



APRIL EDITION, 2024

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Greetings From the Head of School

Ms. Motlagh proudly serves on teams for the American Montessori Society's Accreditation Audit. She typically serves on 1 team per year. This is a rewarding experience where she learns about other Montessori school practices and validates whether or not the school operates in accordance with the American Montessori accreditation standards. Most recently, Ms. Motlagh served on a team in Denver Colorado from March 17-20th. Below is a picture of her team there. While experiences like these can be tiring, it is rewarding to support the accreditation process and help other schools reach their goal of improving the quality of their Montessori practice.



Science Fair + Spaghetti Dinner - by

Stella Frolick

On Thursday, March 14th, upper elementary hosted their annual science fair. Each student conducted an experiment based on a hypothesis they theorized, and presented their results on a tri-fold board. The students showcased their findings on science fair night. They did many months of work, but it was all worth it in the end. Meanwhile, the 11th and 12th graders hosted their spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the senior's trip to Iceland, and the junior's trip next year. It also acted as a welcome dinner for the Japanese exchange students. They served salad, garlic bread, cookies, jello, and, of course, spaghetti. The night was an astounding success, with the students making over 800 dollars!





International Day - by Layla Morrissey

International Day gives students and their families the opportunity to come together and enjoy music, dancing, and food from other countries. Students of all ages get to showcase dances that they have been learning for weeks prior to International Day. Each dance is meant to show appreciation to cultures all around the world. This year, one primary class performed a traditional Scottish jig, another group did a K-Pop dance filled with energy, and Erdkinder did a Southern Cowboy dance. This annual celebration is a favorite among the MANH community.

Campus Corner: Monthly Paragraphs

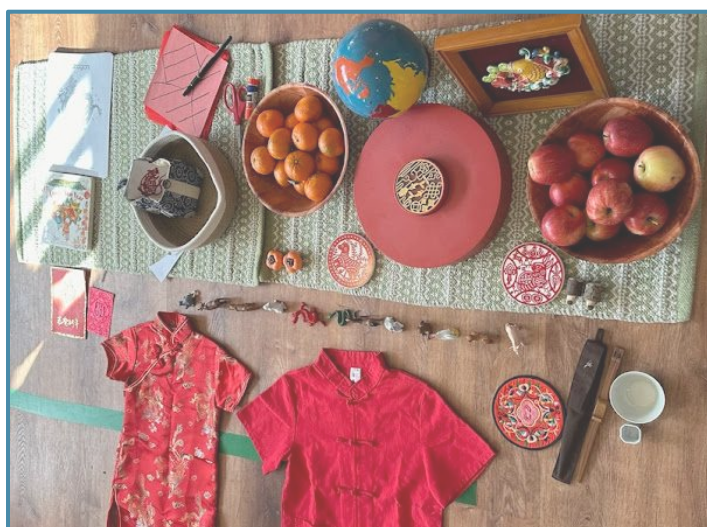
Elementary Symphony - by Eli Nelson

On March 15, the upper elementary class went to the Elgin Symphony orchestra to experience live classical music. Going to the orchestra is a time-honored tradition for MANH students and it continues to be important. Though classical music is not for everyone, it is important to recognize the impact it has on society and to learn how classical music works today.



Fun Episodes of Freeman East

After a wonderful science fair, the elementary experiments are still around. If you go into the classroom you'll find many interesting displays about all sorts of sciences. Make sure to check them out while you can because they'll be going home with students soon.



Fascinating Work at Freeman West

The Erdkinder Class has begun preparation for its annual spring plant sale. This unique, hands-on project allows Erdkinder students the opportunity to run their own business, from start to finish -- from growing the plants to making the final transaction.

Huntington Happenings

The Huntington Primary children have been having a variety of wonderful cultural experiences. Montessori children first look at the world as a whole as they learn about the globe of the continents, world puzzle map and continent puzzle maps. They then look at the cultures and geography of the United States and all the continents. We value the opportunity to expose children to the similarities and differences between communities around the globe, and what better way to do this than with our own families! Parents and grandparents have recently come into the classrooms to share about India, Iran, Ireland, St. Patrick's Day, Persian New Year, and Chinese New Year. We are so fortunate to have such a diverse community!

Classroom Focus: Japanese Exchange Students

Exchange Student Experience - by David Azaran

From March 13th to the 27th, the Japanese exchange students stayed with the MANH community. Throughout their visit, they engaged in activities with both the Elementary and Erdkinder classes. With the elementary students, they observed Ms. Akemi's Japanese class and later practiced origami with them as well. With Erdkinder, they not only stayed with host families, but they were also introduced to many new experiences like Museums, Main Event, and Medieval Times. Additionally, they tried many delicious American meals like hamburgers, Chicago hot dogs, and apple pie à la mode. We tried our best to immerse them in American culture, and we believe we did an excellent job as all of the students expressed an interest in visiting again!



Kanagawa - by Kyle Riffner

All five of the Japanese exchange students live in Kanagawa which is Japan's second most populous prefecture which neighbors Tokyo. The region is distinct due to its proximity to various lakes as well as Mount Fuji. The many bodies of water present in Kanagawa make sushi (and other seafood-focused meals) a must try when visiting. Additionally, many Americans may be unknowingly familiar with the prefecture as it is the origin of one of the Edo period's most famous works of art: The Great Wave of Kanagawa. According to Taiga, Chicagoans may also find familiarity in Yokohama, Kanagawa's capital city, which is adorned with its own skyscrapers and ferris wheel that overlook a large body of water.



Classroom Focus: Huntington Campus

Taiga - by David Azaran

Taiga Aoki is a 16-year-old 2nd year kōtōgakkō student. After spending an enjoyable two weeks with us, he found that Japan was largely similar to America. However, he noted that Japanese schools are very different from American schools. One major aspect of the Japanese school system is clubs (which almost everyone participates in). As a member of the archery club, Taiga became the Japanese archery champion in sixth grade, and he has remained committed to the sport for several years. Outside of his classes and clubs, Taiga enjoys manga, anime, and J-Pop. He comes from a very big family consisting of two older brothers, an older sister, a younger brother (Kazuto, who also visited), and a younger sister. Taiga enjoyed MANH very much. He was especially fond of the school community, and the many activities we did while he was here (Medieval Times, Bowling, etc.). As for the future, he isn't yet sure what he wants to pursue, but he is very passionate about engineering.

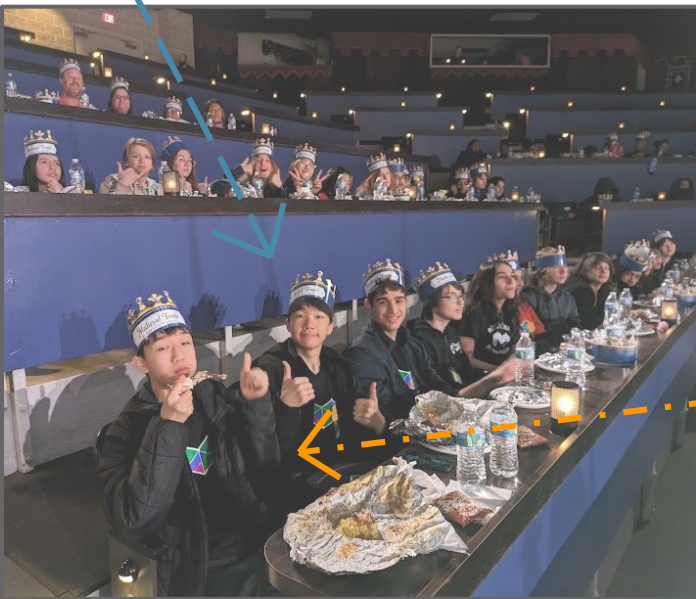
Yuki - by Alayna Faiz

Yuki is a 15-year-old 1st year kōtōgakkō student. He is the oldest out of four siblings and enjoys spending time with his family (including his cat). Yuki is very passionate about playing basketball and would love to pursue the sport as a potential career in the future. His favorite food is sushi, and in his free time he likes to watch anime and listen to K-pop music. During his time at MANH, Yuki enjoyed all of the classes as well as the planned activities like Medieval Times, bowling, and Main Event.



Kazuto - by Kyle Riffner

Kazuto Aoki is a 14-year-old 2nd year chūgakkō student. He really enjoys topics in the sciences, and while he does not watch TV, he likes to listen to J-pop (which as opposed to the prominent electronic qualities of Kpop draws more inspiration from Jazz and Rock music). Outside of his classes, he participates in sports clubs, one of which is table tennis (or as it is called in Japan, “takyuu”). Throughout his two-week visit to the US, he was most surprised by everything's size, from food and drink portions to the distance between houses.



Classroom Focus: Huntington Campus



Nene - by Stella Frolick

Nene Ishibashi is a 14-years-old 3rd year chūgakkō student. In Kanagawa, she lives with her family, cat, and goldfish. Her favorite class is art, and in her free time she enjoys drawing, eating sushi, spending time outside, and watching her favorite movie Howl's Moving Castle. She hopes to one day become a voice actor and live in Chicago. She loved her time here and said "In America, every day is fun."



Arisa - by Layla Morrissey

Arisa Okumura was one of the Japanese students that visited our school. She is from Kanagawa and she loves to create art and play badminton. When she grows up, she wants to move to New York City. Her favorite class in school is P.E. and she loves to eat sushi. In the future, she wants to do calligraphy and hula dancing as a profession.



Classroom Focus: Japanese Exchange Students



Survey - by Alayna Faiz

The Japanese exchange students were asked five different survey questions about their experience in America.

1. What was your favorite activity that you did in America?
 - a. Basketball game 🏀
 - b. Bowling 🎳
 - c. Medieval Times 🐎🐎
2. What was your least favorite thing in America?
 - a. They all liked everything! 👍👍👍👍👍
3. What was your favorite food in America?
 - a. Pizza 🍕
 - b. Hot Dog 🌭
 - c. Burger 🍔🍔🍔
4. What surprised you the most about America?
 - a. Deer jumping in the road 🦌
 - b. Eating in class 🍴
 - c. Big houses 🏠
 - d. Driver's License age (16 in America vs 18 in Japan) 🚗🚗
5. How was America compared to Japan?
 - a. Flat vs hilly
 - b. Drop off and pick up vs walking to school 🚶🚶
 - c. Both differences and similarities in culture 🎌🎌

Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Layla Morrissey



- Allison Sroka is a new Erdkinder student who has been attending MANH for less than a month. She is a 7th grader from Inverness who loves to relax and show her creativity through art-related activities like drawing. She loves to learn about literature, and she often listens to alternative music. As for a future summer vacation, she wants to travel to Mexico with her parents and her brother.

- This is Riley Azzano. She has been attending MANH for over 8 years! During her free time, she loves to read and listen to music. As a hobby, she plays soccer as a goalkeeper, and her favorite subjects in school are E.L.A and Theatre. Outside of school and extracurriculars, she loves watching her favorite Netflix series Stranger Things, and she hopes to one day visit Japan.



Meet the Teachers + Staff!

by Eli Nelson

- Akemi Kawase (or as students call her, Akemi Sensei) has been teaching at MANH for 32 years. She was born and raised in Japan, but she has lived in Australia as an exchange student. Now, she lives nearby with her husband and son. She has a dog named Sparky, and in her free time she enjoys watching Netflix and listening to K & J-pop. One thing you may not know about Akemi Sensei is that she used to surf as well as windsurf.



Plant Sale!

When?: The week of May 12th (Mother's Day)

What's being sold?: Different varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and flowers.

Why?: To raise money for the Erdkinder gardening students.

How much?: Each plant will cost around 4-5 dollars.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
4/9/24	Early Dismissal	2:30	Freeman East and West
4/11-17/24	Erdkinder in Puerto Rico	All day	Freeman West
4/18-19/24	Elementary and Primary Parent Teacher Conferences	All day	All Campuses
4/22/24	Earth Day	All day	All Campuses
5/12/24	Mother's Day	All day	All Campuses

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<https://www.manh.org/about-our-school/newsletter/>

