

# MONTESSORI MONTHLY

## NEW YEAR, NEW INTENTIONS, NEW RESOLUTIONS

By: Kevaria Godbey & Aryn Huffman

Some people celebrate New Years by watching the ball drop in New York and having parties. Other people celebrate by writing a list of New Year's resolutions. Ancient Babylonians were the first people to make New Year's resolutions. The Babylonians rang in the new year with a 12 day festival called Akita, a time where they grew crops, crowned their king, and paid their debts. Resolutions were a part of this festival, and happened during the Vernal Equinox, when the amount of sunlight and moonlight were the same. This took place in late March, rather than the winter solstice.

New year's resolutions have existed since the 17th century. People in the 19th century who made their resolutions did not always keep them, just like today. In today's world, only 9% of the 41%, who make New Year's resolutions, are able to keep them. The most common New Year's resolutions are to eat healthy, exercise more, and spend less money. New year's resolutions are meant to keep good habits and get rid of bad habits.



Fact credit: wikipedia, nytimes  
Photo credit: istockphotos

New Year's resolutions are most common in the Western world, but are also found in the Eastern world. The phrase "New Year's resolution" was originally found in the first January issue of the Boston Newspaper, in 1813. For many Christians, they used night services to prepare for the next year by praying and making resolutions. Traditions vary among different religions and cultures.

In 2014, a study reported that just over ninety percent of people surveyed failed to keep their resolutions. 35% said they had unrealistic goals, 33% did not keep track of their progress, and 23% forgot about them.

In the modern world, we have resolutions because they are a way to quantify what we wish for ourselves. Unfortunately, with busy work schedules and family commitments, resolutions can be very difficult to keep. Unfortunately, with busy work schedules and family commitments, resolutions can be very difficult to keep. Our advice to complete a resolution is to create smaller steps towards a bigger goal. However you personally celebrate New Years, attempting to keep your resolution will help start out the New Year right!

\*Camp Nuhop Fundraising: Middle School is fundraising for their field trip to Camp Nuhop. Thank you to all that have donated so far!

\*MPO will be meeting on 2/8 @ 5:30pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Reenrollment is active for current students. Please let the office know your intentions for next year.

\*Please make sure your child is bringing temperature appropriate outerwear to school.

\*No School February 17th & 20th

## GET THE SCOOP ON UKRAINE

By: Nora Davis

The long, dreadful, ongoing war is still raging in Ukraine. The first movements of the invasion of Ukraine started on November 10, 2021, when US troops spotted Russian troops nearing the Ukraine border. Only a couple months later, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Over the course of only a year, the Ukraine has lost 9,800 citizens. Since December 2022, 10,480 citizens were injured, 430 children died, and 180 children were found with severe injuries. Conversely, the Russians have lost a lot of their citizens too. A botched Russian military maneuver was responsible for many of those deaths and in total, Russia has lost about 70,000 to 80,000 soldiers and 10,000 to 33,500 citizens.

In the last year, 7.6 million Ukrainian citizens have been displaced from their hometowns, and 2.85 million have fled from Ukraine into Russia. Currently, the United States has accepted 1,610 refugees from Ukraine. Two of these refugees have been welcomed with open arms to our Montessori family here in Wooster. We hope that they have found some peace among the turmoil. If you feel called upon to help Ukrainian refugees, there are many different foundations and options to donate, volunteer or advocate to help them. We hope that this war ends soon so that Ukraine can begin to rebuild in all aspects of life.



Fact credit: nytimes.com, wikipedia, themoscovtimes.com, visitukraine.today, and grid.news/story/global

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

By: Graceylynn Cutlip



On January 1, 1892, Ellis Island opened to the public. Ellis Island was an immigration processing center, where immigrants mostly from Europe arrived. There, the employees would check the immigrants' background, to make sure they were there legally, and their medical records, to make sure that they were healthy. Most people at Ellis Island were allowed entry to the United States. All of that work usually only took a few hours. After they were approved entry into the United States, they were free to go wherever they pleased. Ellis Island closed its doors to the public on November 12, 1954 due to new immigration laws and lack of use.

## WHAT'S UP DOC? IT'S THE YEAR OF DA WABBIT

By: Adalynn Cutlip

Get ready to dive into a new year with the rabbit! The Chinese New Year took place on January 22 this year. It is celebrated mainly in China, Vietnam, and Korea, but the holiday has spread all over the world. They celebrate the Chinese New Year with the belief that it will get rid of the bad spirits and welcome the good. They believe that there are 12 zodiac animals and every 12 years, the cycle starts again. They are as listed: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.

There are different kinds of each zodiac animal. 2023 is the year of the water rabbit. This means that the new year will bring us peace. The rabbit is also supposed to be the luckiest. The lucky colors for people who were born in the year of the rabbit (2023, 2011, 1999, and so on) are pink, purple, and red. The symbol for the rabbit is 兔. May the year of the rabbit bring all of us peace and luck! Happy 2023!



Photo credit: Daily Express

## THE CONTINUING BATTLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

By: Graceylynn Cutlip

We all know about Martin Luther King Jr. He is known mainly for his speech, I Have A Dream, and for being the leader of the Civil Rights movement. But what was the Civil Rights movement, and why was it important?

The Civil Rights movement was a nonviolent movement for racial equality that lasted from 1954 to 1968. Some names recognized from that time were Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, and John Lewis. These people all fought for the rights of Black Americans. Black Americans, before the end of the Civil Rights movement, did not have as many rights as white Americans, and many thought of them as second class citizen. They could not go to the same schools, play at the same parks, or even drink out of the same drinking fountains as white people. But the Civil Rights movement changed all of that.

The Civil Rights movement may have ended almost 60 years ago, but that does not mean that everyone has all of the rights that they deserve. In some states, women are denied the right to abortion. LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others) members are currently being denied basic human rights, such as the right to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity. People from Mexico and other countries in Central America are not allowed to immigrate over to the United States for a better life. Although we have come a long way since the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 60s, we still have a long way to go in accepting and giving equal rights to all members of the human race.



Photo credit: history.org

## CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: UPPER ELEMENTARY

By: Adalynn Cutlip  
& Nora Davis

This month, Upper El was chosen for the Classroom Spotlight. Upper El consists of grades 3 through 5. There are three Upper El teachers, Ms. Mann, Mrs. Maia and Mrs. Fair. The children were asked what their favorite thing about Upper El was. They responded with a variety of different answers. Penny replied, "Getting to work on trifold boards." Austin stated, "I really like Naturalist." Audrey said, "Doing work." while Anna said, "I get to spend time with people." Josiah replied, "Getting to hang out with your friends."

There were many students who clearly thought their favorite thing was their amazing teachers because Eliza told us, "Ms. Maia." and Cole replied, "The teachers." Upper El is a great class, with many things that the students enjoy about it.

One thing about Upper El is that their lessons in all subjects are always engaging and interesting. When asked about lessons that were fun and engaging, Austin said he was excited about the order of operations. Audrey explained she liked learning about Europe in history. They are learning about a lot of fun and exciting things. Another special thing about Upper El is that all of the students eventually transition to Middle School, either to Montessori Middle School or another local school in the area.

This transition comes with lots of different thoughts and feelings. For students still in Upper El, the consensus was that they are very sad to lose their classmates to Middle School. Eliza said, "I don't like it because they were all my friends." Penny told us, "I don't feel good, I hate it." Anna simply said, "Sad." No matter the personal feelings, Upper El and their teachers wish the students good luck and success in Middle School.

Finally, the teachers were asked about their teaching style and what they liked about teaching this age group. Their answer was unanimous about their teaching style. "We like to teach in small groups and conferencing with everyone one on one." The teachers' replies when asked about their favorite thing about this age group varied. Ms. Mann said, "My favorite thing is seeing the kindness that everyone has." Mrs. Maia was excited about, "Seeing them accomplish things and having fun learning math and science." Mrs. Fair's reply was, "I like that this age group asks challenging questions and I learn new things every day." Upper El has three amazing teachers and the students are super lucky to have them. Keep up the hard work Upper El!

## MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOLER TAKES HOME 3RD

By: Gracelynn Cutlip

On January 16, 2023, Middle School student, Adalynn Cutlip, won the third-place award in the 4th-6th grade age group for the NAACP annual MLK student essay contest. She was one of 12 winners for 2023 and third in her age group. In total, there were over 500 entries this year.

Adalynn's essay prompt was about the 1963 Children's March. When asked how she felt about winning the essay contest, she responded with "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." Adalynn was the only student from the Montessori School of Wooster who entered.



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MS. AMIRA DOS

By: Madison Beltz & Sarah-Grace M.



Ms. Amira Dos is the teacher featured this month. She has been teaching at the Montessori School for 12-13 years. Currently, she teaches preschool and is from Alexandria, Egypt. Besides teaching, she loves to read, draw, and listen to music. Some of her favorite foods are Koshari and Macarona Bechamel. Below are a few more questions to get to know her a little better.

Do you have any children?

"Yes! I have two kids. My oldest is 20 and his name is Kilos, and he goes to Akron University and I have a daughter named Marina who is 10, and goes to Edgewood."

What do you love about Montessori?  
"The philosophy of Montessori blew my mind the way they encourage independence for kids."

Do you have a quote for students?

"Montessori is not only for education, it is for life."- Maria Montessori

Where were you born?

"I was born in Alexandria, Egypt with 1 brother, and my mom and dad live with him in New Jersey. I've been in America for almost 22 years. I moved to America and I met my husband. We got married in New Jersey and moved to Ohio. I've been in Ohio for 16 years."

We thank Mrs. Amira for her kindness and respect for the Montessori School of Wooster!

## NBA DUNKS TO LIFE!

By: Caleb Pycraft and Emmett Relle

The NBA is coming back with a slam dunk! First things first: NBA stands for National Basketball Association and the season lasts from October 24 through April 14. You can enjoy 82 awesome games per team during the NBA season. For all our basketball fans, here is a fun fact: LeBron James was the first billionaire in the NBA. Additionally, LeBron's original home team, the Cleveland Cavaliers, are having an amazing season this year! Currently, they have 26 wins and only 16 losses which is one of their best records in recent years. They might even go to the playoffs!

Speaking of the playoffs, the favorites for winning the championship right now are the Boston Celtics and the Denver Nuggets. The NBA season is a quarter of the way done, and the records of all the teams are so close, with many teams having around 20 to 25 wins this season. We are excited to see what the rest of the season has in store for us, and can't wait to see our hometown team, the Cavs, hopefully win the playoffs and the NBA Championship.

Photo credit: Pinterest



Pictured above is map of the locations of the NBA teams



Middle Schooler, Curtis Briggs, is throwing a 360\* in Ellicottville, New York

## SKIING MAKES A SLIDING RETURN

By: Curtis Briggs

It's winter, so that means that it's time to ski and snowboard! Skiing is my favorite winter sport, although it can be hard to learn. I hit a lot of trees trying to learn. Skiing and snowboarding are two very popular winter sports. Skiing and snowboarding seem similar, but in reality they are very different.

One big difference is that in snowboarding you have one big board to stand on, and in skiing, you have two smaller boards next to each other that you stand on with the help of two poles for balance. Another difference is that your weight is more balanced in skiing and when snowboarding you have to shift your weight to stay upright. There are different types of skiing and snowboarding. One type that both sports enjoy is called freestyle. Freestyle includes jumps, tricks and sliding on a halfpipe. Another freestyle event in skiing are moguls (which are big bumps that you ski over). Another popular type of activity in skiing and snowboarding is racing. There are two main types of racing known as the Grand Slalom (also called GS) and Slalom. The Grand Slalom has wider gates and you have to make bigger turns. This is a competition that requires a lot of concentration and technical ability.

Going to the slopes with my family has given me a lot of practice in skiing. I would like to learn how to snowboard and hope not to hit so many trees while I do so. My head can't take it anymore!

## 10 WAYS TO SLED

By: Hadassah Latimer

1. First, you always need to make sure that you have a better sled than your sibling or friend.
2. The better your sled is, the faster you will go, and the more jealous others will be.
3. Then find the most perfect, packed down, steepest hill of snow for a guaranteed win in every race.
4. Before you challenge anyone to a race down a hill, make sure to check that your sled is better than your opponents.
5. Before you go down the hill, make sure that there are no trees in your path so you don't break any bones. (I speak from experience!)
6. Under NO circumstance, should you hurt yourself!
7. Before you go sledding down a hill, check to see if there is anyone you might run over – if so, don't sled down the hill yet.
8. For best velocity while sledding, sit on your belly with your head in the front. Just make sure you have adult supervision and beware of the snow that may fly in your face.
9. Maybe you could even wax the bottom of your sled, so that way, you are guaranteed a win when you race anyone.
10. Last, but not least, don't forget to HAVE FUN!



Children enjoy playing and sledding in the snow

## WORD OF THE MONTH

By: Alexander Gueth

**Subnivean:**  
Situating or  
occurring under  
the snow

Example: The bear hibernates in its subnivean burrow.



Photo & definition credit: meriamwebster.com

## HOW TO MAKE A PAPER AIRPLANE

By: James Latimer

1. Pick a piece of paper, any color
2. Fold it vertically, or like a hot dog, and then unfold it
3. Make sure the folded line is up and down
4. Fold the top corners to the folded line so it looks like a house
5. Fold in half on the middle line again
6. Make the short side of the paper touch the folded line
7. Flip and repeat step six
8. Fold out the wings
9. Hold onto the bottom and point the tip of the airplane away from you
10. Throw it and watch it fly!

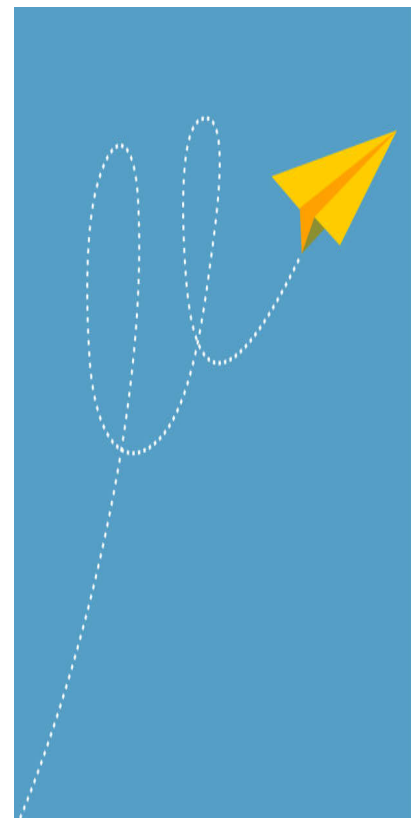


Photo Credit: istock.com

# KIDS CORNER

By: Adalynn Cutlip & Nora Davis

## LET'S LEARN ABOUT...

### TARDIGRADES



Facts and Photo credit: college.unc.edu

- Microscopic animals, also known as "water bears"
- They are the only known animal to survive with no air.
- In 2007 scientists sent 3,000 of the tiny creatures to space and 68% of them survived.
- They eat fungus leaves bacteria and even other tardigrades.
- They can be found almost anywhere on Earth

### PENGUINS



Photo credit: earth.com  
Facts credit: worldanimalprotection.us

- Penguins swim underwater.
- They stick together so they can survive and to keep warm in the arctic.
- Penguins eat squid and fish.
- There are 18 different penguin species
- The longest living penguin is the Emperor Penguin
- Penguins do not have teeth

## WINTER GAMES



### WINTER MAD LIBS IT'S A SNOW DAY



Winter time often brings a snow day and that means no school instead of waking up at \_\_\_\_\_, going to school in a \_\_\_\_\_ and spending my day sitting on the classroom's \_\_\_\_\_. I am going to spend all day drinking liquid \_\_\_\_\_ and playing \_\_\_\_\_ in the snow. I also plan to act like \_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_ outside in the \_\_\_\_\_ snow, before I come inside to get warm by the warm \_\_\_\_\_. I'll invite my best friend \_\_\_\_\_ over to eat \_\_\_\_\_ for an afternoon snack, before going back outside to play our favorite game \_\_\_\_\_.



ENJOY YOUR  
SNOW DAY!



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### Word Search

t	w	i	a	r	t	i	c	u
a	g	p	c	w	a	q	g	h
r	s	t	e	b	f	a	i	d
d	s	k	g	n	m	w	d	y
i	l	r	d	t	g	d	a	s
g	z	x	f	r	h	u	j	u
r	m	s	g	g	r	i	i	w
a	w	a	t	e	r	p	c	n
d	a	v	t	h	y	a	e	s
e	n	w	o	c	r	l	x	y

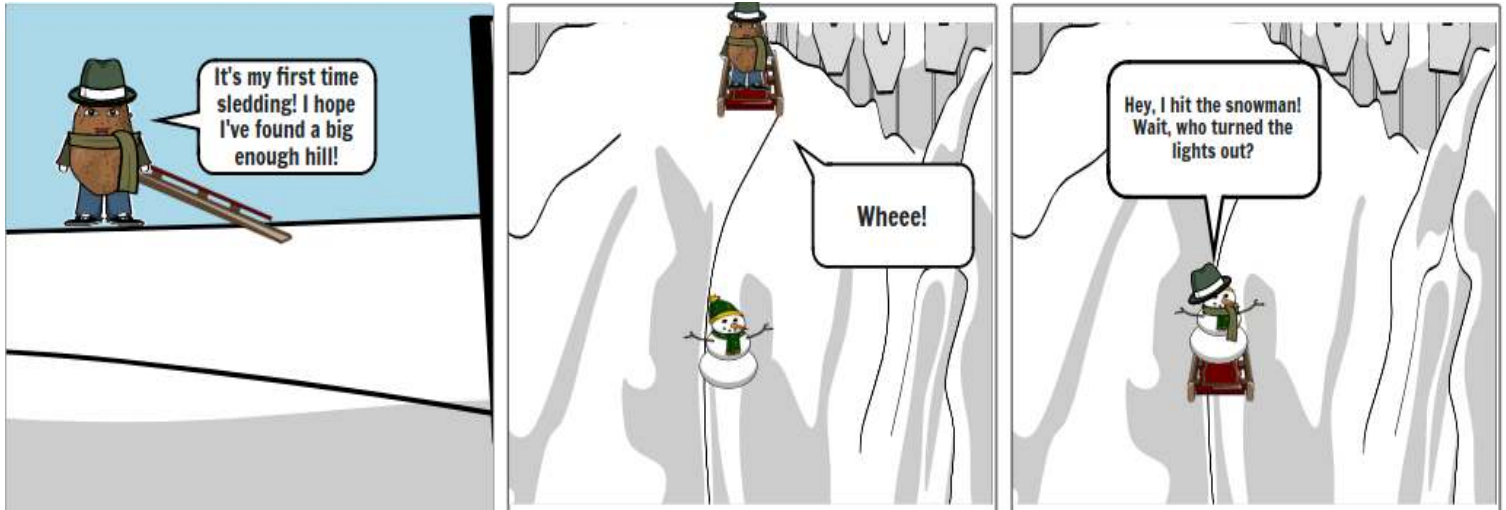
### Word Bank

- tardigrade -ice -water -penguin -arctic

# Montessori Funnies

## POTATO TALES SLEDDING ADVENTURES

By: Lukas Derr & Alexander Gueth



## STUDENT OUTSMARTS THE TEACHER PART 1

By: Adalynn Cutlip



## STUDENT OUTSMARTS THE TEACHER PART 2





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# Meet the Montessori Monthly Team

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**Adalynn Cutlip**  
Kids Corner,  
Classroom Spotlight,  
Feature Writer &  
Comics



**Nora Davis**  
Kids Corner,  
Classroom Spotlight,  
& Feature Writer



**Sophie Tzonev**  
Editor



**Madison Beltz**  
Teacher Spotlight



**Sarah-Grace M.**  
Teacher Spotlight

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**Curtis Briggs**  
Sports Writer



**Caleb Pycraft**  
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**Hadassah Latimer**  
Listicle Writer &  
Editor



**Alexander Gueth**  
Comics &  
Word of the Month



**Aryn Huffman**  
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**James Latimer**  
"How To" Writer



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**Kevaria Godbey**  
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**Emmett Relle**  
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