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Greetings From the Head of School

Happy October! We began the month with our 1K and 5K event at school. I was so proud of everyone who participated. I have been inspired by our children and plan on participating next year! I would like to send a big thank you to our amazing PTO, Roma Venkatesan, Jen Tondelli, Sapna Campion, Dawn Bibbs-Morrissey, Ivan Feliciano and Evie Olech for all they have done and continue to do to offer such wonderful experiences for our families at school. We are grateful for you! They are already busily planning for the Fall Harvest Fest on Saturday, November 2nd from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

5k Run - by Kennett Andersen

Recently the PTO held a fundraising 5k. The PTO earned \$1,600, half of which is going to Saints Jude's Children Hospital. There were around 60 participants. The participants ran around the pond and crossed West Berry St. then crossed Mumford ran to the second pond East of Freeman East came back and did one last lap around the pond on a beautiful day with lots of sun. Donuts were provided as well as bananas and granola bars.

From the PTO:

Thank you to all of our participants, volunteers, and cheerleaders that attended our MANH Costume Race this past weekend. We could not have done this without everyone's help to make this event such a success. The weather was perfect for a Saturday morning fun run, and we had a great turnout for our race. Thanks to your generosity, a portion of the proceeds raised from the race will be donated to St. Jude's. The PTO is truly thankful for the MANH community and participation in the events that we plan. We look forward to seeing you all at the next event! - The PTO



Peace Day Picnic - by Samantha Adams

The peace day picnic is a yearly event that helps bring the community together to celebrate and have fun. This year we had face paint, tie dying, art, etc. set up for the children to enjoy. A taco stand was put up for food, and towards the end, ice-cream was brought out so everyone could enjoy the delicious treat. All of the children are able to get together and sing the peace day song, a fun activity for both the kids and the parents.

Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

Fun Episodes of Freeman East

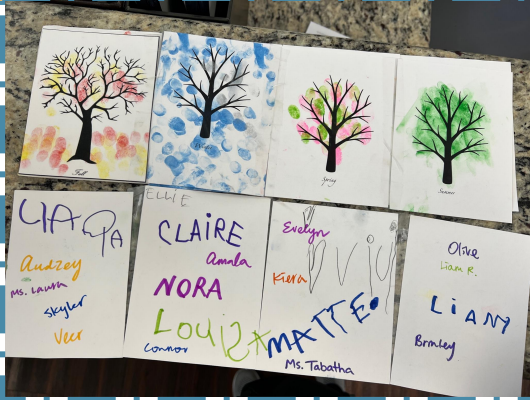
Excitement is high at Freeman East, as we just unveiled our new playground. This moment was years in the making, and after much careful planning and many rounds of successful fundraising, our Primary students are now able to enjoy brand-new equipment that provides a safer, more engaging experience for them.

Pumpkin the Hamster, Freeman East's resident Houdini (in Ms. Singh and Ms. Mohebbi's class), was given a new cage recently -- one that teachers and students alike are hoping prevents her from her next attempt at escape.

Fascinating Work at Freeman West

Recently at Freeman West, we have been working on completing this edition of the newsletter.

Freeman West's Erdkinder program is the hub for all of the newsletter happenings, be it writing, editing, emailing, formatting, and of course, more writing and editing. Over these past few weeks we really jumped into planning every aspect of these very pages in order for you to be reading the newsletter right now. We hope you have been enjoying the releases so far.



Huntington Happenings

The Huntington primary students (ages 3-6) have the privilege of experiencing Lunch Buddies with elementary students. Four elementary students come over from the East campus to Huntington to have lunch with the primary students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are rotating so that the same four friends can come for one month. The older friends split up and sit at a table with their younger friends to eat lunch together as they practice grace and courtesy and have conversation. After lunch, all the children work as a team to clean up and then read books together. At the end of September, one of the sixth graders told the October Elementary Lunch Buddies, "Don't worry, you are going to love it. I cried on my last day." This beautiful opportunity is a benefit to the younger children as well as the older students.

The second image features Thank You cards made by primary students for their elementary Lunch Buddies.

Classroom Focus: Mentoring Program

What is the Mentoring Program? -

by Alayna Faiz

Here at MANH, our mentoring program is one of the many things that make our school unique. At the beginning of each year, the Erdkinder students are each assigned to a primary student from Ms. Huma's class. Every Wednesday the Erdkinder class eats lunch with the primary class. The older students look after their mentees and make sure that they are following the rules, and having fun at the same time! Throughout the month, usually on Fridays, we all head to the art room to complete a simple art project set out by Ms. Meeta, the art teacher. Everyone loves this program, both the Erdkinder and primary students!

The students of the Erdkinder class also have mentors of their own. Every student is assigned a teacher as their mentor and they meet every two weeks to check in. During the meetings, students learn to properly manage their time, set reasonable goals, and/or plan extracurricular activities. More specifically, if a student feels that they are struggling with academics or even out of school, their mentors can help organize their thoughts and share ways to prevent unnecessary stress. With this program, both the students and teachers are able to build a stronger relationship while, ultimately, aiding in the construction of a beneficial environment.

Ms. Huma's Class: Friday - by David

Azaran

Mentors and mentees meet twice each week: for lunch on Wednesdays and for large muscle play or art projects on Fridays. On Fridays while the weather remains pleasant, the students go outside and play together. They play catch with tennis balls and frisbees, run around, and play games which develop their large muscle skills. They also explore the outdoor environment, often examining leaves, bugs, and dirt. In the winter or on rainy days, they do art activities and crafts. These activities are all good for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds to do because they help them practice many important fine-motor skills, like how to hold and use a pencil, marker, or paintbrush and how to hold a scissors and cut paper. The Primary kids also learn to follow multi-step directions. The mentoring program is important because Erdkinder mentors and Primary mentees form meaningful bonds.



Mentoring Program Cont.



Ms. Huma's Class: Lunch - by Stella Frolick

Every Wednesday, the Erdkinder class joins their mentees for lunch. The Erdkinder students model good behavior while the mentees enjoy their company. Together, they find a table and begin discussing a variety of topics like favorite things and activities; the mentees always give entertaining responses! After they eat their food, Erdkinder students help their buddies clean their plates, and send them back to their classroom.



Erdkinder Teacher and Student Mentoring - by David Azaran

Mentoring is an important component of the MANH Erdkinder experience. Each student is paired with one of their teachers (mentor) with whom they are comfortable, and they meet privately several times each month. This safe 1:1 environment allows the student to comfortably open up. They talk about both in-school as well as out-of-school activities and goals. Additionally, students often feel overwhelmed, and mentor meetings help to quell their stressors. Teachers are a large part of each student's daily life, and their adult observations and ability to make changes in the community encourage positive growth in their mentee's habits and foster the success of each student.

Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Alayna Faiz

Alyssa is an 8th grader in the Erdkinder class who has been attending MANH for seven years. Outside of school, she plays softball, listens to her favorite musical artists, such as Billie Eilish, and binge-watches shows, like *Stranger Things*. Her favorite food is Gnocchi (a dense potato pasta). When she's older, she plans to combat the fossil fuel industry as an environmental scientist whilst visiting some of her favorite places: Italy, Spain, and Japan.



Zainab is a new student in the Erdkinder program who has been coming to MANH for more than 12 years! At home, she cares for her pet snake, hamster (which she noted is "thriving"), and betta fish. In her spare time, she creates abstract art, sleeps, and plays video games like *Valorant* and *Call of Duty*. She loves horror movies, specifically the movie *Scream* and claims that they don't scare her. In terms of food, she loves Hawaiian cuisine, specifically poke bowls. When she gets older, she would like to be a travel nurse.



Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by Samantha Adams

Kandi Bell is newer to the MANH community and has only been here for two months. She has lived in Texas for most of her life, so coming here has been quite a change. She had previously worked in an ER, but decided to come to MANH as a change in pace since it's a much calmer environment. She has three kids, and knows sign language because her oldest is deaf. Working here and seeing the kids brings a smile to her face. She is thankful to everyone in the community for being so welcoming.

Alumni Update: Maria Salouras

by Kennett Andersen

Maria Salouras is a 2018 graduate of MANH. She started at MANH at 8 months old. She is currently studying for a degree in early childhood education at Northern Illinois University. Influenced by her happy and meaningful time at MANH, Ms. Salouras intends to become a Montessori teacher. While she experienced many memorable MANH moments, she mentions the trips (field experiences) as her favorites. "My most memorable moment at MANH was all the trips we went on. Especially Mexico and Spain." Ms. Salouras' fond memories do not end there. For her Erdkinder capstone project, she researched beauty standards; this ended up becoming her favorite project. She also details how the community at MANH was always supportive and inclusive. "The community at MANH just shows how well everyone gets along even with different opinions and views." She recalls that the community was able to resolve situations easily. "We were all able to solve problems as a whole community and find ways to better our surrounding community."

Upcoming Events

- Monday, 10 October ALL DAY Indigenous Peoples' Day, NO CLASSES
- Tuesday, 11 October 2:30pm Early Dismissal Elementary and Erdkinder
- Wednesday, 12 October 9am-1:30pm Primary Field Trip - Johansen Farms
- Wednesday, 12 October 5:30-6:30pm Erdkinder Curriculum Night
- Friday, 14 October 7:30am-8:30am Donuts with Grownups: West Campus
- Friday, 14 October Alayna's bake sale
- Saturday, 15 October All day Erdkinder Social Outing: Six Flags
- Tues & Wed, 18,19 October Hearing and Vision Screening
- 17-21, 24-26 October 3:35-4:00 Erdkinder New Family Check-in
- Thursday, 20 October 9am-2pm Elementary Field Trip to Naper Settlement
- Friday, 21 October 7:30am Erdkinder Cafe (cafe open 8-8:30am)
- Wednesday, 26 October 5pm-6:15pm Primary Curriculum Night Part 2
- Wednesday, 26 October Dine and Share at Portillo's in Schaumburg
- Friday, 28 October 3:30pm Trunk-or-Treat - Rain or Shine'
- Saturday, 5 November 2:00-5:00pm
- Tuesday, 8 November Early Dismissal 2:30pm
- Friday, 11 November Erdkinder Cafe 8-8:30am
- Tuesday, 15 November PTO Fundraiser: Lou Malnati's Pizzeria (Hoffman, Schaumburg, and Palatine locations)
- Tuesday, 15 November Erdkinder Potato Peeling Contest
- Friday, 18 November Thanksgiving Feast
- Monday & Tuesday, 21-22 Primary and Elementary Conference - Discovery Days
- Wednesday, 23 November Discovery Day Elementary & Primary (no school for Erdkinder)
- Thursday & Wednesday, 24-25 November Campuses Closed