

FNS GAZETTE

Issue No. 1 | Feb 1 2024



The Turtles' classroom got a Montessori makeover during the break and the children are responding wonderfully to it!


Dates to know:

Feb 2- Groundhog Day

Feb 14- Valentines Day

Feb 19- CLOSED

Presidents Day

Feb 24- Snow Moon 

February Birthdays:

Feb 4- *Rosa Parks*

Feb 22- *George Washington*

Feb 27- *John Grady (11)*

Snowy Days

A snowy January brought us several inches of fluffy snow and 7 snow days! We do not expect to add days to our school year. As a gentle, child led school, we will offer additional time during our work cycles and additional work cycles as needed to make up missed classroom time.



Our First Issue!

Ask a student:

What's your favorite thing you are doing in school?

Roslyn: "I like Multiplication."

Murray: "I love Waseca!"

Vivi: "I like to do Division."

Greta: "I like doing math worksheets!"

Corinne: "I like Math and Reading."

Camden: "I like working hard and digging with my new friends!"



No Nature Deficit here... we prioritize time outdoors.

What we're reading as a class:

Mrs. Casey and the Owls are reading *White Giraffe* by Lauren St. Johns.

Mrs. Brandy and the Turtles are doing an author study on Mo Williams (We love Piggie and Gerald!).



Our Waseca Reading program is a student favorite



Why Montessori Environments?

Montessori education values respect, child-led learning, and a beautiful, prepared environment. This education model leads to engagement, intrinsic motivation, sustained attention, and a healthy sense of responsibility to oneself and others. We also incorporate Waldorf and Reggio principles in our school. We believe a Montessori environment compliments all of these models of education and that they work beautifully together to create an eclectic and holistic learning experience that serves each child.

Babies and Birthdays!!

In addition to snow, January also brought 2 of our families new babies!! A few weeks prior, our own Ms. Avery welcomed little Deklyn earth-side. Welcome to the world little ones!!

Also happy Birthday to Freyja and Roslyn last month! We are so glad you all are with us!

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Tree of the Month

The Loblolly Pine

The state tree of Arkansas



Loblolly pine, or *Pinus taeda*, is a common pine tree in the southeastern United States.

- The wood is used in construction, furniture making, pulp and paper production, and even boat building



- It can grow up to 100 feet tall
- And live for over 200 years

- It is used for reforestation due to its fast growth and adaptability to soil conditions

- It provides a habitat for wildlife, including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker



Did you know??

A groundhog is also called a woodchuck

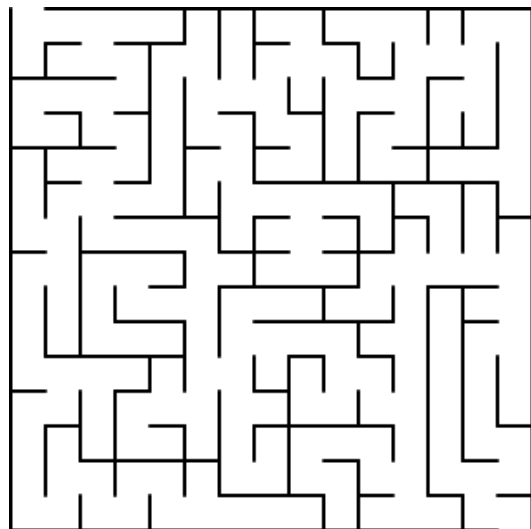
"How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?"



"A woodchuck would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck could chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood!"

This tongue-twister relies primarily on alliteration to achieve its effects, with five "w" sounds interspersed among five "ch" sounds. (from Wikipedia)

Puzzle of the Month



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Who was ROSA PARKS?

American Civil rights activist

Rosa Parks was an American civil rights activist who sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. This event led to the desegregation of Montgomery's public transportation system. Parks continued her advocacy for civil rights, worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr., and was a board member of the NAACP. She is known for resisting racial discrimination and injustice and is considered a symbol of resistance.



Rosa Parks holding a sign that reads "Colored Entrance"

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Valentines riddles

What do squirrels give each other for Valentine's Day?

Forget-me-nuts.

What did one volcano say to the other?

I lava you.

What did the octopus say to their Valentine?

I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand.

What do you call a very small Valentine?

A valen-tiny



Shelf Check

The Waseca Reading Program

This shelf pictured is in the Owls classroom but the Turtles also use the Waseca Reading Program. Waseca is a reading program based on the Montessori reading method that provides a systematic and sequential presentation of phonetic elements in English.

There are nine cabinets based on the Orton Gillingham sequence (developed for dyslexia), and the program uses a four-step approach of introducing a phonetic element, using the movable alphabet to spell, decoding the phonetic information, and practicing decoding through reading and writing. The students complete a sequence with a spelling test.

