

Montessori Monthly

Upper El Takes a Trip Around Europe

By: Gracelynn Cutlip and Lukas Derr

On Monday, January 30, 2023, and Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Upper El hosted an expo (a group of presentations), about European countries. Each student in Upper El researched, designed, and decorated their own presentation. Some even made food from the country, which was a big hit! Then they presented them to their peers and families.

"I got to research new things I didn't know before," said Jameson. Every student in Upper El did thorough research about a country in Europe. They researched things such as landmarks, famous people from that country, and the animals that live there. Some even went above and beyond and researched several countries. After months of researching and writing down information, they began to design and decorate their poster boards. They took the information that they learned "to become better world citizens," and turned it into fun, informative presentations.

At last, on January 30 and February 1, the students did their final presentation. Some students dressed in traditional clothing from their country. Most students made food from their country, and gave samples to go along with their project. Everyone was very thorough, and did an amazing job on their presentations.



Overall, this project was a great learning experience for everyone. Some kids learned how to research and be creative. Others learned how to give presentations, and all of them had to be flexible with time management. Some may have even learned how to cook! Whatever they learned, the students of Upper El did an amazing job learning about and sharing world cultures!

Announcements at the end of the newspaper



BREAKING NEWS! GROUNDHOG'S DAY: FRED IS DEAD!

By: Caleb Pycraft and Aryn Huffman

This year was an emotional roller coaster for the people living in Quebec, Canada. Fred was a nine-year-old groundhog, used in the yearly celebration of Groundhog Day. He was the specially chosen groundhog for the holiday in Quebec. Fred, unfortunately, died in hibernation of old age or an unknown disease. We pass our condolences to the people and groundhog community of Quebec.



We wish the best for Quebec as they search for a successor for Fred. In honor of Fred, we decided to feature a Groundhog Day special! The origin of Groundhog Day is related to many different cultures and beliefs. Research shows that it began as a way to tell when spring would come in pre-Christian society. According to the Irish, they had a poem that told about the Christian holiday of Candlemas; if the day was “fair and bright”, then winter would continue.

If the day was rainy and cloudy, winter would go. The groundhog has been believed to be an animal that can predict the weather, leading to today’s celebration of the groundhog’s shadow. For the modern celebration, people flock to the groundhog’s home to see first hand if spring is coming or not. Basically, if the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. But if it is a cloudy day and he doesn’t see his shadow, then that means that spring is on its way!

This year, Punxsutawney Phil, the U.S.A’s national groundhog, saw his shadow, meaning that there will be six more weeks of winter in the U.S! We hope that Phil doesn’t burrow away from us anytime soon, and will brave the wintery weather for six more weeks!

Super Bowl Sunday Kicked Off

By Curtis Briggs and Emmett Relle

The food and stellar commercials of the Super Bowl are back! The Super Bowl is the most anticipated championship football game, as it is the last game of the season. Whoever wins the Super Bowl wins a football ring and 157,000 dollars. It is a huge deal, both for the teams playing and their fans! The Eagles and the Chiefs played in this year's Bowl. This year's Super Bowl took place in Phoenix, Arizona. A fun fact is that, the first Super Bowl was in 1967. It was at the LA Memorial Coliseum and was won by the Green Bay Packers. Here is this year's exciting recap of the Super Bowl between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs!

In the first quarter, the Eagles got the ball first and they drove down the field and scored! But then in a quick twist, the Chiefs scored with an amazing pass by Patrick Mahomes! The Eagles failed to score their next touchdown, and had to punt. After that, the Chiefs drove down the field and missed a 42 yard field goal! The second quarter had an exciting start with Jalen Hurts of the Eagles, who made a 45 yard connection to A.J. Brown, also of the Eagles, for a touchdown! Then the Chiefs went 3 and out. Unfortunately, Jalen Hurts fumbled the football and the Chiefs returned it for a touchdown! Jalen Hurts made a four yard run for a touchdown for the Eagles! During an Eagle tackle, Patrick Mahomes got injured, but stayed in the game. This forced a punt for the Chiefs, giving the ball to the Eagles. The Eagles kicked in a field goal after the punt, and posted two more points for their team.

The first half of the game ended with the Eagles beating the Chiefs 24-14. Rihanna then kicked off the halftime show and performed a mix of twelve of her most popular songs. She was a bold figure, wearing all red as she danced and sang. The performance was truly stellar and one to remember. The Chiefs started off the third quarter with a phenomenal touchdown after an amazing drive! The Eagles responded with a drive down the field and scored a field goal. The fourth and final quarter kicked off with a touchdown for the Chiefs! The Eagles were forced to punt. Kadarius Toney of the Chiefs made a record-setting 65 yard punt return! The ball ended up on the four yard line. Patrick Mahomes made the four yard connection to Skyy Moore afterward! Jalen Hurts of the Eagles made a two yard touchdown scramble and punched a run in again for the two point conversion!

When the game was tied at 35 points, the Chiefs drove down the field and completed a field goal to WIN THE GAME! The Chiefs won the Super Bowl 38 to 35! Congratulations!



DeVonta Smith of the Eagles and L'Jarius Sneed of the Chiefs.



Rihanna performing at the halftime show.

The Cleveland Guardians Hit a Homerun into New Year

By Sarah-Grace M. and Madison Beltz

Looking for a place to watch baseball in Ohio? Well, you're in luck, because the Guardians play in Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio!

The Cleveland Guardians are the perfect sport to watch after a long winter break! When they are not practicing, they donate money to many charities. The Guardian's manager, Terry Francona, received the American League Manager of the Year Award at the BBWAA Dinner!

Sure, Cleveland has many places to go, but many people like to go watch Cleveland sports games and participate in the activities around the field! The Cleveland Guardians have many activities to explore. For example, there is a Kid's Club that kids can join. They have batting cages, kids are able to race the players virtually, and so much more!

The Guardians are the youngest team in Major League Baseball! They have some of the most well known players include Jose Ramirez, Steven Kwan, Oscar Gonzalez, Josh Naylor, Shane Bieber, and Triston Mikenzie.



Sarah and John Adams, the Cleveland Guardians drummer boy. Picture courtesy of Sarah-Grace M.

One important role for the Guardians is the team drummer boy. A lot of Guardians fans know this, but sadly, John Adams, a famous drummer, has passed away. He was a drummer boy for more than 40 years. He died on January 30th, 2023. He was the drummer boy for the Guardians from 1973-2019. Once Covid-19 started, Mr. Adams had to retire, due to everyone being in lockdown and the risk to his health. He played more than 3,500 home games from 1973 through 2019, and was the beating, booming heart of the fan base, heightening the excitement for the games. One of the most recent changes, and one of the most controversial, was their team name change. They changed their name from the Cleveland Indians to the Cleveland Guardians on July 23, 2021. The team was renamed after the eight Guardians of Traffic statues displayed on the Hope Memorial Bridge, next to their home field.

The Guardians make so many people happy, whether they win or lose. One of the best memories that can be made is if you are chosen to throw the first pitch and say "Play Ball!"

Teacher Spotlight

By Caleb Pycraft and Curtis Briggs

Mrs. Maiara, also known as Mrs. Maia, is one of the Upper Elementary teachers. She has been teaching for five years total. She was born in Sorocaba, São Paulo, Brazil. She is a very kind and helpful teacher, and always is willing to help out in any situation. Mrs. Maia is liked by all of the students in her class for her kindness and understanding. A good example of her kind personality would be that she recently saved a duck. The story was featured in the local newspaper, The Daily Record. The Montessori Monthly team had a wonderful interview with Mrs. Maia, and are excited to share the answers.



Classroom Spotlight

By: Sophie Tzonev and Sarah-Grace M.

This month, we interviewed Mrs. Seiling's classroom. Mrs. Seiling's class is full of hardworking toddlers ranging from ages 18 months to three and a half years old. Each and every day is a busy day for them. One of the neat things about Montessori is that kids of every age participate in what is called an independent work cycle. This is when students choose shelf work to complete. When the toddlers start the independent work cycle, they pick a tray that they want to work on and start getting busy!

When asked their current theme, Mrs. Selling said, "Valentine's Day. We are doing lots of things with hearts and love." Some examples of what they are doing include coloring, matching colors, puzzles, and sensory work. While students are able to freely choose their own work, they are expected to follow certain procedures. Mrs. Seling explained, "We expect our toddlers to be calm and use walking feet, and be respectful of the work and to each other". It is very impressive how focused the toddlers

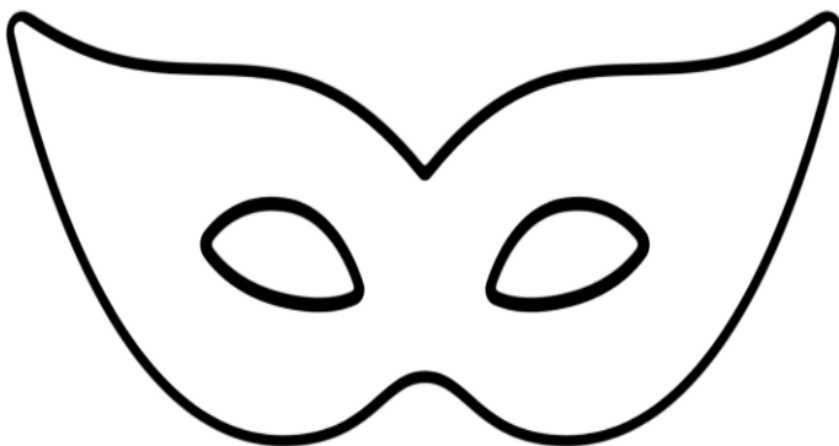
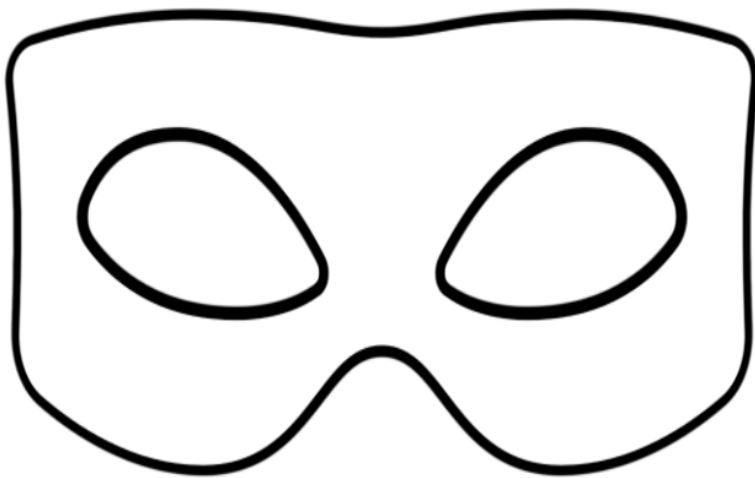
are when they complete their independent work. This is because of their warmhearted and devoted teachers. When asked what the best thing about working with this age group was, Mrs. Seling enthusiastically explained, "I love working with the toddlers and that I get to be their first teacher. I also like how I get to help them start to understand their place in the world." We thank Mrs. Seling and her toddlers for their hard and amazing work that they continue to do at Montessori School of Wooster.

1. What is the reason you became a teacher? "I really loved that I could share my knowledge with children, but I also get to learn from the students."
2. Did you have a job before this? "Yes, my first job was to be a secretary for a German company back in Brazil."
3. What inspired you to go green (Earth friendly)? "Back in Brazil, people didn't care about the environment, but I realized the harm on the Earth and wanted to make it a better place."
4. Are you vegetarian, vegan or neither? "I'm vegetarian, but soon I might try to be vegan."
5. Do you have any pets? "Yes I have three dogs and four ducks."
6. What was it like to save the duck from your point of view? "One day I went to feed the ducks at the Barn restaurant. I saw a duck that was limping badly and had a hurt foot. I got permission and took him home before taking him to the vet. He ended up having a bone disease! So I gave him medicine and took care of him for a while, but sadly, he recently passed away."

Kid's Corner

By: Nora Davis and Adalynn Cutlip

Cut and
color the
Mardi Gras
masks.



desperatelyseekinggina.com

Margay Leopard



Picture Credit: justfunfacts.com

- They can climb down trees head first because they have a special type of ankle.
- The Margay Leopard's scientific name is *Leopardus wiedii*.
- They can live up to 20 years in captivity.

Australian Blobfish



Picture Source: Australian Museum

- Australian Blobfish do not have scales, so they have loose, flabby skin.
- The female blobfish can lay up to 100,000 eggs in a single nesting time.

TO HONOR ALL

By Nora Davis

February is the month where we honor and remember all the important African Americans in history. When remembering the important African Americans figures, we think all the way from the 1700s, up to the modern Americans today.

An important Black American that we honor is a woman named Harriet Tubman. No one knows exactly when Harriet Tubman was born; it was between 1820 and 1822. Harriet Tubman grew up enslaved in Dorchester County, Maryland. There, she lived with her mother and father: Harriet Green and Ben Ross, who were both enslaved people. We know her as Harriet Tubman, but she was born with the name Araminta "Minty" Ross. When she was only 13 years old, she was nearly killed by a blow to her head, when a two-pound weight missed a target and hit her instead. She recovered quickly, though she suffered from epilepsy.

From that day forward, she was determined to be free. In 1844, she "married" John Tubman. During the slave era, the slave owners did not want the enslaved people to have a sense of ownership of their lives. Harriet and John broke the rules, and that would not be the first time, because after they married, they both escaped to the north. They fulfilled their desire for freedom when Harriet's plantation owners died, and she was to be sold and separated from John.

Harriet Tubman was amazing, and found her calling as she helped nearly 700 people of all ages to freedom; and this was all while having the largest bounty on her head at the time for an enslaved woman. She worked on the Underground Railroad for 13 years. She passed away on March 10, 1913. Although she might be gone today, her work on the Underground Railroad and her persistence will never be forgotten.

February is the month to celebrate Black History, but in reality, we should be celebrating them and their accomplishments all year. Jesse Owens was the first African American to win four gold medals at one Olympics. Bessie Coleman was the first licensed Black pilot. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist. Serena Williams and her sister Venus are pro tennis players. These are only the beginning of a very long list of accomplishments and all the great African American people who changed history forever. And there will be so many more to come.



Picture Source: History.com



Photo Credit: Space.com

This Month in History

By: Gracelynn Cutlip

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit. During this time period, the United States and the Soviet Union were competing in a space race. The two countries were trying to see who could be the first to "conquer space". John Glenn orbited Earth a total of three times using the spacecraft that he called Friendship 7.

The flight itself lasted about 5 hours. The year before, in 1961, two chimpanzees by the name of Ham and Enos went to space. They both went separately from each other, and on different dates, but they both survived. Without John Glenn, we wouldn't have the technology, knowledge, and courage to explore the great unknown today.



Picture Source: Sendinblue

A DAY OF LOVE

By: Hadassah Latimer

February is a wonderful month that has many celebrations. These can include Black History Month, Groundhog's Day, the Super Bowl and of course, the Day of Love, or Valentine's Day. This "Day of Love" was first celebrated in the year of 496 AD! The holiday first originated as a day for a Christian feast, honoring an early Christian martyr* named Saint Valentine. Throughout the years, different traditions changed the holiday so that it eventually became a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of friendship and love, celebrated in many regions of the world.

*A martyr is a person who was killed because of their religion or other beliefs.

There are many things you can do to celebrate Valentine's Day. Children can create Valentine's boxes. Creating a valentine box is an activity where kids make a colorful box that other students can put Valentine's Day cards and candies inside. An exciting game that children can play is a contest against your friends where the kids split into groups of two. Each group has two cups in front of them (one full of candy hearts, and one empty). Your goal is to get the most candy hearts from one cup to the other cup using only a pair of chopsticks. You and your partner each get 30 seconds to get all of the hearts from one cup to the other.

Whichever team has the most candy hearts from their first cup into their second cup wins and earns some sort of prize! For adults, Valentine's Day often involves acts of love and affection, which can include gifts such as chocolates, roses, and going to a fancy dinner. Floral shops can get very busy during Valentine's Day. One floral company said they expected to sell ten million roses on Valentine's Day. Candy sales are also through the roof during this holiday, especially chocolates. Whatever you do to celebrate Valentine's Day, this is a day to show your love and appreciation for spouses, partners and friends.

Come Down to New Orleans

By: Nora Davis and Adalynn Cultip

Come down to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras! Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is celebrated at the end of the pre-Lenten season. Pre-Lenten season is right before Lent, a religious holiday in which they fast for 40 days. Multiple Christian-based religions celebrate Lent, and Mardi Gras is a fun time before they must fast. Fasting is when a person completely stops eating, or almost completely. This holiday and celebration has been around since the end of the 17th century, and most likely started as a pagan festival before becoming connected to the Christian denominations. On Mardi Gras, the people of New Orleans have a big feast and a parade. They get to dress up in bright, colorful outfits, and have big parties on Fat Tuesday, because after that, starting at midnight, Lent fasting begins. This took place on Tuesday, February 21 this year. Mardi Gras first started all the way back on March 3, 1699. That Mardi Gras was first celebrated in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mardi Gras is a well loved holiday in New Orleans and many other places, and the rich culture of New Orleans makes this a holiday to look forward to each year!



The traditional colors of Mardi Gras and the cake (pictured) are a part of the long tradition of putting a plastic baby inside. When the cake is cut, whoever gets the baby will host the next party for the following year. source picture: <https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/lent/what-is-fat-tuesday.html>

10 Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day

By: Hadassah Latimer

1. One great thing to do for Valentine's Day is to give a rose to people to make them happy.
2. You could also make Valentine's Day boxes and cards for each kid in your class and place your cards in each student's decorated box. That way when you get home, you can look in your Valentine's Day boxes and see what each of your classmates got you.
3. Then there's a Valentine's Day scavenger hunt where your goal is to find all the Valentine hearts.
4. You could also make a Jeopardy game and the categories could be things like the history behind Valentine's Day, finish the lyrics to a Valentine's Day song, etc.
5. In middle school, there was a game where you pin the arrow on cupid's bow just like how you would in the game pin the tail on the donkey.

6. You could play a guessing game by putting a bunch of candy hearts in a jar and if anyone can guess the correct amount of candy, they get all the candy hearts and a prize.
7. Don't forget to decorate for Valentine's Day too! You could use balloons and a lot of construction paper. Remember to make a lot of hearts!
8. Try to give a nice compliment to every person you see.
9. You could also make heart shaped sugar cookies for your parents, friends, classmates, and teachers.
10. Don't forget to wear festive clothes to match your decorations and boxes!

Word of the Month

By: Alex Gueth

Aa: Basaltic lava that has sharp pieces of hard lava in it.

Pronounced "ah-ah".

"There are many kinds of lava like aa lava, pahoehoe lava, and pyroclastic lava."



Picture and Word Source:

<https://www.ef.com/wwen/blog/language/12-weirdest-words-in-english/>

How To Build A Hovercraft

By: James Latimer

The materials you will need are a bottle cap with a valve, a compact disc, a balloon, and glue.

1. Take the compact disc.
2. Get the cap with the valve.
3. Glue the cap to the compact disc on the hole.
4. Get the balloon.
5. Put the balloon on the the cap.

6. Blow up the balloon.

7. Lock the cap.

8. Put your hovercraft on the floor or table.

9. Unlock the cap.

10. Push on a flat surface and watch your hovercraft float around.



Photo credit: sciencebuddies.com

Montessori Funnies

The Cat and the Wolf

By: Cheyenne Devereux



Valentine's Day

By: Kevaria Godbey



Announcements

- Get your tickets for our annual Dinner Auction at mswdinner.com
- The next MPO meeting will be held on March 8th from 5:30-6:30 at The Barn at Thunderhead Pines
- Please let the office know your enrollment intentions for next year.

Meet the Montessori Monthly Team



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Word of the Month



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Sophie Tzonev
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Cheyenne Devereux
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