



NOVEMBER EDITION, 2022

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Greetings From the Head of School

Happy November to all! I began my first round of formal classroom observations. I always enjoy watching Montessori magic at its best. I was greeted warmly by the teachers and children and saw some beautiful moments in all the classrooms. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have this community. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the talented group of educators and partner with each and every one of you.



Trunk or Treat - by Samantha Adams

On Friday, October 28th, the MANH community celebrated Halloween with our annual Trunk or Treat. After school, cars, showcasing their ominously ornamented trunks, filled up the West Campus parking lot. Soon after, kids arrived in fang-tastic costumes and walked around the halloweenified lot collecting tons of candy along the way. Finally, those who were brave enough ventured into the haunted bus. The event is always fun for everyone.



Erdkinder Social Events - by Samantha Adams

This month the Erdkinder Social Club went on two eerie excursions. The group started off the month with a trip to Six Flags, and, a few weeks later, ventured to the Disturbia Haunted House. These thrilling trips were the perfect way to celebrate the Halloween season.



Primary Pumpkin Patch - by Alayna Faiz

Early this October, both primary classes took a field trip to the Bolingbrook pumpkin farm. There, the students fed baby animals, jumped in bouncy houses, and played mini golf! The kids also enjoyed activities like hayrides and corn mazes. Unfortunately, the gloomy weather interrupted the fun with chilly winds and a cloudy sky, but everyone still managed to have a great time.



Dia de los Muertos - by Stella Frolick

Para el Día de los Muertos, la clase de Erdkinder construyeron un altar en la clase de español. El altar consiste en cempasúchiles, calaveras de azúcar, esqueletos, velas, fotos de los muertos y sus comidas favoritas. Ellos vieron la película *Coco* y comieron pan de muerto también. For the Day of the Dead, the Erdkinder class made an altar in Spanish class. The altar consists of marigolds, sugar skulls, skeletons, candles, pictures of the deceased, and their favorite foods. They also watched the movie *Coco* and ate pan de muerto.

Upper Erdkinder 1919 Trip - by Stella Frolick

On October 14, the Upper Erdkinder class went to the Steppenwolf Theater to see *1919*, an intense, experimental, non-linear play about the 1919 Chicago race riots. The play, based on true historical and modern events, focuses on a sociologist-poet trying to grapple with the history of racial discrimination in Chicago and the United States. Before seeing the play and to prepare for the heavy subject matter, the students did rigorous pre-work about the 1919 riots. After the production and an insightful Q&A with the actors, the students enjoyed a delicious Persian meal at Kebobi, a favorite Chicago restaurant.



Lower Erdkinder Naper Settlement -

by Kennett Andersen

Lower Erdkinder went on a historical trip through the 19th century visiting Naper Settlement in October. The students visited the blacksmith, school house, and fire station to learn about the settlement's different professions and services. A student in 8th grade said, "I liked it because I wanted to learn more about how people lived in those times and it made me more grateful for our lives now."

Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

Huntington Happenings

The toddlers (ages 15 months-3 years) at the Huntington campus have been enjoying some new blocks in their outdoor play area. They are working together to build and create. These blocks are designed to encourage child-directed discovery. It is also part of their big work to get the blocks out of the storage container and put them away. We can't wait to see all that they create together!

Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and strength, use it to create. -Maria Montessori



Fascinating Work at Freeman West

Freeman West's parking lot usually hosts the school's seasonal events every month. This includes the Back to School and Peace Day Picnics from the start of the year, the recent Trunk or Treat event, and the upcoming Fall Fest. These events provide a way for the MANH community to join together and have fun.

Fun Episodes of Freeman East

This month I am helping with Fall Fest which is this Saturday from 2-5p.

Next week, we have another Elementary Curriculum Night: Geography and Physical Science is the topic. This year the teachers have discovered a new way to conduct their curriculum nights. They have the students demonstrate their work for the parents; this was a huge success last month!

And lastly, we have our Thanksgiving Feast-not open to parents-slated for the 18th. The Feast is my larger task, orchestrating the menu, jobs lists, who is performing what and creating a program. I can't wait to see the finished product and enjoy all the good food we have coming!

- Kandi Bell

Thanksgiving Baskets

This week, classes at MANH collaborated with the PTO to put together baskets of food to give to the Palatine Food Pantry. Students brought in a variety of goods from canned vegetables to cereal boxes to add to the baskets in front of every classroom door. The PTO asked for all donations to be in by Friday, November 4th.

Thank you to all who participated!

Classroom Focus: Ms. Singh

Interview with Ms. Singh - by

Samantha Adams

Ms. Singh is a lead teacher and has been working at MANH for a total of four years. Her classroom consists of 1st through 6th graders, and is very community based. As part of this structure, every student plays a role in keeping the community together. Another important aspect of the classroom community are the peer partnerships where each student is assigned two partners. This encourages them to go to their classmates for help rather than relying completely on teachers, allowing all students to learn from each other and grow. When it comes to conflicts within the classroom, one of the students is assigned the job of a peace facilitator. They help others come to compromises and resolve any conflicts without the need for a teacher.



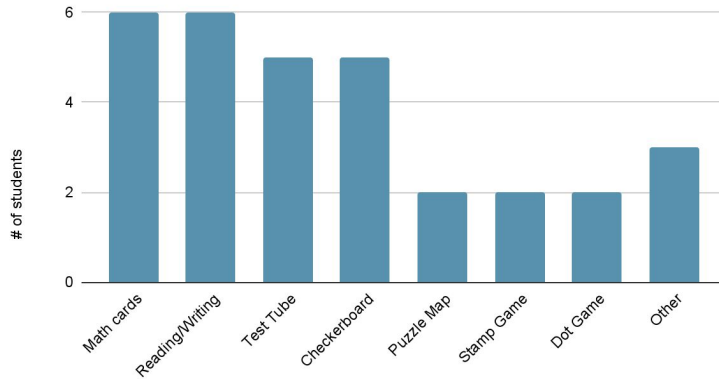
A Day in the Life - by Kyle Riffner

Crash! A student inadvertently stepped on a basket of plastic coins scattering them all over the carpet. She began to walk away before being reminded by a peer that “if you make a mess, you have to clean it up.” While I was observing Ms. Singh’s class, I witnessed many such interactions. Children sat at tables and rugs as they intently worked. From learning zoology through the parts of the butterfly to exercising their mathematical abilities with the help of the checkerboard, the students used an array of materials. Ms. Shelbi and Ms. Singh periodically pulled them from their projects to attend lessons on either end of the room. However, as the sounds of collaborative chatter intensified, the bell rang, temporarily silencing the class and reminding everyone to lower the volume. Soon after, students began to call Mr. Michael over to check their work before finally asking the question of completion: “can you sign it off my work plan, please?”

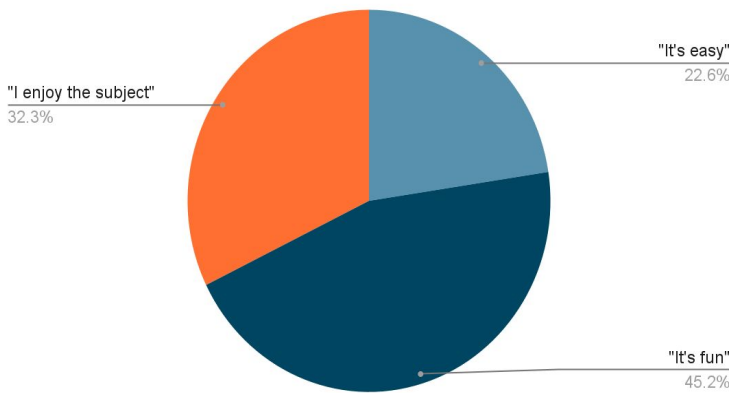


Classroom Focus: Ms. Singh Cont.

Favorite Works



Student Explanations

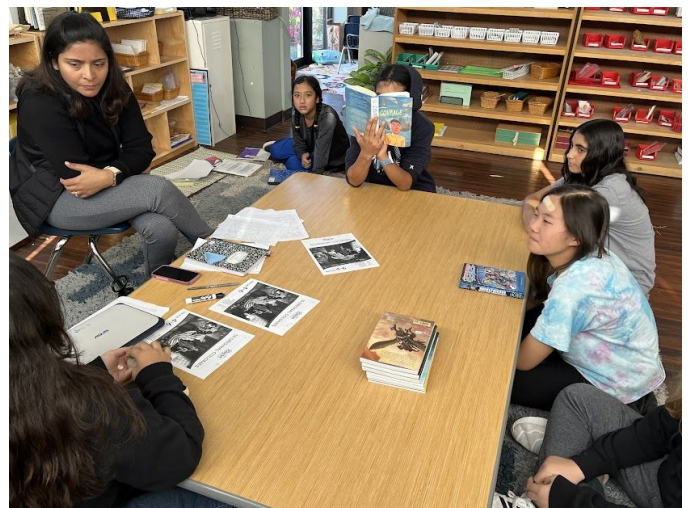


Materials in the Classroom

- by Kennett Andersen

Symbolizing sentences is a material which teaches students the parts of speech. Sentence cards are provided, and the students are tasked with identifying the role of each word within the sentence, be it a noun, verb, article, adjective, etc. The students then place different colored shapes representing the various parts of speech over each word, and a teacher checks the student's work. Afterwards, the students record their answers in a notebook.

This survey was taken in Ms. Singh's class. Her 31 kids were asked what their favorite works were and why.



Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Alayna Faiz and Stella Frolick

- Lexi Turner is a new 8th grader at MANH. She occupies her time with hobbies such as acting, reading, crocheting, and collecting squishmallows while also staying active, playing sports like basketball, badminton, track & field, and soccer.
- She has an amazing memory, so if you think she forgot something, think again! As for the future, Lexi plans on becoming a teacher and living in the suburbs of Illinois.

- Attending MANH for a third year, Sage Thompson is a 9th grader in the Erdkinder class. She has a sister, Lily, who is also part of the Erdkinder community. She loves mac and cheese, and her favorite book is *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. Outside of school, she enjoys horseback riding and playing with her two-year-old German Shepherd.

Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by Kennett Andersen

- Javad Balouch, our school cook, has always wanted to be a chef. Originally from Iran, he worked as a teacher for 18 years before owning his own restaurant. A few years later he moved to the U.S., where he chose to continue working as a chef. He owned and worked at a restaurant in Schaumburg and later began cooking here, at the Montessori Academy of North Hoffman. Here, he uses his passion to provide healthy meals to our students. Outside of his professional life, Mr. Balouch enjoys cooking kabobs for his family, watching soccer (namely, Real Madrid), eating shrimp, and caring for his cat, Ashes.

Alumni Update: Ayaan

by David Azaran

- Ayaan Zafar, currently a junior majoring in neuroscience at UIC, is one of MANH's seven Upper Erdkinder alumni (2020) so far. Ayaan attended MANH for fifteen years and claims that some of his most memorable experiences were the various annual school trips. His favorite remains the East Coast trip in his 9th grade because during the drive they "stopped in a new state each day along the way."
- Many of Ayaan's school projects are still on display today. His personal favorite was a 3D DNA model that combined his passion for both science and art. At the elementary level, his favorite work was the algebra-scale because it makes a difficult abstract concept (algebraic equations) understandable because of the kinesthetic components involved in the learning process.
- Ayaan is also grateful for the life skills MANH teaches. His experiences in student-run businesses such as Cafe and Farmer's Market as well as in food prep and cleaning prepared him well for his adult life.
- Additionally, art is an important hobby for Ayaan. He enjoyed developing this hobby from his time Primary, Elementary, and Erdkinder at MANH, and producing art is something he still enjoys today.
- A major school event that Ayaan always enjoyed was the annual Thanksgiving Feast which is making its post-pandemic comeback this year. He always enjoyed preparing the class dish (sweet potato casserole) with his friends and classmates, as well as enjoying a great meal with the whole school.
- Ayaan describes the MANH community as very close and tight-knit. The unique, mixed-age MANH classrooms allow individuals to be helpful to one another. Ayaan is still in contact with the friends he made from MANH, and whenever they are all over a break, they always try to catch up and have fun together.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 5 November Fall Harvest Fest 2:00-5:00pm

Monday 7th of November - Thursday 17th of November Thanksgiving Baskets must be delivered to the Palatine Food Pantry

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

Thursday, 1 December Hearing and Vision Rescreening (ages 3 and up)

Thursday & Friday, 1-2 December Toddler Parent Teacher Conferences - Discovery Day

Wednesday, 14 December Music Performance K-12

Friday, 16 December Erdkinder Cafe

Monday - Wednesday, 19-21 December Erdkinder End of Semester 1 Assessments

Friday & Monday 23 & 26, December All Campuses Closed

Tuesday - Friday 27-30, Winter Break - Discovery Days (Full Day Students May Attend)

ERDKINDER CAFE

The monthly Erdkinder Cafe will be returning on November 11th, now with a Thanksgiving theme!

