



SEPTEMBER EDITION, 2023

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Greetings From the Head of School

Welcome to the new school year. We have so much to be grateful for this year. We worked hard this summer on upgrading our facilities at all 3 campuses and the faculty and children are very happy with the results. The faculty all staff meeting was also very productive. We learned about ways to better neurodivergent students within a Montessori framework. We also had a wonderful session on collaborative problem solving. Classrooms are bustling with excitement and the children are soaking up their new lessons and working with materials. It's going to be a great year!



Kayak Trip - by Kyle Riffner

At the beginning of each academic year, the Erdkinder class embarks on a community-building adventure during which students participate in some sort of physical activity. In previous years, the class participated in rock climbing, camping trips, and high ropes courses; however, this year, the Erdkinder students kayaked on the Fox river. The journey began with a brief introduction to both the kayaks as well as the river, and soon enough, the class was off paddling. Groups began to form as faster paddlers headed towards the front with Ms. Motlagh while slower ones paddled alongside Mr. Frolick and Mr. Sherman. With the exception of the periodic insect encounter, the river, parenthesized by thousands of trees and home to various birds, was beautiful. Despite the setting's charm, the trip's length was daunting for even the most athletic of the group, and over the several hours spent on the river, students showcased their determination and perseverance (the central theme of Erdkinder's first semester). Even when hope dwindled, the supportive nature of the community ensured that everyone arrived on shore, with some even attempting to conjoin their kayaks in this effort.



Welcome Picnic - by Stella Frolick

The back to school picnic was a joyous way to kick off the year. Students and parents alike enjoyed food and various art activities while the School of Rock band provided the ambience for the event through hits like “I Heard it Through the Grapevine.”

First Weeks Back - by Layla Morrissey

These first weeks of school have been full of fun, excitement, and learning! Our Erdkinder classroom has done some icebreaker activities to introduce new students and incoming 7th graders. Community bonding and team building has been the main focus for each of our classes. For example, Erdkinder went on a kayaking trip along the Fox River. The class got to practice working together to make things happen.

Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

Fun Episodes of Freeman East

Students Kindergarten-aged and younger are invited to check out the new Primary Lounge at Freeman East. Replacing the area where the children's cubbies used to be is a cozy, relaxing spot for the kids to read, decompress, or take a moment to themselves.

Fascinating Work at Freeman West

A major part of the Erdkinder experience at Freeman West is the harmony of chaotic social interactions that come with our learning. This year, we have a new lounge equipped with relaxing furniture that reflects this aspect of our community (and you didn't hear it from us, but our lounge is the best!)

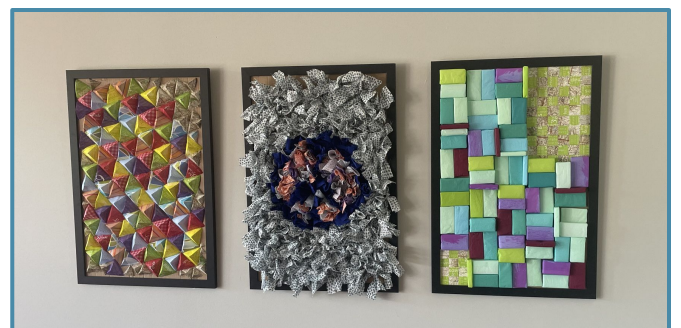
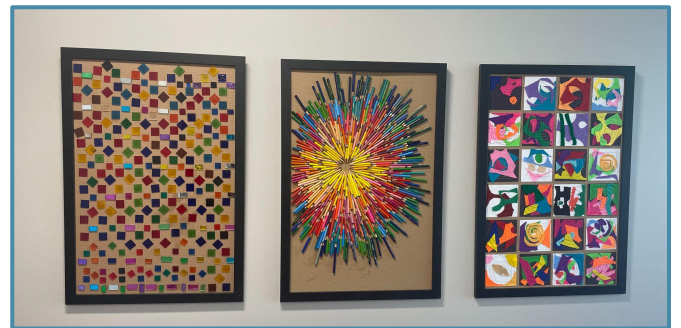
Huntington Happenings

The primary children at the Huntington Campus are excited to all be back together for the new school year. We have opened the second primary classroom here and children in both classrooms are enjoying the new look of their environment with fresh paint and new floors. They are busy working with all the materials as they learn about themselves and the world around them.

Classroom Focus: Ms. Meeta

Interview with Ms. Meeta - by Kyle Riffner

Ms. Meeta has been teaching at MANH for 11 years. Her general goal as an art teacher is to integrate elements of the subject as well as basic aspects of color theory into new and interesting projects using a variety of materials. She often works in conjunction with the elementary teachers which allows her to connect the art the students create to the elementary class curriculum making the learning experience richer and more meaningful. Additionally, she tailors each project to the varying age groups by altering certain aspects of the original approach. The projects are chosen with previous skills in mind whilst also gauging the general mood of the class. Currently, she is working on installing a few cactus inspired sculptures in the west campus planters. She constructed them with the help of her husband, but she is now calling upon her talented students to finish the job. As for her teaching philosophy, Ms. Meeta is able to connect with each and every one of her students with ease. Through this connection she finds a deep appreciation for their unique abilities and points of view, and she hopes her students emulate this admiration in hopes of building an even stronger community. Despite the fact that she has taught us all so much, she still insists that her students have taught her more than she could ever teach them, stating "I rejoice every minute I spend with them. Every mark, every line and each story behind them needs to be heard and celebrated. Hopefully in me they see their biggest cheerleader that I know I am."



Highlight Art - by David Azaran

These wonderful creations are currently being displayed in the Freeman West hallway and lunchroom. These designs were created by student groups in Ms. Meeta's art class. They took an array of materials and constructed unique designs. These projects with their explosive colors and harmonious patterns represent both teamwork and creativity.

Classroom Focus: Ms. Meeta Cont.

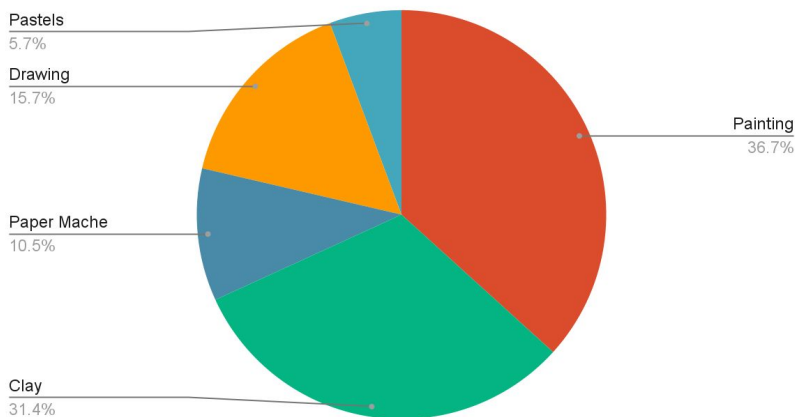


A Day in the Life - by Eli Nelson

September 5th marked the start of classes for the Freeman East campus, including art with Mrs. Meeta. Mrs. Meeta begins class explaining the rules and expectations for her class. She made sure the kids respected the materials and knew how to clean up their space. She also talked about artist cards, which are cards artists give to one another with their work (similar to a business card).

The kids in art class usually have a variety of projects to choose from. Today, the main activity was to help Mrs. Meeta by making paper quills as part of a larger project. The process included taking strips of paper and rolling them tightly on a pencil and gluing the top to the bottom. (This activity helps to improve motor coordination skills, especially in young children.) When they finished this, the kids were able to use other materials and worksheets. One of which was a partially finished drawing which some of the kids chose to complete using supplies like colored pencils as well as their imaginations. Others chose to make collages with cardboard, pinecones, bottle caps, egg cartons, and more, but regardless of what they were doing, everyone seemed to enjoy the class.

Which Form of Art Do You Like the Most?



We asked each student from Ms. Shelby's first-grade classroom what their favorite form of art is. The majority of the class said that they enjoyed painting the most. Clay was another popular choice. - Layla Morrissey

Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Alayna Faiz

- Scarlett is a new eighth grade student in the Erdkinder program. She previously attended her local middle school in Fox River Grove, but we are excited to welcome into our MANH community. In her free time, Scarlett enjoys drawing and crocheting as well as spending time with her beloved Maine Coone, Savannah. She is very passionate about saving the environment and stopping pollution, and as her name implies, Scarlett's favorite color is red.

- Stella is one of the two juniors this year in the Erdkinder program. She has attended MANH for her entire life and enjoys learning. Outside of school, Stella likes to watch movies and spend time with friends and family. She also loves to listen to music from artists like Taylor Swift, SZA, and Kendrick Lamar. As for the future, Stella would like to pursue film as a director.



Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by Stella Frolick

- Ms. Erika is the Erdkinder ELA and Theatre teacher. Originally from central Wisconsin, she has lived around the world, including in Norway and Sweden. She has two human children, Kiyan, 22, and Kiera, 19, as well as four feline children, Selini, Frøy, Pegasus, Io.
- Ms. Erika loves traveling, attending the theater, and spending time with her family, and she is very passionate about teaching children critical and analytical thinking skills.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
9/13/23	Parent Education Session I: Montessori Philosophy	5:00 - 6:00 PM	
9/15/23	Erdkinder Cafe	8:00-8:30 AM	Freeman West
9/21/23	Peace Day Picnic	5:00 - 7:00 PM	Freeman East & West
9/22/23	Donuts with Grown Ups	7:30-8:30 AM	Freeman West
9/25/23	Infant Curriculum Night	5:30-6:30	Huntington
9/26/23	Toddler Curriculum Night	5:30-6:30	Huntington
9/27/23	Erdkinder Hamilton Trip	All day	N/A
9/28-29/23	Student Photos-Huntington	8:30-11:00 AM	Huntington
10/4-5/23	Student Photos-Freeman East and West	8:30-11:00 AM	Freeman East and West
10/4/23	EME Parents Night (A-L) Potluck	5:00-6:30 PM	Freeman West
10/9/23	Indigenous People's Day	All Day	All Campus
10/10/23	Early Dismissal	2:30 PM	Freeman East & West
10/11/23	Erdkinder Curriculum Night	5:30-6:30 PM	Freeman West
10/18/23	Elementary Curriculum Night	5:00-6:00 PM	Freeman West