

Cornerstone Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

Toddler Community



As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the colder weather, our children at school are getting accustomed to the changing seasons, and that means transitioning into different clothing.

Here, in the TC, the toddlers are diligently learning to put on mittens and zip up their jackets to keep warm and cozy. We have a small favor to ask of you – please remember to label all of your child's new clothing items. We do our best to take care of their clothes, washing and drying them at school, and proper labeling helps us ensure that every item finds its way back to its rightful owner. Any unlabeled items will be placed in the toddler's lost and found box.

When the weather turns rainy or the temperature drops below ten degrees, we bring recess indoors to our multipurpose room. Here, we go for a group walk around the building and set up

exciting large motor activities for the children to enjoy. Learning to walk as a group is a new skill for our young ones, and we're all practicing and improving.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we navigate this season of change and growth.

Warm regards, Lourdes

Children's House 1

It is no secret that Children's House 1 has really leaned into baking this past month - just ask our neighbors, CH2 and the Toddlers! We initially started on this baking journey this summer and saw not only how much the children loved the process (and the product), but also their sense of accomplishment and independence that came from the experience. Lucky for CH1, both Paula and Claudia are passionate and experienced bakers and were willing to really lean into this opportunity! In September, most of our baking ventures were led by an adult and included a small group of children. As children grew familiar with the recipe and the process, we've been stepping back and letting go. As of this week, Baking



Banana Oat Muffins is an official work on our shelf! We are cycling through several batches of muffins a day and children love the opportunity to bake independently or with a friend.



Children's House 2

The Children's House 2 Community has been enjoying the return of the pizza bagel. Children can prepare a pizza bagel for themselves to toast in our toaster oven. We are trying to keep our potted herbs alive to add an extra dose of flavor and culinary excellence to the experience.



In the afternoons we love getting creative in using our oven to prepare a roasted snack.

Although not featured in these photos, a favorite this past week was roasted apples and oats with cinnamon and honey. The CH2 team smiled when we heard an initially skeptic child say "that was so yummy! I have to tell my mom!".

We also love seeing children move between concentrated cycles of food prep (and clean- up!) and then choose to take out an independent math material. There are so many ways to feed the brain in Children's House :)



Lower Elementary Garden



The Garden children had a great time the last few weeks preparing for giving lessons to their parents during our event last Monday. We chose a huge variety of work and it was exciting to try out our presentation skills as “the teacher” for this event. Each of the children chose a lesson that they were interested in giving and spent time practicing and perfecting that work on their own. Then they had the opportunity to practice giving the lesson to a partner in the classroom. It was such a delight to see the children working hard and feeling so confident in their work. Some of the presentations given were division with the stamp game, building multiples tables, the characteristics of amphibians, the commutative law of multiplication, the two movements of the earth, the first timeline of human beings, and the exchange game with the golden beads. Even those children

who were not able to join us for the evening event benefited from the practice and mastery that comes with preparing to give a lesson. Thank you to everyone that supported this important work!



Lower Elementary Pond

It was so great to see so many families come for the Monday event and see the children so excited to show you their works. There are several Pond children working on some research projects that they are very excited about. We are also reading the Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornavat (pronounced soon-torn-vaht) and they are enjoying learning about the life of living on a shi. We have been talking about how, years ago, people didn't know about all the different continents and countries so they thought the bottom of the globe was all water, instead of what we know to be true today.





Upper Elementary Forest

Highlights this month included sixth years presenting Story of the Universe and follow-on lessons for their classmates. Lessons on laws of the universe and the relative size and distance of planets in our solar system were received with great interest. Students that expressed interest in birdwatching and learning about birds started an extended project with Bird by Bird, a program run by the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We had our first visit on an unfortunately rainy day, but are excited to use the amazing binoculars we are borrowing for the year as well as the reference materials. Our field trip to Step Afrika! was exciting and inspiring. Many children participated in children teach parent night which was, as always, tons of fun.



Upper Elementary Marsh



Marsh students have been busy in October! Afternoons have included lessons on juicing and cooking after much recipe perusal, planning, and ingredient gathering. Making enough that everyone in the class can have at least a taste always involves some good math too. Popular recipes have included pizza and many varieties of vegetable and fruit juices. We also have been enjoying a newly formed Embroidery Club, with participants learning skills from typing a knot to a variety of stitches. Children are also putting finishing touches on their Story of My Name writing, getting ready to share in class and at conferences.

