



## Greetings From the Head of School

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. As we gear up for the winter months and cold weather, I am reminded of the warmth that we feel in our hearts at school each day. Our children are the center of this feeling. From their laughter to the deep interest in their work, to the big hugs each day, our children bring joy and inspiration to us. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with the love and warmth of your children.



## Thanksgiving Feast and

### Performance- by Alayna Faiz

Turkey! Corn Bread! Cranberry Sauce! These are just a few of the delicious foods our MANH community enjoys during our annual Thanksgiving feast. Each class prepares their own dish. Then, on the day of the feast, we congregate in the gymnasium of the east campus and enjoy a big meal. However, before the gorging begins, each class performs plays or songs for the rest of the school community to enjoy. After these performances, some of the older Erdkinder students serve the elementary and primary classes a portion of their meals. Everyone else lines up to fill their plates---and soon themselves---with the delicious Thanksgiving staples! This year, on November 18th, MANH celebrated the Thanksgiving Feast for the first time since 2019.



### **Adopt a Family** - by Kennett Andersen

Adopt-a-Family is a holiday school service that provides families in need with holiday gifts. Tags with Christmas wishes were hung on trees in all three campuses. Parents then chose tags and returned with festively wrapped gifts to be placed under the trees. As a result of the generosity within our community, our school was able to bring gifts to 36 people this holiday season!

### **Fall Fest** - by Stella Frolick

On November 5, the east campus hosted a fall fest. Though it was chilly, attendees still enjoyed a petting zoo and pony rides. As the temperature continued to drop, some of the attendees retreated indoors seeking the warmth of the east campus foyer. Inside awaited hot beverages like coffee and apple cider along with delicious apple donuts sold by Erdkinder.



### **Erdkinder Intersession** - by Kennett Andersen

When returning to school post-winter break, the Erdkinder students will have an intersession from January 9th to 11th. These three days will be used for team building as well as preparation for both student-led conferences (which will take place on the 12th-13th of January) and the new semester. During the conferences, students will present the work and progress they have made throughout the first semester to their parents with input from teachers.

### **Lower Erdkinder “A Christmas Carol” Trip** - by Stella Frolick

As part of their intro to theatre class, lower Erdkinder are going to a production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Metropolis Theater in Arlington Heights. For preparation, the students will listen to the opening chapters of *A Christmas Carol* in their ELA classes and will finish the remainder of the story on their own. Directly following the play, the actors will stay for a Q&A. When the students return, they will be given questions related to their theatre class as well as the play to answer either in class or at home.

## Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

### Huntington Happenings

Never help a child with a task at which they feel they can succeed. - Maria Montessori

The children in the infant classroom are 3 months - 15 months old. While they are the youngest children in our school community, they are so curious and so capable.

Ms. Kelly, the Infant Teacher, recommends the book, Please Help Me Do It Myself by Susan Mayclin Stephenson.

### Fascinating Work at Freeman West

All the campuses, including ours, have recently started to put up festive decorations to show that winter is right around the corner. At our campus, students put a small Christmas tree in the main classroom to put presents we have for each other. We can't wait for more festive cheer, happy memories, and most of all, winter break.

### Fun Episodes of Freeman East

The Freeman East campus hosted its Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 18. Over 100 people from both East and West campuses attended the festivities, which featured a special holiday performance from Ms. Mishra and Ali's Primary students, as well as a seasonably appropriate song from Mr. Azzano and the Elementary classes. The food, prepared by Mr. Balouch and the Erdkinders, was bountiful as it was delicious.

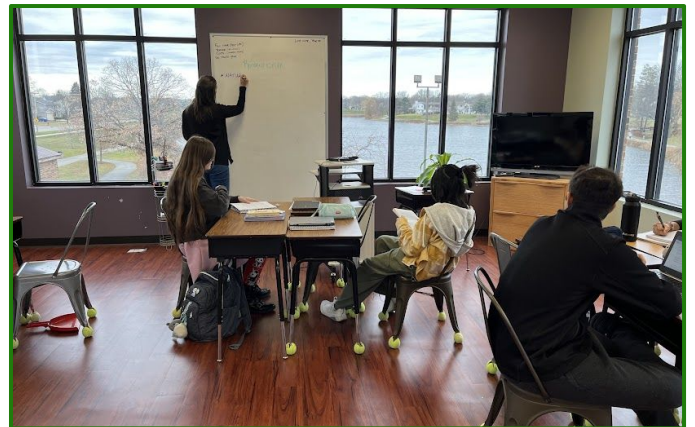


## Classroom Focus: Erdkinder

### Interview with Ms. Z - by Alayna Faiz

Mrs. Z is the head teacher of the Erdkinder class and has been working at MANH for 17 years.

The Erdkinder program is very unique compared to other public high schools. Every child is treated as an individual and most classes are grouped by abilities rather than grade level. According to Mrs. Z, the older students act as role-models for the younger students who can then learn and follow in their footsteps. Field experiences also play an integral role in the program. Students travel to places like Mexico, where they attend a Spanish school for six hours a day, or Florida, where they learn science and history. The Erdkinder program not only focuses on academics but also on moral character and development through the practice of virtues including patience, honesty, cleanliness, respect, and much more. Additionally, the program equips students with practical skills, like learning to run a business through the monthly cafe, to prepare them for adult life.



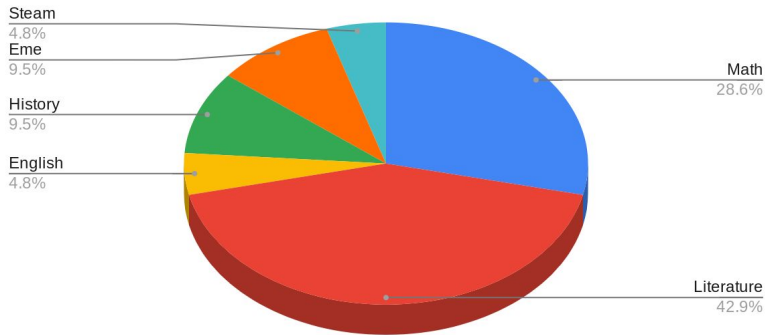
### A Day in the Life - by Samantha Adams

Erdkinder students start off their day at 8:15 with line. Subsequently, they begin their morning classes which are divided into two blocks: the math-spanish block and the ELA block. The first block goes from 8:30 to 10:05, and the second from 10:15 to 11:45. Following the morning classes, the students go outside for recess before returning for lunch. They then do their community jobs before preparing for afternoon classes which consist of history, EME, STEAM, and science, though on Friday the schedule is altered to have music, art, and theater.



## Classroom Focus: Erdkinder Cont.

Favorite Erdkinder Classes by Percentage

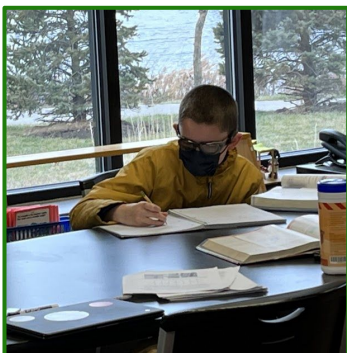


The students gave several explanations for their responses citing a favorite teacher, an interesting subject matter, an engaging/fun class, or creative freedom.



### Morning Line - by Kyle Riffner

Every morning, Erdkinder begins the day with a 5-10 minute classroom line (meeting). Biweekly, four students are assigned roles for line, including facilitator, greeter, planner leader, and observer as, unlike Primary or Elementary line, the students lead the meeting. The facilitator is responsible for beginning and ending line as well as dictating the meeting's structure. After the leader rings the bell and everyone has said good morning to each other, the greeter is instructed to share an uplifting quote with the class before the general schedule for the week is shared by the planner leader. Then, the facilitator shifts the topic to announcements and open discussion. Following this segment, the floor is opened for acknowledgements during which students affirm their peers for their virtuous behavior. Finally, the observer states the mood of the group and points out a few students who kept their attention focused on the speaker, spoke up clearly for everyone to hear, added appropriate humor, etc. By 8:30, everyone is dismissed to their first class of the day.



## Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Samantha Adams and David Azaran

Julian Sydor is an 8th grader in the Erdkinder classroom. He has been at MANH since he was in Kindergarten though he previously attended a preschool in Wauconda, Illinois. Julian has a sister, Gaia, along with two dogs, Lola and Luna, whom he loves very much. In his free time, Julian likes playing video games, kickboxing, and watching his favorite movies, including *Top Gun: Maverick* and the Harry Potter series. When he grows up, Julian dreams of becoming a NASA engineer and living in the warmth of the Texas air.

Lily Thompson is attending her first year in Erdkinder as a 7th grader. She lives with her parents; her sister, Sage, who is also a part of the Erdkinder community; and her dog, Freyja. She enjoys art (namely, drawing), fashion design, and spending time outdoors. She currently resides in Elgin but has previously lived in both Pennsylvania and Georgia.

## Alumni Update: Kameron

by David Azaran

Kameron Riffner is one of the seven MANH K-12 alumni. First attending MANH at ten months old, Kameron spent seventeen years at MANH, graduating the Erdkinder program in 2022. Throughout his MANH experience, Kameron made many memories, some of his most treasured being the Erdkinder East Coast trip and International Day. Kameron described the community as very friendly; he liked that he was able to make close friends despite having different interests. On top of academics, MANH helped Kameron develop many life skills, one being cooking. Today, Kameron attends Indiana University and is studying toward a degree in finance. Thanks to the strong sense of community he built at MANH, Kameron is still in contact with several of his old friends.

## Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by Alayna Faiz

Michelle Novelli, the site Director of Huntington, has been teaching at MANH for 9 years. She loves helping others which is why she chose to pursue a teaching career. Outside of her school life, she likes to spend time with her husband and two children, whether that means chilling on the beach (Her favorite place on Earth!), visiting lighthouses (of which, she's seen over 50!), or enjoying a good movie together. She enjoys watching sports like basketball, volleyball, and baseball, most of which she played in high school!



## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 6th, Erdkinder Information night (5-6:00 p.m.)  
Wednesday, December 7th Lower Erdkinder Field Experience - Metropolis Theater  
Dine and Share PTO fundraiser (Wendy's: Algonquin Rd Schaumburg)  
Elementary Information Night (5-6:30 p.m.)  
Tuesday, December 13, Early Dismissal (Elementary and Erdkinder - 2:30 p.m.)  
Wednesday, December 14, K-12 Music Performance (5-6:00 p.m.)  
Friday, December 16, Erdkinder Cafe  
Monday December 19-Wednesday, December 21, Erdkinder end of semester exams  
Thursday, December 22, Final numbers for museum overnight  
Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26, school closed  
Tuesday, December 27 - Friday, December 30, Discovery Days  
Monday, January 2, school closed  
Tuesday, January 3 - Friday, January 6, Discovery Days  
Monday, January 9-Wednesday, January 11, Erdkinder intersession  
Wednesday, January 11, Dine and Share PTO fundraiser (Panera: 100 West Higgins Rd.  
South Barrington, IL)  
Thursday, January 12-Friday, January 13, Erdkinder parent-teacher conferences  
Saturday, January 14, Silent Journey  
Monday, January 16, Discovery Day  
Tuesday, January 17, Erdkinder second semester begins  
Thursday, January 19, Elementary Presentation Night #1  
Tuesday, January 24, Early Dismissal  
Friday, January 27, Erdkinder Cafe  
Friday, January 27 (5:00 p.m.) - Saturday, January 28 (8:00 a.m.) Science and Industry  
Museum Overnight  
Monday, January 30 - Friday, February 3, Kindergarten parents visit Elementary  
Classrooms  
Wednesday, February 1, Elementary Curriculum Night #3 (5-6:00 p.m.)  
Friday, February 3, Half Day: all campuses closed at noon