



ABC-Stewart School

Founded 1969

Mission: We seek to educate and prepare each child to make life's journey as an independent responsible citizen of the world.

MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Holiday Traditions - Stewart Family

'Tis the season to celebrate the many traditions of our ABC Stewart families. We asked you to share your favorites, and we received some great family traditions! Take a few minutes and learn about the different holiday traditions celebrated within our school.



Nikolaustag (Saint Nicholas Day, December 6th)

Name: The Lehnert Family, Audrina Lehnert, Children's Garden

Tradition: Children in Germany set out their freshly cleaned boots or shoes on the night of December 5th in the hopes that St. Nicholas will fill them with treats and small gifts overnight, provided that they were well-behaved throughout the year. St. Nicholas is associated with Nicholas of Myra, a bishop known for miracles and giving gifts secretly. In Germany, St. Nicholas is different from the Weihnachtsmann (Santa Claus) who comes on Christmas Eve. However, the American Santa Claus is derived from St. Nicholas.

Hanukkah

Name: The Russell Family, Ava Russell, Two's Classroom

Tradition: Our family loves celebrating Hanukkah during the month of December. We light candles, eat donuts, play dreidel and open gifts eight nights in a row! We usually spend this holiday with extended family but this year we won't be able to do that but we will still make the best of it!



Holiday Family Pictures

Name: The Zhuang Family, Serena Zhuang (ABC) and Lucas Ziang (ABC)

Tradition: Our family tradition is everyone wearing red to take family pictures every year.



Holiday Traditions - Continued



Diwali Festival of Lights

Name: The Rajghatta Family, Diya Rijghatta (2nd Grade) and Dhyhan Rajghatta (ABC)
Tradition: Our favorite activities involve lighting lamps and diyas (small candles), exchanging gifts, and eating yummy sweets.



Baba Marta: Celebrating Grandma March Day in Bulgaria



Name: The Blandin Family, Paulina Blandin (Horizons)
Tradition: In Bulgaria, Baba Marta Day (also called Grandma March Day) is a unique holiday associated with the beginning of spring, and can last all through the month of March. At its center is the mythical Baba Marta Bulgarian folktale character, who personifies every aspect of the month of March. According to the Baba Marta legend, she is the sister of two other characters, named Big Sechko and Little Sechko, who represent the months of January and February. Baba Marta represents the month of March, as well as the beginning of spring. Therefore, the holiday of Baba Marta is associated with the beginning of a new cycle in nature and with wishes for health and fertility.

Each year, Bulgarians officially begin celebrating Baba Marta Day on March 1, and the holiday can actually last all through the month of March. The most common tradition on Baba Marta Day is that of the Мартеница (martenitsa), which is a Гривна (grivna), or "wrist band," made of бял и червен конец (byal i cherven konets), or "red- and white-colored thread." These two colors are said to represent different things; the red is for blood or life, and the white is purity and happiness.



Christmas

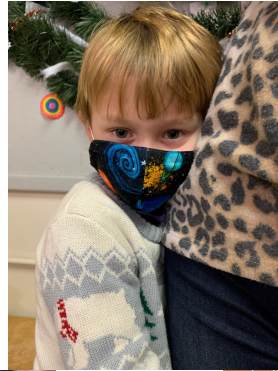
Name: The Seger Family, Bryce Seger (ABC)
Tradition: Our family celebrates Christmas the entire month of December. We do advent calendars with chocolates counting down to Christmas, our scout elf "Elfie" surprises us each morning, and breakfast with Santa (drive thru this year). We celebrate Christmas with church service, family and presents from Santa. On Christmas morning we hide a pickle ornament on the tree and the finder gets an extra special present. Happy holidays from our family to yours!



Kids Corner

"What is your favorite holiday tradition?"

Forrest - Horizons
"Christmas! Opening presents! And hugging my mom!"

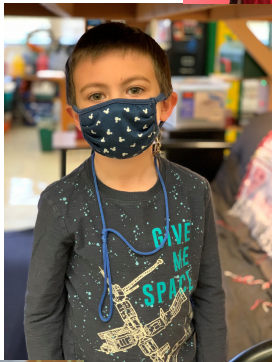


Amahya - ABC
"Celebrating friend's birthday parties"

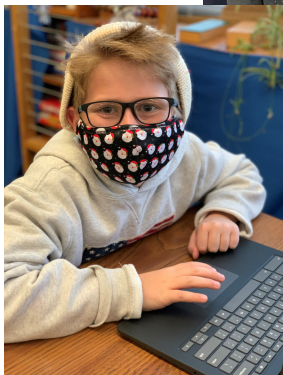


Claire E. - Children's Garden
"Building sand castles"

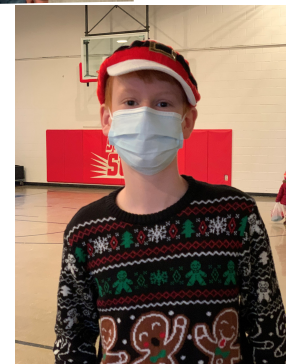
Finn - 1st grade
"Thanksgiving because we did have a big dinner."



Jackson S. - 3rd grade
"I like going to look at all the lights at Christmas time."



Lukas - 2nd grade
"Going to my grandma's house for Thanksgiving."



Van - 4th grade
"Christmas and being with my family."

Graham - 6th
"Going sledding with my family."

Elsa - 5th grade
"I like passing out all the presents with my sister to our family."

Montessori Minute



During her years of observation and discovery of the child, Maria found that education created peace. In a world full of chaos, Montessori discovered that children were the answer to a peaceful future and their teachers were responsible for providing it. Peace is not taught in the classroom, it is observed. Our environments (classrooms) must be prepared for the children to learn through peace in their education. Nurturing peace is simply incorporating all the people of the world into our daily curriculum. Education on the world's differences and similarities is where inclusion and respect for each other begins. The earlier a child learns to understand and respect all cultures and differences, the more likely they are to grow up to incorporate peace into their adult world and live to be inclusive, respectful, and mindful adults.

“Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of educators.” - Maria Montessori

Peace is incorporated into the 3-6-year old Montessori classroom by incorporating works representing all continents. Children in this age group learn outward to inward. They first learn and explore the continents and then the United States. This approach to education provides a global view of life and humanity's part in it.

In a 6-12-year old environment, children continue their journey of peace through education on a broader level. This is the age of reasoning, abstract thinking, and an imaginative state of mind. Students continue their study of people around the world and learning about their fundamental needs as humans. They learn that the fulfillment of these needs varies by not only historical time periods but also by geographic location. With emphasis placed on the family of humankind and the interrelationship of all life, Montessori students begin to realize that they are not separate from the rest of the world but are an integral part of creating a harmonious world.!

A very special thank you

-To all of our teachers and support staff who have faced this year's challenges with a smile; committed to educating our kids and keeping them safe!
-To our families who continue to take precautions so we can continue in person learning. We are in this together!

Newsletter Editors:

Stefanie Stafford, Veronica Turner DDS, Sheena Seger

Recipe Corner

Honey- Oat Granola Bar

- adapted from "The Little Lunchbox Cookbook" by Renee Kohley

A copy cat of the Nature Valley bars made with whole grains and healthy fats, leaving out the additives and preservatives. You could also add nuts and dried fruit for variations.

Ingredients:

2.5 cups rolled oats	¼ cup coconut oil, melted
¼ cup sugar	¼ cup honey
¼ tsp baking soda	



Directions

1. Preheat oven 350 degrees. Line 8 x 8in baking pan with parchment paper and spray butter.
2. Add oats, sugar, sea salt, and baking soda to bowl.
3. Melt together coconut oil and honey. Add to oat mixture. Stir to combine
4. Press into pan. Bake 20 minutes until golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes before cutting. Store in air tight container.

Alumni Spotlight



Georgia Richards

My name is Georgia Richards and I attended ABC Stewart from the ages 2 to 13 starting in 2005. I'd say my time at ABC definitely shaped me into who I am today. With being a smaller school, my classmates and the faculty became family. Now being a senior in high school I returned this year to work in the after school care, Splendid.

One of my favorite memories was in 6th grade when the graduates got to make a haunted house out of one of the class rooms. We got to dress up and go all out for the rest of the grades to walk through. I took a lot from attending ABC and its Montessori ways that will stick with me forever.

School Clubs

Elementary:

Drama Club: Wednesday starting January 13th @ 4:15- 5:15 pm

Art Club: Tuesday @ 4:15- 5 pm

Math Bowl: Tuesday and Thursday starting January 12th @ 3:30- 5:00 pm

Music Club: Will resume in February

Basketball (4th-6th grade): Monday @ 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Preschool:

Art Club (Ages 3-6): More information to come

Upcoming Events

Jan 4th: classes resume.

Please be sure to review the COVID travel guidelines to determine if you need to begin the year e-learning

Jan 18th: Martin Luther King Day - no classes

Postponed: Kindergarten visits the elementary