

## OCTOBER EDITION, 2023

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### Greetings From the Head of School

The Montessori Academy of North Hoffman would like to deeply thank our founder, Dr. Molood Naghibzadeh, for 34 years of service. She started this school with one primary class of eight students in a strip mall establishment in 1989. Under her leadership, the school has expanded to three campuses and serves children starting as early as 3 months all the way through their high school education. We are grateful for her many years of dedication and guidance to our Montessori community. Please stay tuned for more details about how we will be honoring and celebrating her. Dr. Naghibzadeh retired at the end of September and is enjoying time with her family in Iran.

You may have noticed some signs about our Annual Fund Campaign. We are hoping to have full participation from our entire community. No donation is too small. We are a non-profit school so your donations are completely tax deductible. We thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal of 100% participation. I hope you have a spooktacular October!

### Peace Day Picnic - by Alayna Faiz

On September 21st, we had our annual peace day celebration in the freeman west parking lot. Some of the activities included face painting, tie-dying T-shirts, as well as other arts and crafts. There was also a wide variety of food like mostaccioli, chicken burgers, salad, and garlic bread. For dessert, many people enjoyed the snow cones from the frozen ice truck. Towards the end of the event, Mr. Christian performed a complex fire dance which everyone enjoyed watching. Despite the intermittent rain, those who attended still had an amazing time.



## **Hamilton** - by Stella Frolick

On Wednesday, September 27, Erdkinder went to see Hamilton for their theatre class. Prior to the show, the group did vigorous background work to have full context for the historical musical, and on show day they dressed in their finest, and took the train downtown. They then feasted on a delicious lunch at the Chicago French Market before walking to the Nederlander Theater. The students were blown away by both the set and the talent of each actor.



## **AMI Conference**

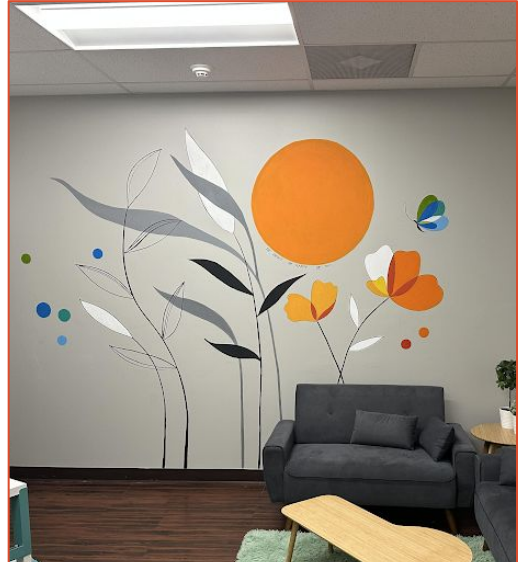
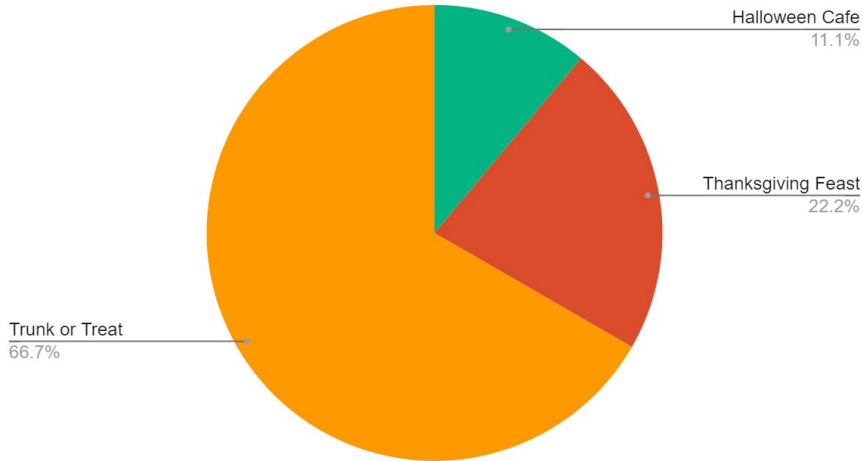
### **(Thailand)** - by Kyle Riffner

This year marked the 29th International Montessori Congress, and four members of our community, Ms. Motlagh, Dr. N, Mr. Frolick, and Mr. Azzano, were lucky enough to attend. It was held in Bangkok, Thailand, and the theme was education for a new world. The goal for the trip was to build upon their previous Montessori education practices in light of academic and scientific advancements, and they succeeded in this effort through the near week-long experience of seminars, presentations, social events, and much more. On the first day the group was welcomed to the event by a Thai princess and each of the MANH staff attended a many seminars on a variety of topics ranging from social diversity and adolescent development to dementia and aging. Outside of the Montessori Congress, the MANH group took advantage of this opportunity to experience Thai culture through food tours and sightseeing. The trip was very memorable!



## Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

### Fall Activity Interest



### Fun Episodes of Freeman East

Ms. Meeta has put together a beautiful new portrait for the student nook area at Freeman East. Thank you, Meeta, for all the color you have brought into our lives.

### Fascinating Work at Freeman West

Here at the Freeman West Campus, we have ordered some new tables for the lunchroom. The table legs are adjustable which allow people of all ages to sit comfortably. Additionally, the borders of the tables are vibrant colors which add life to the previously gray-dominated lunchroom. As for classes, the Friday Art and Music specials began last month. The high-schoolers are learning about the early Baroque era while the middle-schoolers are doing photography!

### Huntington Happenings

The Huntington staff would like to thank all the parents who attended the curriculum nights this month. It was so meaningful to see the connections and "aha moments". Children are capable of so much at such a young age. We look forward to more opportunities to partner with you as we work together and on behalf of each child.

## Dr. Naghibzadeh's Retirement

### Interview with Dr. N (RERUN) - by Kyle Riffner

Dr. Molood Naghibzadeh has created several traditions since founding MANH in 1989 including International Day, a day of dancing and food from around the world. She established the annual event out of a desire for unity within MANH's diverse student body. Because December is most closely associated with the celebration of Christmas, many who didn't celebrate the holiday felt a bit disconnected. Inspiration struck and Dr. N. decided to create a day which celebrated everyone not despite their differences but because of them. Year after year, she watched as her vision blossomed and grew. While the dance performances were the main event, Dr. N. also had a lot of appreciation for the handmade food (specifically those from Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, and Iran); over the years, she noted that these aspects from outside cultures became a part of her as she was eventually able to recognize them without even reading the label.

Teamwork encompassed the event as a whole. Teachers and parents worked together to both plan the event and organize nearly all aspects of the performances. In some cases, parents even sewed dresses and accessories for the students. Even after the food was eaten and the festivities came to a close, the collaboration among the community members continued in the form of cleanup. Dr. N. proudly mentioned that in thirty minutes, with the help of parents, children, and grandparents alike, the place would appear spotless.

The regularity of MANH's International Day strengthened the community for several reasons including the fact that alumni could attend each year to reunite with their friends and former teachers with their own appreciation for the work that goes into the performances on stage. This year, our first International Day since the pandemic was held in the spring. Regardless of the changed date, the excitement around the celebration has persisted.

(NOTE by Nozomi Kato: This interview highlights one of many traditions that Dr. N has established for our school and the values that she encouraged for our classrooms, which is why we chose to rerun this article to celebrate her retirement and accomplishments.)





## Dr. Naghibzadeh's Retirement cont.



### **Favorite Memories** - by Eli Nelson

and Layla Morrissey

Students and teachers alike have many fond memories of Dr. N. Stella, a junior in Erdkinder, recalled her favorite memory of Dr. N: "After elocution night in third grade, Dr. N came up to me and told me I had done better than her grandson." Another Erdkinder student, Nozomi, also had many good memories of their time with Dr. N, their favorite being the time she comforted them about not wanting to be in a group photo.

One of our juniors, David, said that his favorite memory of Dr. N was from one of her International Day speeches. "I loved her speeches, she always had a way of empowering people."

### **About MANH** - by Kyle Riffner

MANH's 35-year-long history began in a small segment of what we now call the Freeman East campus. The building was previously a strip mall consisting of various businesses, one being Mini Subi, an unoccupied daycare center. At the time, Dr. N, who was always passionate about preschool education as well as the Montessori method, was living right down the street, so she took the opportunity to build her own community on the foundation of love, care, and compassion. She along with a team of four friends and family helped to transform the storefront into a beautifully furnished Montessori classroom equipped with the classic materials and shelves. Following her from her former Montessori school to MANH (or as it was previously known: MSNH), several parents identified with her vision and joined Dr. N in this endeavor, and class was in session with a grand total of five students. MANH's story is truly a testament to the birth of a difference-making dream. Through constant love, passion, and effort, a hopeful idea and 1200 square feet, became a cohesive school community consisting of over 200 students and staff across three beautiful campuses.



## Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Eli Nelson and Alayna Faiz

Gia Chapla is a seventh grader has attended MANH since preschool. She enjoys soccer, Taekwondo, math, and the color teal. She also plays the piano, and she loves eating pasta. She has a sister and eight tetras which can glow in the dark. In the future, Gia wants to become a doctor.

David Azaran is one of the juniors this year in Erdkinder, and he has attended MANH since he was a baby. David has one older sister, Lily, who graduated in 2020 and now attends Oberlin College in Ohio. David's favorite color is blue and he enjoys watching the TV show South Park in his freetime. In the future, David would like to pursue finance or economics and travel to Turkey.

## Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by David Azaran

Joseph Azzano is one of our head elementary teachers here at MANH. He was born in Norwood Park in Chicago, Illinois, and has lived in several different Chicagoland suburbs throughout his life. While growing up, he loved to play music and dreamed of being a rockstar. Additionally, at one point, he wanted to become a fighter pilot because of the Top Gun movie. In college, he earned a bachelors in journalism and a masters in special education, and before becoming a teacher, he worked as a newspaper editor, salesman, and at a body shop. He is now teaching for his 8th year at MANH. In his freetime, Mr. Azzano enjoys watching the Chicago White Sox and the Miami Dolphins. He has 3 daughters and a rescue dog named Codi. His goals for the future are to develop video game music and vacation to Italy where he is originally from.



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
10/4-5/23	Student Photos	8:30 - 11:00 AM	Freeman East & West
10/9/23	Indigenous Peoples' Day - Discovery Day	All day	Freeman East & Huntington
10/10/23	Early Dismissal	2:30 PM	Freeman East & West
10/11/23	Parent Education System I: Erdkinder Curriculum Night	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Virtual Meeting
10/14/23	Meet the Montessori	6:00 - 9:00 PM	N/A
10/16/23	Thanksgiving basket submissions open	8:00 AM	All campuses
10/18/23	Parent Education Session II: Elementary Curriculum Night	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Freeman West
10/27/23	Trunk or Treat	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Freeman West
11/1-2/23	Hearing and vision screenings	All day	All campuses
11/2/23	Parent Education Session III: Home Education	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Virtual Meeting
11/2/23	Thanksgiving Basket Submissions close	8:00 AM	All campuses
11/14/23	Early Dismissal	2:20 PM	Freeman East & West
11/17/23	Thanksgiving feast	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Freeman East & Huntington
11/20-21/23	Parent Teacher Conferences: Primary & Elementary	All Day	Freeman East & Huntington
11/22-24/23	Thanksgiving Break	All Day	All Campuses