult situation.

## Annual Community Harvest

**"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving."**

~ Robert Louis Steven-

We concluded November with a **Giving with Gratitude Week**, when kids and their families were able to donate food and other items to the 31st Annual Community Harvest, which will benefit clients of the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Together we collected and donated **556 pounds** of food and other items.



It was a great chance to teach our students not only the importance of giving thanks for what they get, but also the importance of giving.



**"Children must grow not only in the body but in the spirit, and the mother longs to follow the mysterious spiritual journey of the beloved one who tomorrow will be the intelligent, divine creation, man."**

~ Maria Montessori

## Kids are Helping Kids



The children help to form a community in the classroom. Within that community, each child is an important and contributing member. He is responsible for taking care of the environment as well as the other members of the community (both the teachers and his friends).

Through the grace and courtesy lessons, we demonstrate the type of assistance that may be needed in the classroom. We may ask a child to help with a task or to lend a hand to a friend. But often times, the children step up on their own to provide help when they see it is needed. We observe that the help the children provide each other is just the right amount...not taking over and not offering too little.

Of course, help is not always academic or work related. Help can be in caring for each other or the environment. Spills happen regularly in the classroom. As the children all know that the classroom environment belongs to them, they know they are responsible for caring for it. After a large spill, we may witness other children coming to give a hand to the child cleaning up his work.

If a child is upset or needing some company, the children observe this and act accordingly. They are observant in the child's needs...does he need space and alone time, does he need a hug or smile, does he need an invitation to do work. As the children are learning how to show compassion to a friend, we may also offer suggestions on what type of help they need.

[Click here to see how kids are helping kids at Montessori Pathways](#)

# Thank you from the heart



- ◆ Thank you, parents, for all of your help, support, and participation in the kids' learning process, and for giving your kids a chance to feel the Thanksgiving spirit!
- ◆ Thank you to our Elementary students for helping to load the donated items for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry!
- ◆ Thank you, Christine Low, Landon and Owen's mom, and Arielle Arnold, Emmett and Charlie's mom, for helping us deliver all donated items for the Community Harvest to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.



## Parents' Corner



### ~ Process over Product in Montessori Primary Classroom ~

It is not easy to be a Montessori Parent. Tolerating your child's shoes being on the wrong feet, sitting on your hands while they flip their coat thirty times before finally getting it on their body independently, and remaining unemotional but empathetic during meltdowns all come with the territory. Another aspect of Montessori that can be difficult to accept as a parent is the idea of valuing "process over product."

Most of the work a child does in their Primary class does not involve the creation of a physical product that the child can take home to show Mom and Dad, especially when they are on the younger end of the spectrum. Instead, the experience itself with the materials is what is important—not the completion of a worksheet, test, or other physical proof that a child has worked on a certain topic. That makes it tricky as a parent to know what your child is working on and how well they understand it. They are not bringing anything home for you to assess! And to make matters worse, when you ask your child what they did at school today, they answer, "Nothing."

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## COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS



**in December / January**

### ◆ **Dec. 1—Dec. 21 — Toys for Tots**

It is with great joy that the Crystal Lake Police Department will be continuing their tradition of participating in **Toys for Tots**. You can drop off as many toys as you'd like in the drop box located in their lobby (**100 W Woodstock St, Crystal Lake**).

Toys donated go to children in McHenry County. These years have taken a lot from all of us, but it won't take the joy of giving. Thanks to your help, this drive is a huge success every year! Last year CL Police Department collected 1000 toys that were distributed to children within McHenry County. This year, let's beat that number!



**More locations in McHenry where toys can be dropped off**

### ◆ **December 1—17—Celebrating Winter: Winter Holidays Activity Month**

Unfortunately, with all of the developing Covid Variants, this year we will not be able to invite our families and celebrate Winter together again. However, if you have any great ideas how to bring a Holiday Spirit to our kids, feel free to share them with your teachers via email. The teachers will be happy to collect all of the ideas and organize the winter fun day for your children.

### ◆ **December 20 (M) - December 31(F) - No school; Winter Break**

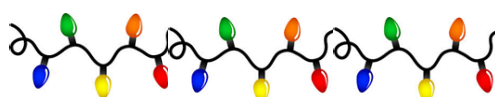
### ◆ **January 3 (M) - School resumes**

### ◆ **January 14 (F) - ELEMENTARY Parent / Teacher Conference Day (Virtual)**

No school for Elementary Students on Conference Day

### ◆ **January 17 (M) - No School (Martin Luther King JR. Day)**

### ◆ **January 17—31 - Returning Families Preferred Re-Enrollment Period**





## NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS

Ms. Bridget



November brings colder air but more adventures for the students. We continue to venture outside which is a huge part of being an older child. We are learning how to navigate traffic, crosswalks and sidewalk vs non-sidewalk walking.



We are learning to move to the right as a courtesy as well as using our walking to walk some of the canned goods over to Crystal Lake Food Pantry during our first snow fall of the season. Our walks to the library and Veteran Acres are still a high point in the week for the students.



In class, we have been busy with our work. Upper EI has been working on Ancient Egyptians, Forest and Water Biomes, triangle work- parts of, types of, perimeter, measurement of angles as well as air pressure, temperature measurement and conversions of temps from F to C and C to F.



We finished our mystery books and have been working on paragraphing and dialogue writing.



Lower EI has been working on clock time as well as AD/BC time, layers of our atmosphere, astronauts, 3 basic invertebrates- porifera, cnidaria and 3 types of worms, Geometric solids, forces like gravity, inertia and writing to create a story line.



Some have been reading books with me and some have become more independent and are reading short chapter books.



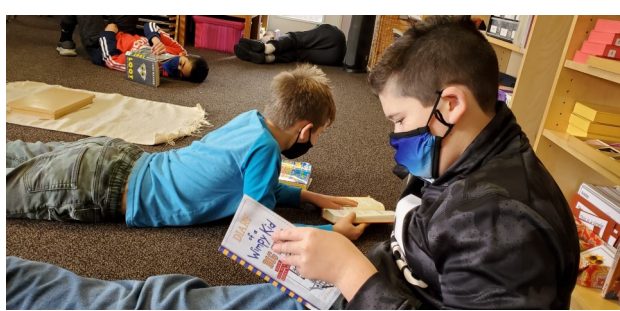
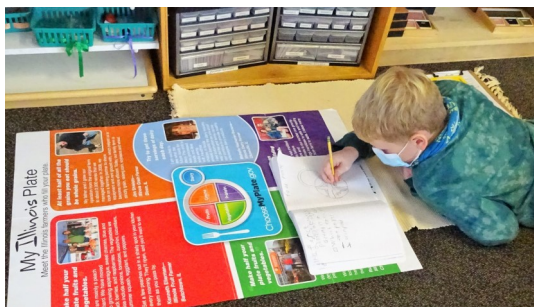
The hit of the month has been Geocaching. They have really enjoyed using the GPS to find the hidden objects. We have found 3 so far within a mile from our school.





# NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

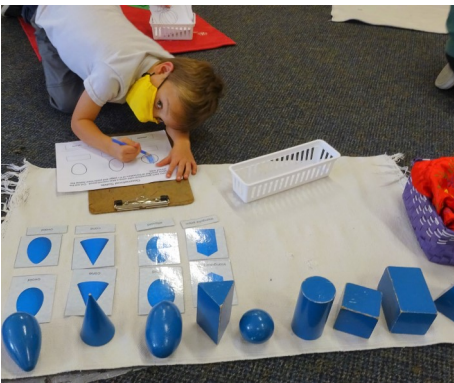
## Elementary Class





# NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

## Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group





## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



November brought the cold chilly weather our first snow fall and beginning of the holiday season. Everyone has settled into the inside arrival procedures. The inside arrival gives the children an extra hour of work time. The adjustment took a little while to get used to. Many children needed to build a bit of stamina to work through the extra hour without fatigue. Then the time changed to Daylight savings time. Everyone is all finally getting used to all of the changes. The snow and chilly weather prompted lessons on the change of seasons. We discussed the 'burr' months and reviewed the 12 months of the year.

Giving with gratitude week was exciting the children were happy to be contributors to those in need. Many of the children were aware others are in need of food and even shelter others were taken by surprise. Thank you for all of your generous donations.. This brought conversation about what each of us is grateful for in preparation of our Thanksgiving celebrations. We also played a game at the lunch and snack tables telling the person on your left and right what you like about them. It was tricky at first but most have caught on.

The art area is bustling with Thanksgiving arts and crafts. The children made turkeys, pumpkins and Indian corn. The dot painting with Q-tips and the cutting skills needed in these various activities are purposeful and to refine the small motors skills needed for writing.



Practical Life gives the children an opportunity to scrub a pumpkin, bake cookies and sort leaves by shape and color. They are poking turkeys and pumpkins. Feed the turkey is a favorite; the children use tweezers to feed pom poms to the turkey made from a jar.



We brought back baking. Baking is a multistep half of a morning activity.

It builds fine motor skills, concentration and attention to detail. The children must wash hands, gather the baking supplies, roll out the dough, cut the cookies, decorate them, place them on the baking tray, wash, dry and put away their dishes. They finish by writing their name on a label, affix it to the bag and place the cookies in the bag. Whew!



The children are enjoying pumpkin and acorn counting in math area. The older children have begun addition with the bead materials. They sort the beads by quantity and build 2 bead stairs. They then get their equations, either in book form or assorted equations. The beads are used as an intermediary step to help the child to memorize addition facts through repetition. If your child brings home any sort of "book" or paper have them read it to you to reinforce the concepts presented. The 45 layout is an introduction to the decimal system. The children enjoy the enormity of the work. It is laying out units from 1-10 next to the numerals. Laying out the tens from 10 -90 again with the ten bars. One ten bar is 10, 2 tens make 20 etc. The children count the units in a hundred square and find one hundred squares is the same as 100 units. Again they lay the numerals and corresponding quantity for each numeral 100- 900. For the grand finale the thousands are laid out from 1000 – 9000 with the corresponding numerals the result is a huge work and confidence in ability.

Language provides the children for the opportunity to match 3-part cards, one master card with a picture and the word, one card with the picture only and lastly a card with only the corresponding word. There are cards for each of the animal families as well as plants and geometric shapes. The children are currently enthralled with parts of the turkey and scarecrow. Many children just take these out and learn the names of the various parts. The teachers can write the words for younger children. Others are in a Sensitive Period to write the names of the parts and color the matching picture making a book.

The older children were introduced to the Native American regions, dwellings, stories and life styles of the indigenous people of the United States. This brings us back to Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving to all. We are thankful you allow us time with your wonderful children.



# NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

## South Room





## NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM

Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

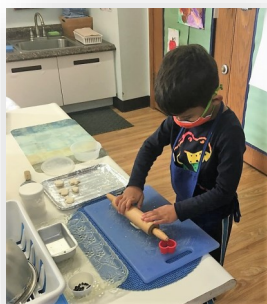


This has been a short but busy month; the children have shown a great interest in caring for our environment. They are eager to help and work together feeding our classroom pet Bobby (the beta fish) washing tables, and straightening up or organizing the works on our shelves, It's wonderful to see that sense of responsibility and community in the classroom. These activities are teaching the children valuable organizational skills, but they are also wonderful at developing empathy and help the child develop the built-in emotional response toward caring for other people. That's why giving children opportunities to help out at home is just as essential as it is at school.



The children absorb a great deal through observation, but you can't only rely on that. There are certain skills that you have to show them how to do. This teaching should be part of your child's daily routine at home, just as it is in a Montessori classroom. Each skill should be taught separately, with a lot of patience and confidence in the child's ability to learn. This can be a lot of work for busy parents, but keep in mind that if you don't take time to teach, you will spend a lot more of your valuable time correcting a child who doesn't know how to do things, or worse yet, does not understand the value of life and how to enjoy it.

In the practical life area, baking was also introduced. Everyone is so excited to have the opportunity to roll out their dough, choose their cookie cutters and create their own freshly baked, one of a kind, delicious, bit size cookies. They will be bringing them home to share, if they can make it home or on the car ride! (and not to worry, very low in sugar, using a biscuit mix)



The Geometric solids have been popular, the children learn to recognize these shapes by handing the solids, looking at them, and playing group games where they try to identify them using common things in the environment.

As our children continue to work on their sounds and sight word books, please make sure to read with your child at home and if possible, return in their blue bag next day. This will help your child to stay motivated during the process. As all ways we are thankful for all of your support. In the language area some of our older children have been word building using phonograms and are very excited and proud of their word building, as they continue to move forward.



In anticipation of Thanksgiving, we have had fun reading stories, having discussions about our countries beginnings, and learning what it means to be thankful, some friends had fun making cornucopias, and others learning parts of the turkey.



The older children had an opportunity to learn more about the native people who were the first people to live in North America. They discovered there were many native nations, or groups. The people of each nation spoke different languages, wore different styles of clothing, and practiced their own customs and traditions. The native people had different ways of life, too. They found food in different ways and build their own styles of houses depending on where they lived. Many of the children created their own maps with the different regions and dwellings, they also had fun making canoes, teepees, and turtle rattles.

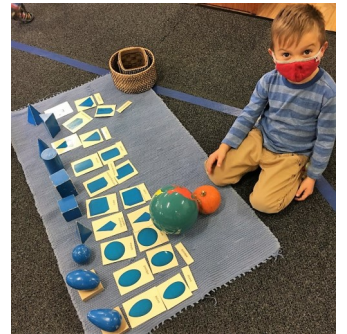
Giving with Gratitude week was a great success. Thank you again for your generous contributions.

And we would like to wish Ava, Neel, and Adil a very Happy Birthday this month!



# NOVEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

## East Room





## MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



*"Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education."  
~ M. Montessori*

