



New World News

Website Version

"If we are to teach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with the children."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. Montessori was a firm believer in the power of peace. She believed that all children have the potential to be peaceful and productive members of society, and it is our role as adults to guide them in this direction during the formative years. The months of November and December bring us many traditions that center around peace and light. Through stories, songs, art, and poems, the children can learn about the winter solstice, Hanukkah, Nativity Christmas, Diwali, Eid and Kwanzaa. Although we do not celebrate them in religious context at school, the culture, history and traditions are celebrated and always welcomed in the classrooms. This would be a great opportunity for parents volunteering to present their holiday traditions in their respective classroom. Please contact your child's teacher or the office to schedule your presentation! In our school community, we embrace a mutual respect for diversity, as well as a variety of cultural and international holidays. If we teach this same respect to children when they are young, they will grow to have a deeper appreciation and understanding of all cultures.

Thank you to all who scheduled and attended Parent Teacher Conferences. The teachers enjoyed getting to know each of you more, as well as more about your child! I appreciate your time and thank you for making conferences a priority for yourself and your child.

Huge thanks to parents who helped out at our Halloween festivities, it would not be possible to carry out without your help. Parents volunteering for face painting, trunk or treat, and for other activities were amazing! The costume parade was a sight to see; children looked so happy in their costumes and having their parents here to watch them in the parade turned out great. The children and teachers enjoyed this time thoroughly and we were pleased to know that parents enjoyed just as much. We thank you for taking the time to attend our events and festivities.

We are now gearing up for our Winter Recital which is taking place on Friday, December 8th. Please mark your calendars as we are looking forward to your presence.

We at NWMS are grateful for you all and your continuous trust and support. I wish you Happy Holidays filled with love and peace.

With love and gratitude,
-Director

November & December News 2023



November & December

[Website Version](#)



Parking Lot Fire Safety Regulation

During the busy hours of drop off and pickup time we would like to remind parents to not leave your vehicle unattended if it's not in an actual parking spot and blocking others from getting in or out. This is against the fire safety regulation. There are 15 minute parking zones around the school which you can use. Do keep an eye out for the street cleaning schedule of each side of the streets, as we do not wish for anyone to get a ticket.

We thank you for your cooperation and being courteous to other in our community.



Music and Holidays have two things in common, they bring people together in smiles. Our annual Holiday Get Together Winter Recital taking place on XXX XXX offers all the NWMS families the opportunity to congregate and enjoy beautiful music together produced by our children. This event is especially planned for our parents so we encourage everyone to make this a family day and come watch our children perform. Please be on time as the recitals will start at the scheduled time.



[Winter Recital Start Time](#)

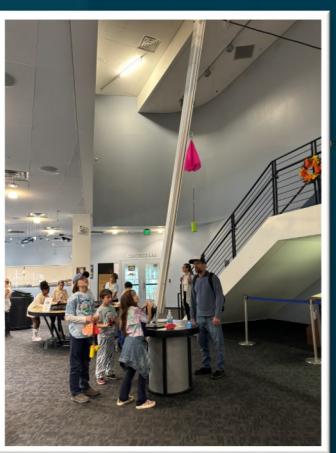
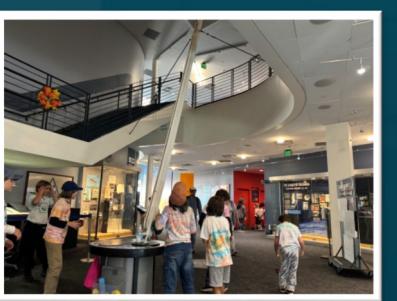
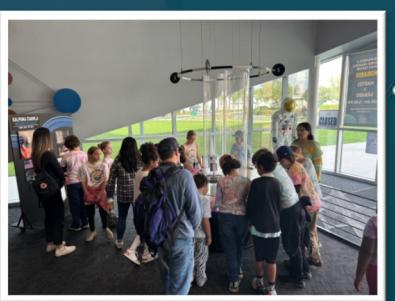
[Website Version](#)

**Holiday Get Together
Winter Recital
XXX XXX XXX**

Each classroom will be dismissed after their performance.

Each classroom will be dismissed after their performance.

Elementary - Columbia Space Center Field Trip (10/26/2023)



Halloween Parade & Festivities 2023





Infants & Toddlers

"No one can be free unless he is independent. Little children, from the moment they are weaned, are making their way toward independence." -- Maria Montessori

Dear Infant & Toddler Families,

For the past two months children have shown a great success in settling in. We are happy to see that their days are becoming more and more productive. Familiarity of routines and learning apparatuses are showing good results. October was a busy month in our classroom; we did many spooky art and craft activities and the children really enjoyed them. As usual, Halloween day was a lot of fun! The children were so excited and proud to dress up in their beautiful costumes. We are sorry that our singing did not go well but we will keep trying. Thank you, parents, for coming in and making this a fun event for all of us. We also want to thank all parents for coming in for Parent Conference. It was very helpful to know your feedback and the information you have given us.

We started the new year by explaining months and seasons. The beginning of the school year is another great time to study months and seasons. A wonderful time to focus on seasons is at the start of any season. For young children, a lot of repetition is needed for them to understand the concept of time. And months and seasons are a good way to start with this concept. Every day we do days of the week, months of the year and what date is today. We will do our attendance by singing a song of who came to school today. Children are very keen on this routine every day and will remind us if they feel we are forgetting.

We find storytelling is an excellent way to help children develop language skills of all ages. By 24-30 months, children will have a basic understanding of storytelling and will often tell a short story with a central character (usually themselves). Even if your child can't tell a story, they will enjoy hearing stories about shared experiences. These stories will help them process the event, develop memory skills, develop emotional regulation skills and potentially learn about their culture. Singing is another way that our children can develop early language skills. To help them learn the words to common children's songs, for example, Raffi's 'Down by the Bay' and 'Baby Beluga'. We notice these activities encourage attentive listening and enhance memory as they love for us to repeat them over and over.

In the area of art children will mimic the famous artist Jackson Pollock by blowing colors on our paper in November and making collage of colorful shapes of Henry Matisse in December.

We have been practicing our songs for the December performance. We will try our best but just your presence will make this event a festive for our young ones. We find the December performance is a practice for the one at the end of the year. We are looking forward to your attendance for this event.

▲ -Infant & Toddler Teachers



Zinnia Room



Dear Zinnia Families,

Autumn is here and we are looking forward to what winter brings us. During the month of October, we were talking about the change in the weather approaching and what we will see during the autumn season. Before talking about what will happen in November and December, we just wanted to thank all the parents for collaborating and volunteering for our Halloween carnival. The children had so much fun with all the activities going on that day and surely enjoyed the parade as well. It would not have happened without the help from the parents and the vision of the office administration. Thank you from the Zinnia room teachers!

In November, we will talk about the time change. During the afternoon, we see that it is getting darker earlier, therefore, it is good to talk about the time changing and why we see that it is getting darker at an earlier time. We explained that even if it is dark outside, the time is still the same and mommies and daddies will come to pick them up at the same time as the other days. Children get very curious when they see something different around them and it is a perfect time to talk to them about these changes.

During circle time, for the month of September and October, we have been going over the rules and routines of the classroom. For the month of November, we are reviewing the use of the materials and work in the classroom. Because the months of September and October were focused on rules and routine, the months of November and December we will focus more on the materials and work in the classroom. We will focus more on what we do for practical life. Practical life is the foundation of what comes after, like writing. For the child, practical life work is grounding. It helps them bond with the classroom environment, take ownership and responsibility, and work on their hand strength and coordination. Therefore, we know the benefits of practical life and how it will help our Zinnia friends when they move up to preschool. Even if each work is individual, children this age need a lot of repetition and reminders on how to work with the materials. During circle time, we will be reviewing our practical life work and all the steps we need to take to work with them. For dry transferring, we know that we transfer from left to right and we use the spoon. For wet pouring with from a pitcher to a cup, our Zinnia friends know that we get an apron and a water mat before getting our work out. Once we get the work and take it to our table, we know that we use our two hands to hold the pitcher. We use our left hand to hold the handle and two fingers to hold the pitcher under before pouring.

There are steps and it helps them have a sense of order while they are working on their fine motor skills.

Furthermore, also for the month of November, we are going to learn about air, land, and water. Our Zinnia friends will work on learning the difference between these different forms by matching cards. What belongs with air? Or water? Or land? This is also connected to the different types of animals who belong in water or land. For our artist of the month, we will learn a little bit about Jackson Pollock and his method of art. Jackson Pollock was an American painter with his unique style of painting. He was mostly known for his "drip technique" in which he poured or splashed household paint on horizontal surfaces. We will be doing an age-appropriate work of art in the style of Pollock by moving a string all over a white piece of paper.

For the month of December, since we are preparing for the holidays and it will be a short month, we will learn about what winter will bring us. What is the difference between autumn and winter? Does it get colder? Do all the leaves fall from the trees? Our little ones love learning about the different seasons. We will be learning about animals who live in mountains and caves. We will learn about different kinds of plants. Finally, for our artist of the month, we will learn a little bit about Henri Matisse. He was a French visual artist. He was known for both his use of color and his draughtsman ship.

We just wanted to mention to the parents that we are practicing our recital songs for our Winter recital. Our Zinnia friends are working so hard on practicing these songs that take dedication and focus. Thank you, parents, for your cooperation and supporting us from the start of the year. We are so grateful to have parents like you to support and dedicate time to us and our classroom. Our little ones have something special prepared for you before our winter break. Also, a big thanks to the office administration for also supporting our ideas and the vision we have in the Zinnia classroom. Working together will help our Zinnia students have a great and successful experience in our classroom.

-Zinnia Teachers

"Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which a child engages and try to understand them."

- Maria Montessori





Sunflower Room

Dear Sunflower Families,

Thank you for a great day of parent teacher conferences. It was nice to share information with you and how we, together, can be most effective in your child's early learning experience and development.

Throughout October, the kids have settled beautifully in the classroom routine. Most of the kids had established their relationship with their friends and teachers. In the past month, there was so much they have encountered during art projects, music class and PE; the kids are jazzed towards Spanish, and Mandarin classes. During the month of October, we talked about the Parts of a Tree, and Parts of a Pumpkin. We also had a lesson on the Skeleton and the Human Body. The kids have also been introduced to Vincent Van Gogh.

We also carved our pumpkin with Miss Melissa and children were so excited to put their little hands inside the pumpkin and pull out the cold, wet, slimy seeds and strands from the pumpkin. We would like to thank you all for making our Halloween festivities extra fun for the children. I would like to give Ms. Romy a special shout out for putting our Halloween together, bouncy house, trunk treating and all the other fun things we had. The kids had so much fun as well as the teachers.

Welcome to November, we will continue talking about Fall. We will have lessons on North America, physical geography/ earth science, comet and asteriods, physical science, air experiments, Life Science, Zoology, introduction of fish and botany needs of plants. We will also talk about Thanksgiving, and what we're thankful for and talk about what we'll do that day. We will also have a lesson on Veterans Day. The children are also learning songs for our December Winter Holiday Recital with our music teacher Mr. Dylan. Our class will have a presentation on Diwali presented by XXXXX and XXXXX's moms.

Wow, the months are moving fast. The month of December will be busy. In the short time before winter break, the children will be busy rehearsing their songs, making projects, and decorating the classroom for the Winter Recital.

In December, our personalities are Valentina Tereshkova and Julie Andrews, our continent is Europe. In Earth Science: constellations and Physical Science: snow glaciers and in Zoology: amphibians and Botany: kinds of plants and their needs.

It has been a great start of the school year working with your children. Miss Melissa and I look forward to what the new year brings.

Thank you parents for your support, we appreciate you.
We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!
-Sunflower Teachers





Hibiscus Room

Dear Hibiscus Families,

With the arrival of October, our classroom has been buzzing with excitement, and we have eagerly embraced the changes that autumn brings. The vibrant hues of falling leaves, the subtle shift in weather, and the blossoming independence of our young learners have created an atmosphere filled with curiosity and discovery.

The recent parent-teacher conference was invaluable, allowing us to collaborate and enhance your child's early learning experience together.

Throughout the month, our curious explorers embarked on a captivating journey to uncover the mysteries of the continents. North America served as our initial destination, allowing us to delve into the fascinating cultures of Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico. Our lessons extended beyond mere geography, as we explored the intricacies of the changing seasons, delving into the Earth's axial tilt and the unique characteristics of deciduous and evergreen trees.

In our discussions about the natural world, our young learners expressed boundless curiosity about insects, bats, and nocturnal creatures, comparing their lifestyles with those of their diurnal counterparts. The complexities of the human skeletal system became a source of wonder, with the children eagerly assembling the skeletal puzzle pieces and learning that we have 206 bones in our body. The femur being the largest and the stapes the smallest bone found in the ear.

We learned and got to know Hedy Lamarr, a model and actress and most of all known to many as "the mother of Wi-fi" and other wireless communications like GPS and Bluetooth. We also read stories and marveled at the beauty of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings.

Additionally, our classroom buzzed with excitement as we explored the inner workings of pumpkins, sparking creativity and inquisitiveness as the children dissected these seasonal delights.

The Halloween festival was an enchanting affair, filled with fun and laughter. The children transformed into adorable characters as they paraded around brimming with joy. They then adorned their faces with painted unicorns, rainbows, butterflies, bats and spiders and their arms with temporary tattoos. The trunk or treat activity was a delightful experience

and thanks to the never-ending supply of popcorn provided by Miss Linda, and of course burning and releasing their energies jumping on the bouncy house the festivities were complete.

As we transition into November the excitement of the upcoming holidays fills the air. The children eagerly anticipate their visits with family with youthful enthusiasm.

Amidst the joy, we will emphasize the importance of gratitude and kindness and the acts that make a difference in each other's lives.

Our educational journey will continue to unfold, carrying us across continents and oceans. The allure of Europe beckons, with France and Italy being our next stops, guided by the curiosity and interests of our young explorers. We are set to explore the fascinating world of animal classification, focusing on vertebrates such as fish, and delving into the essential needs of plants, nurturing a deeper understanding of our natural surroundings. We will embark on projects like comets asteroids and constellations, snow and glaciers. Our featured personalities are Desiderio Alberto Armando, Sarojini Naidu, Valentina Tereshkova and Julie Andrews.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your active involvement, whether through snacks, flowers, laundry assistance, being our librarian, and book readers.

As we approach the very short month of December we find ourselves reflecting on the warmth and support we have received from each of your wonderful families. It is truly a special time of the year, and we are immensely grateful for the precious moments we have shared with these beautiful children and their families. Your involvement in our classroom community has enriched our learning environment, creating a nurturing space for exploration and growth.

As a present from children to their families and friends we are rehearsing for the Winter Recital on the 8th of December. We hope that the holiday season brings you moments of joy, togetherness, and wonder. Wishing you and your families a magical and joyous holiday season!

Warmest regards,

-Hibiscus Teachers



Lavender Room



"Free the child's potential, and you will transform them into the world."
-Maria Montessori

Dear Team Lavender,

Time is going by really quickly. Here we are almost saying good bye to 2023 and hello 2024! The Lavender class has been doing tremendously when it comes to getting the hang of their everyday routine, doing their work and learning new lessons everyday. Slowly, they are becoming more independent each day. We are working hard on keeping the classroom's consistency and peace.

As we approach the holiday season, we are excited to share the wonderful activities and lessons that our class will be enjoying in November and December.

For November, we focus on celebrating and learning about thanksgiving. We talk about what we are grateful for during our morning circle. It is important for the children to know what it means when we say that we are thankful: what are the things/places/people you are happy to have in your life? Miss Genesis has prepared a bunch of art activities for the children to learn more about thanksgiving.

We also focused on the continent of North America. We learned that the country we live in is in North America. We are talking about the countries, animals and famous places found in this continent. We also learned about the classification of animals and we begin by discussing about fish, its parts and the different kinds. We had lessons about plants, the varieties and the needs of the plants.

Our personalities for the month of November are Desi Arnaz and Sarojini Naidu. Desi Arnaz was popularly known are Ricky Ricardo from the show "I Love Lucy", but not everyone know that not only he's a great musician but he pioneered filming sitcoms instead of going live every time and to this day we still use his technique. He was from Cuba which is also in North

America.

We also talked about Sarojini Naidu, the Indian poet and freedom fighter. Their remarkable stories and achievements will be shared with the children during this month. Which is very fitting for the month since we also talk about the celebration of lights, Diwali.

December is a special month for us as this is our winter recital month. The kids are doing awesome in practicing their recital songs and we are all looking forward to seeing you come recital day.

For this month we also talked about Europe and all its countries. Children will learn about its diverse cultures, languages, and famous landmarks, seeing an appreciation for the world's various regions.

For the personalities of the month, we'll introduce Julie Andrews, the renowned actress and singer, famous for her roles in "The Sound of Music" and "Mary Poppins." We'll also celebrate Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman to travel to space, as a symbol of female empowerment and achievement.

Holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and friends. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you, our Lavender families, for being such an amazing group. Thank you for your cooperation and unending support.

Lastly, I would like to give the biggest shout out to all our teacher assistants, most especially Miss Genesis who is very special to our class. Without them our classrooms will be a mess, figuratively and literally.

Happy Holidays and see you all next year!

-Lavender Teachers

Reminders:

Please keep in mind that it has been getting colder in the mornings and late afternoons, please remember to send your children with appropriate jackets/ sweaters and make sure they are labeled with their names. Thank you!





Lower Elementary

Dear Lower Elementary Families,

Can you believe it? It's already November. We have so much to be thankful for this month. We are excited that the children in our classroom are becoming more independent and are able to show each other lessons and help each other in class. Our Halloween celebration was a blast; all the children enjoyed the different activities. The children in Lower Elementary got to decorate their own T-shirts, pumpkins and investigated a Pumpkin for science. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make this event successful and fun.

Our field trip to the Columbia Memorial Space Center was exciting and full of experiences for the children to enjoy. Thank you to the parent volunteers who helped keep our class in order and safe during the trip.

Our main focus this month is practical life. The children are a part of a small community where they are expected to help keep the classroom organized and clean. We emphasized grace and courtesy, care of the environment and care of self. Every day is an opportunity to practice grace and courtesy with their peers and teachers. We greet each other when they come in and leave, say please and thank you, asking permission, apologizing and saying excuse me, asking if someone is ok, and using their words to resolve conflicts. These are skills needed for daily social interactions. Some self-help skills that we have been implementing are organizing their cubbies, folding their jackets and tying their shoes. These are activities that your children are capable of accomplishing independently. Please allow your children every opportunity to do things by themselves so they can develop and be self-reliant. This also helps develop their fine and gross motor skills required for physical activities such as writing.

Care of the environment is a daily activity that we do throughout the day, cleaning their table space after eating, replacing and organizing the materials back on the shelf and taking care of plants. Practical life activities help develop the child's self-confidence, independence, focus and ability to follow step by step directions. All these skills are a stepping stone for academic success. It also fosters responsibility; learning to plan and follow through is an important part of their development.

The exercises of practical life are formative activities, a work of adaptation to the environment. Such adaptation to the environment and efficient functioning therein is the very essence of a useful education. -Maria Montessori

Here are some suggestions of Practical Life activities that the children of Lower Elementary can accomplish independently at home:

Learning to tie their shoes, preparing their lunch boxes in the morning, doing and folding laundry, loading the dishwasher, sweeping/vacuuming, collecting the garbage, meal preparation, make their own bed, dusting etc. These are wonderful bonding activities that you and your children can do together. Some important life skills we will be learning are safety, what to do in an emergency, learning their address and emergency numbers, simple first aid etc.

The children in Lower Elementary continued to focus on geography until the end of October. This month we started life science Botany and Zoology with parts of animals and plants. The 2nd graders are learning the 2nd great story The Timeline of Life. We will continue to do simple science experiments during the month as well while the 1st graders are focusing on Botany nomenclature.

The kindergarten children continued to work on South America countries and their flags, as well as the parts of the plant and roots. They made a family tree to trace down their roots. Their creative writing this month is about the thankful tree and the point of view of a Scarecrow. They started talking about the country they will be learning for international day.

The children of Lower Elementary will be emulating the artistic style of Christy Caravaglio using fibers and paper. Our composer of the month is Henry Mancini who composed Moon River, Pink Panther theme and Baby Elephant walk.

The weather is changing please make sure to send a jacket (**labeled with your child's name**). December is a short month with so many holidays that different families celebrate. The children in Lower Elementary will share and learn about the different celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and Winter Solstice. Your family is welcome to send things that pertain to these celebrations to share in class. We are looking forward to the upcoming holidays as our children are getting ready for their winter recital on December 8. We will send more details regarding this event later on. Our annual visitor Starstruck the elf is coming back to visit our classroom again starting on the first of December. The children will be busy tracking her every move daily and logging them in their journal.

Happy Holidays!

-Lower Elementary Teachers





Upper Elementary

Dear Upper Elementary Families,

The holiday season has officially begun! Halloween may be behind us, but the excitement for this time of the year is in front of us. Well, actually it's NOW! Therefore, I will begin by wishing everyone a happy holiday season. No matter how you spend this time of year - it might be skiing, celebrating a holiday, or maybe engaging in a family tradition, please celebrate safely and make new joyous memories. Once again, I would like to let everyone know how thankful I am for all of you. As parents, you have been extremely supportive and truly a pleasure to partner with when working with your children. Your endless enthusiasm and support is the framework of our classroom family. The eagerness and hard work of the Upper Elementary students make each day a pleasurable one - one that I look forward to each day. They are thoughtful, compassionate, creative, and have an incredible hunger for knowledge!

While I could spend the time telling you about the Venn Diagrams we created to compare different versions of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, such as Moldilocks and the Three Scares by Lynne Marie, the STEM project where student groups needed to build a chair to hold the characters (made from pumpkins), our Halloween door decorating contest, the glow stick experiments students performed to practice using the scientific method, about how well our garden is growing, or even the scary stories students wrote - even math topics, such as integers, percentages, coordinate graphing, properties of addition, or rounding of numbers, I'm not going to. None of these topics are the main focus of this newsletter. I liked to share some insight of the beauty of the age range in a Montessori classroom.

Montessori children typically remain in the same classroom for multiple years. Over the span of those years, they cycle through a rhythm of growth and development. Thinking about the growth cycle of a plant might help you understand this process. When they first join the classroom as one of the younger students, they need time to establish their roots and may not immediately show a great deal of external growth. This is the time when they

are exploring their new environment and beginning to understand the classroom dynamics. Then, the next year they are more established and show more growth - blossoming a bit more. This is usually the time when they experiment more, feeling more comfortable and established. By the third and fourth year they are now "experts" in their community and their growth becomes exponential and abundant. They are now truly blossoming, having benefited from the cycle that is created in a Montessori classroom. They have had the opportunity to firmly establish their roots, and they have had the time and space to bloom.

Students have the opportunity to become a family since they spend multiple years together. Thus, Montessori students are able to not only gain academic skills, but they establish long-term relationships with their peers. Students have the opportunity to play the role of the youngest, middle, and oldest child and experience the responsibilities and opportunities that come with those roles. The youngest child looks up to the older peers, quickly learning through observation how to behave, what is acceptable and even what to look forward to in terms of advanced work. The oldest children serve as mentors, leaders, and even teachers. Once new skills are mastered, the older students have the opportunity to share what they have learned and in the process are able to experience intellectual synthesis and crystallization of their learning. Through this mutually beneficial process, children move through the process of developing aspiration, building confidence, and demonstrating mastery.

Children are sponges, so being free to observe other children working allows them to gain knowledge even without a formal lesson. Sometimes students might tell their parents that they didn't learn anything in school that day, solely based on the fact that they were not given a formal lesson. What they will not realize is that they absorbed information effortlessly, simply by being in the environment. Their day of "doing nothing" consisted of watching an older child and absorbing knowledge from the task that child was working on at the time. Another benefit Continue to next page...





Upper Elementary - Page 2

fit of the multi-aged classroom is that older children take on leadership roles. As a Montessori teacher, it is a joy to observe older children as they help their younger classmates. They do it with pride and confidence. The older children do this with respect and patience for their younger classmates.

To summarize: Academically, the student experiences a year of introduction, a year or two of practice, and a year of synthesis. In the first year, they learn the routines from those who are older; in the middle year(s), they participate with solid confidence; and in their last year, they are able to provide leadership to younger students. Because they have multiple years to reach set goals in every subject, students master the curriculum at their own (often nonlinear) pace. Using self-determined rather than imposed deadlines Remember, teaching someone else how to do something cements that learning in their own brain

We'd like to thank XXXXXX (XXXX's mom) for sharing her time and knowledge with us. She shared some of the ways her family celebrates Diwali. The students have continued to talk about the customs of sitting silently with a light to meditate, and Rangoli - creating images with colored sand. The excitement could be felt among the stu-

dents while they experienced these customs. They were definitely proud of their sand designs!

Before closing, I would like to thank Ms. Romy for organizing a wonderful field trip for the elementary students. Our destination, The Columbia Memorial Space Center, was new to me and to the majority of the students in Upper Elementary. Everything about this outing was a success for the students - from our docent to the hands-on activities. Every student remained engaged the entire time and explored with genuine curiosity. The two organized activities - coding and launching paper rockets showcased the students' curiosity and excitement for learning. Hearing and seeing the exhilaration when a rocket was launched over the wall or when the coded vehicle did what it was meant to do brought smiles and cheers of support from everyone. A favorite non organized activity was the paper plane launching. As a teacher, my favorite part of this activity (as well as the rocket launching) was listening to the discussions about how they could improve their results and then watching as design changes were made and tested.

Again, thank you for all of your support.
-Upper Elementary Teachers

