

# Cornerstone Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

## Toddler Community

The toddlers work with various types of puzzles. They are presented how to remove the pieces one at a time onto a table or a work mat for construction. Skills that puzzles help develop are hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, shape recognition, and language to name a few.



## Children's House 1



Claudia and I really appreciated getting to talk with our CH1 families last week during conferences. Life in our environment continues to be busy, full of fun and concentration! We are looking forward to Spring Break and the return (hopefully) to warmer weather in April. The children enjoyed spending a few afternoons working on the patio in March and we're looking forward to more opportunities to do so moving forward! Children continue to grow and learn, surprising us each and every day with the ways they care for one another and our environment.





## Children's House 2



Kristin, Emma and I really enjoyed all the conversations we had during conferences with you! Thank you for making arrangements for your children last Thursday and Friday so we could spend the day connecting with families. It's such valuable time and we are grateful for your willingness to partner with us and help us be the best support we can be for your children. It truly feels like a privilege to get to work with you all.

In other news, Children's House 2 is half-way through *The Wild Robot*. If you haven't read this chapter book before, I'd recommend it! This is at least my 7th time reading the book and I find it just as delightful as the first.

We are especially

motivated to do one more group read aloud before the movie is released this September. Children's House 2 is also getting some seedlings started in our mini greenhouse and some bigger strawberry and raspberry plants potted on our patio. We've been refining our banana muffin / bread recipes and even made a very successful batch of scones! We get a kick out of taking an ordinary fruit cup and turning it into an exciting snack option. Email me if you want some of our recipes :) There's been







another big reading burst in the community and we are enjoying seeing children read to one another or even visit the Toddler Community to read to them.

We are looking forward to a real spring so we can work outside on the patio more again! Thanks! Molly



## Lower Elementary Garden

There has been an explosion of big work happening this month in Garden! Many children have been especially immersed in creating their own whimsical and beautifully illustrated books and comics. It's amazing to watch their imaginations unfold! The unseasonably warm weather has also allowed us to take on a construction project. Children had the opportunity to use their hands to build and decorate their own





butterfly houses. When spring returns, your child can place fruit or flowers inside their house and hang it outside to lure butterflies.



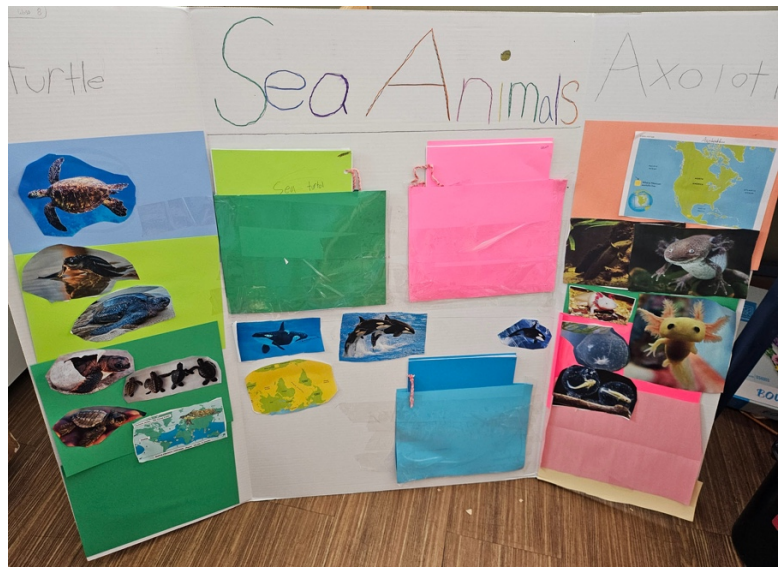
Our read-aloud book this month is the second installment of The Land of Stories series, *The Enchantress Returns*, by Chris Colfer. Children have been enjoying the fantastical story of twins Alex and Conner, who adventure back to the Fairytale World to save their mother - and the rest of the world - from Ezmia the Enchantress. They team up with many familiar characters like Prince Froggy, Queen Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks, and Jack (from the Beanstalk) to collect specific items for the "Wand of Wonderment", which is needed to stop Ezmia's imminent takeover. It has been difficult to stop reading everyday as there is always something exciting happening in the story!





## Lower Elementary Pond

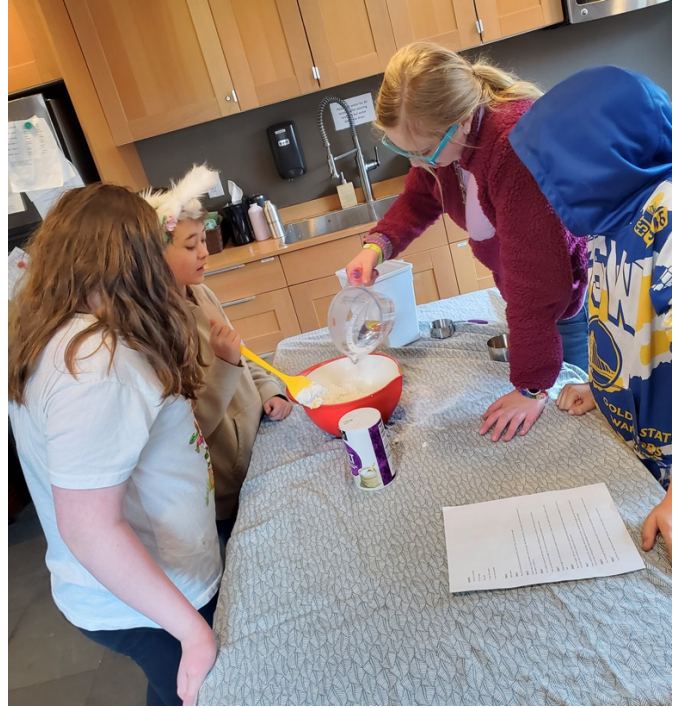
Pond has been exploring all kinds of research this past month, a small group of us learned about the solar system and were able to go to the Planetarium at the Bell Museum and learn about the solar eclipse happening next week! Some children are also working on Biology by either learning about flowers and their various parts and all kinds of animals! We also can't forget the classroom favorite activities, writing and reading! Working together and helping each other is also something we really enjoy in Pond and is beautiful to see!





## Upper Elementary Marsh

Lots of fun physics work has gone on in Marsh, inspired in part by our Doktor Kaboom performance at the end of February. Simple machine projects and Book club final projects also happened in March - in addition to writing projects, children made rice balls and guava pastelitos based on recipes in their books and one child already received a reply to her author letter along with some bookmarks, stickers, and a personal note from Adrianna Cuevas! We finished our latest read aloud book, *The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Barnhill and are moving away from the fantasy genre to some non-fiction for a bit.





## Upper Elementary Forest

It was so great to see families at conferences and take undivided time to celebrate each child's progress and all the work they've done. Sixth years have been stretched and challenged in all sorts of ways with their Minnesota to the World projects, which they will be sharing the week before break. Children have been exploring simple machines, sampling mealworms, cubing, and doing lots of work with fractions and decimals! We have finished three student-selected read aloud books, ending with *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston. We are now reading aloud shorter non-fiction books, including *The Story of Cod* (Mark Kerlansky), *The Librarian who Measured the Earth* (Kathryn Lasky), and *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table* (Cindy Neuschwander).

