



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

The Thanksgiving Feast



On Friday, November 19th, the school came together to celebrate the annual Thanksgiving Feast! The Feast is a chance for the school to come together and learn about the first Thanksgiving and celebrate together as a family. Older students pair up with younger students and extremely patient teachers to prepare a real Thanksgiving Feast! This year was a little different with some extra COVID precautions. We weren't able to welcome parents into the school for the feast preparations, and each pre-school class hosted their own feast separate from the elementary school. Despite some of these

differences, excitement filled the air as feast preparations kicked off. We hope that sharing these pictures with you from each classroom will give you glimpse of the joy this event brought to your kids' day.

The History of the Feast

I had the opportunity to talk with Merry Carmichael, the founder of ABC-Stewart about the origins of the feast. She shared that the first Thanksgiving feast was in the school's second year (1970). She brought the morning and afternoon preschool children together and she had baked a turkey. They had a Thanksgiving Feast with parents coming in to help. Since the Pilgrims had squash the first Thanksgiving, they did as well, but she quickly learned that children preferred corn casserole to squash so she changed the menu from that point on. The feast continued to grow as the school did. After the school's move from Merry's basement, there were a total of 80 preschool children. Parents came in to help prepare the feast, and they used crock pots. It was always an adventure because the crock pots would frequently blow fuses! They had to always have extra fuses on hand before the feast, and it always made it exciting!

When the elementary school opened, the tradition of the feast continued in 1977. Many children had been to the feast previously. Parents continued to come and provide ingredients, and the new location didn't blow as many fuses as in the old one! One of Merry's favorite memories was 15 or 20 years ago when WTTV came down to report on the school's Thanksgiving Feast. The ABC children had made paper bag Native American outfits with head gear. The news crew interviewed a little boy around age 5, and asked if he was dressed up as a Native American. The young boy responded, "No, I'm just a little boy making mashed potatoes!"

Saplings' Celebration



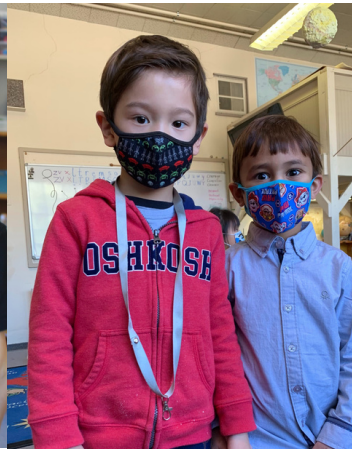
"It's So Nummy!"

Children's Garden Celebration



ABC Celebration

"We are having a turkey party today!"



What are you making?

"I have no idea!"



"We like to cook!"

Horizons' Celebration



Elementary School Celebration

Preparation



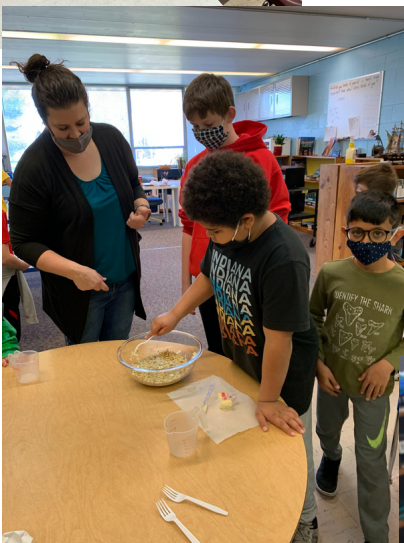
1st Year Teacher Ms. Lynn used pumpkin pie cutting to teach a math lesson!



Older students mentor the younger students.



"My favorite room is the turkey room - it's cool carving the turkey!"



"I love stemming strawberries!"



"I've never tried stuffing - but I'm going to today!"

The Feast



"My favorite thing is cutting and making mashed potatoes!"



"I've been to the feast a couple of times, when I was little."

Alumni Spotlight

Whitney Olibo

In 1997, I started attending ABC Stewart in Mrs. Kramb's Educare class. From the beginning, I vividly remember the fun traditions like playing in the garden, making Valentine's hearts (that were hung from the ceiling), attending the Dad's breakfast event, and eating macaroni cheese for lunch in a cool container just like Mrs. Kramb's. It was at this age where I developed a love for academia- which would continue as I progressed through schooling and in my life. I continued attending Stewart until 6th grade in May 2006, when I graduated. I have great memories from Stewart, but three specific ones stand out- 1st grade, Spell Bowl, and Washington DC.



1st Grade



Speaking at the Writer's Luncheon



Happy to Have Harry the Bear

In 1st grade, I remember just loving everything. I would write letters to my classmates and stick them in the mailboxes. I also recall being motivated to behave well to take Harry the Bear home (pictured) and document my adventures with him. Everything was so fun and I just had a zest for life and loved the teachers and my classmates.

Second- In Spell Bowl- I was involved from 4th-6th grade. Like 1st grade, my motivation was pretty high to do well. In the summers in between school, I would study the 10 page list of words that were possible to be given at the competition. I remember studying in the summer outside

the tennis courts when my sister had tennis classes at Donner Park. My hard work paid off- especially in my 5th grade competition when I earned a perfect score and fancy ribbon! I almost repeated my perfect score in 6th grade- but incorrectly spelled "Mediterranean Sea". Because of this- I earned the near perfect score honors.



In Educare - always smiling

Third is my Washington DC trip in 2005. This was probably one of my favorite memories for many reasons. It was the first time I went on a plane (at 11 years old) and it was an overall eye opening experience. I remember going to the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, the Washington Monument, and laying the wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

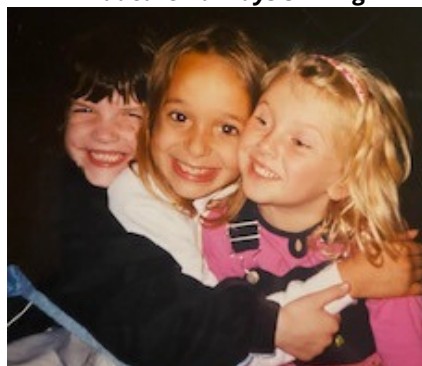


I was a Brownie in my Stewart years

After Stewart, I graduated from Columbus North High School in 2012, Indiana University Bloomington

in 2016 (Bachelor's in Spanish and minor in Sociology), and Purdue University in 2020 (Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs). I have been studying and working in Bloomington, IN the last decade, at what I consider the greatest higher education institution in the world at Indiana University Bloomington. When I am not working, I am running half marathons, exercising, traveling, reading, and spending time with friends/ family.

Overall, I think Stewart set the foundation for my love of learning and travel, which would continue to stay with me to this day. I would not be the person who I am today if I had not attended Stewart.



With my friends. Elizabeth Drake (left) was my best friend. We met as 4 year olds and remain friends today.

Teacher Feature

Congratulations to Sue Breeding who is the recipient of the 2021 Reams Family Award for Excellence in Teaching!



Sue Breeding

I have been an educator in some capacity for over forty years. Throughout the years, I have worked as a teacher's assistant in the BCSC School system; planning and implementing activities and camps as a program director with the Boys and Girls Club; as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Southside and Fodrea; and a teacher at ABC Stewart. I have been at ABC-Stewart since the summer of 1997 through 2003 and later returned to ABC Stewart in August of 2014. I love being a teacher in the Montessori environment and experiencing hands on learning.

The love of teaching at ABC Stewart Montessori began in the summer of 1997 with Kimberli Rockhold and Mary Arnholt. We made a castle with a drawbridge out of large refrigerator cardboard boxes for the upcoming school year's open house in our spare time after working the Summer Days Program. This initiation into the three-year rotation of studies being able to express creativity in learning drew me into the

school. When school began that Fall, I began teaching in Stewart, first as an aide in the First-year class with Lori Lynn and Crystal Street. After two months in First year Merry Carmichael brought me to the Math room and I worked with her until leaving in 2003. Teaching under Merry increased my love for Montessori and the hands-on learning. Watching students use the beads and place value dishes to do addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division was amazing to see. Merry became my mentor, friend, employer, and encouragement to believe in myself. I learned from her anything was possible.

I left Stewart for a period of time to pursue a business of my own. When the economy took a turn for the worse, I decided to return to college. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Management and Marketing from Indiana University, and my Master of Business Administration and Strategic Planning, along with eight Certificates in Computer Technology. While I began to actively look for employment, I saw Linda Becker and during our conversation, she told me that the school needed a teacher in the Math room if I was interested. Interested? I was excited to get back into the classroom. August of 2014, I returned to Stewart and have taught in the Math, Science, First, and now Computer since my return.

I enjoy watching the students learn and grow. Graduates who were students in the time I was here before are now doctors, lawyers, computer technicians and have stability in their lives. This is the true result of ABC Stewart's roots. I hope to see students now that will do the same.

I love spending time with my life-long partner and best friend, Bill Berg; my family – my daughter Mary and my son-in-law Chidu Rajghatta and my grandchildren – Diya, Dhyan, and Dheer; my son Matthew and my grandchildren – Codey, Dylan, and Jaiden; and my two great grandchildren – Leland and Aubrey; and my extended family – Nick and Sam, Erik and Ashleigh, and Jake and Emily.

THANK
YOU

To all of the parents who volunteered or donated to the parent work day! If you haven't seen it, check out the new fencing!



Recipe Corner

Chicken Noodle Soup

As the weather starts to get colder, this warm comforting soup is perfect for any age. Pack in a thermos or leak-proof container for reheating at school.

Ingredients:

- 1 TBS Olive oil
- 1.5 cups sliced carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 diced onion
- 2 minced cloves garlic
- 96 oz low sodium chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp each salt and pepper
- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 4 cups cooked wide egg noodles



Directions:

1. In Dutch oven on medium-high heat, add oil, carrots, celery, and onion and sauté for 7 minutes until softened stirring intermittently. Add garlic and sauté for another 1-2 minutes.
2. Add chicken broth, bay leaves, thyme, oregano, salt and pepper bringing to a boil. Boil for 5 minutes until vegetables fork tender.
3. Add shredded chicken and boil for 1-2 minutes until chicken warmed. Remove bay leaves.
4. To serve, place cooked noodles in bowl and ladle soup over.

School Announcements

Please see the following important information:

Spell Bowl Team

Congratulations to our amazing Spell Bowl Team for coming in 3rd in the state! 4th, 5th and 6th year students worked for weeks to prepare for this competition. We are so proud of you!



Holiday Wish Lists

The classes have created holiday wish lists that will be sent via email. Check out your child's classroom wish list to see if you can help make their holiday wishes come true!

Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for new holiday gift ideas? Check out "Batteries NOT Needed Gift Guide: 25 Montessori Inspired Gift Ideas for Kids" at <https://www.raisinggenerationnourished.com/2015/12/25-montessori-inspired-gift-ideas/>

Important Dates

12/4 - Festival of Lights Parade
12/15 & 12/16 - Santa Shoppe
12/17 - Classroom parties and last day of school
12/20-12/31 - Holiday Break - No Splendid or Extended Care
1/3 - Return from winter break

