Hello Families,

We hope you are all getting a welcomed dose of sunshine this weekend. It’s hard to believe we have been at this long enough that we are rolling into Week 9 of School at Home. Thank you all for your support, engagement, feedback, and hard work along the way. Here’s a look at what’s ahead this week.

Lessons for all students to be aware of this week include a botany lesson about the parts of a leaf with Mr. Ben and more geometry and geography with Ms. Mary.

We have heard from many first-year students and their families about wanting more social time to connect with peers. Mr. Shawn and Ms. Jessie, two of the Upper Elementary teachers, have volunteered to lead small group art activities to provide opportunities for socializing and connecting. These will be offered on Teams every day except Wednesday from 12:30-1:00.

Passion Project news! Based on feedback from families and discussions among the teaching team, we have made a final decision on when Passion Projects will be due and how to best present them. The most equitable and manageable process will be for everyone to film their presentations/displays at home and send the video to a teacher. We are happy to help in the video-taping process, so please don’t hesitate to ask. As we get closer to the date, teachers will offer guidance and suggestions on ways to record and send the video. The videos of the Passion Projects are due by Friday, June 12. Feel free to send in the video any time before then. Over that weekend, we will edit them all together and then host a watch party on Monday, June 15.

Wishing a happy Mother’s Day to all maternal folks out there! You are amazing!

All our best,

Mr. Ben, Ms. Mary, and Mr. Robin

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**This Week’s All-Class/Ongoing Events:**

**Birthday Circle**: This Friday, May 15 will have our first Birthday Circle over Zoom. We will be celebrating students with March and April birthdays. The Zoom link will be posted next week. We will take turns saying our hopes and wishes for each of the birthday students. All students are welcome to join us at 9:30.

**Daily lunch read aloud** with a teacher from 12:00-12:30 (optional).  We will be reading from Wayside School Gets a Little Stanger.

**Sharing** is on Wednesday at 11:30. Links are on the calendar and the “Week 9” channel.

**Spelling:** List #22a: Spelling this week is about words with added suffixes.

Please make sure that if your child does Spelling that they meet with either a teacher on Monday and Friday by following the Calendar invites or do both a pre-test and post-test at home with another person. The lists and some practice activities are in the Classroom Materials channel under the Spelling folder.

**Rocket Math**
Each child should also be doing Rocket Math practice at least 4 times a week.

Families have two choices for how to do Rocket Math.

* **Paper** (The materials are in Classroom Materials channel under the Rocket Math folder) or
* **Digital Subscription** (Please let Ms. Nicole know if you’d like login information for a digital subscription)

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**This Week’s Curriculum Plan:**

**Monday**
Individual and partner math lessons with teachers (will continue throughout the week with individual appointments).

**Tuesday**

Botany Lesson: Parts of a Leaf

Mr. Ben will post a video of this botany lesson on Tuesday to watch along with extensions and follow-up work to do during the week. He will be online during the morning if anyone has any questions or is ready to share their work with him. Students won’t need to bring anything while watching the lesson.

Coding with Mr. Ben:

Half of the 2nd and 3rd years are invited to do some coding with Mr. Ben on Tuesday afternoon using Code.org’s Sprite Lab. Links will be sent out during the first lesson.

**Wednesday**
9:30 Community Gathering on Zoom (see Calendar on Teams for Zoom invite)

We had a great turnout last week for our Community Gathering. If your child is interested, we are going to do a group meeting with the class and offer appreciations and any announcements.

11:30 Sharing (see Calendar on Teams for invite)

**Thursday**
Ms. Mary will give lessons on an individual basis, on a variety of geography and geometry topics. As Montessori school, we believe it’s important to allow some breathing room. This week is a great opportunity for a child to get a lesson that they missed, talk about their work and interests with Ms. Mary, linger for a little longer over a new idea, or do deeper independent work on a topic that they’ve been introduced to. The Classroom Materials section on Teams and Suggestions for Other Ongoing Work (see below) are great resources, as is Ms. Mary and the other teachers.

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Coding with Mr. Ben:

The other half of the 2nd and 3rd years are invited to do some coding with Mr. Ben on Thursday afternoon using Code.org’s Sprite Lab. Links will be sent out during the first lesson.

**Friday**

March/April Birthday Circle at 9:30 on Zoom.

Literature Circles with Ms. Mary. There is a new document in the Literature Circle channel under files called “May Literature Circle Books.” There are some old titles along with new ones. These are “rolling” literature circles: you choose a book and meet with that group weekly until you are done reading it, then you choose another book to read. Filling out the “Literature Circle Tree” document is meant to be a tool to help students recall details from the book and aid them in lit circle discussions. Please let the teachers know early in the week which book you are reading (in the chat for you and the teachers.) Look for the event invite in the Calendar on Teams.

**Suggestions for Other Ongoing Work:**

- Recording the Odyssey Radio Drama Episode 2. Detailed schedules and all related information can be found on The Odyssey 2020 Teams site.

* Companions should be practicing “What’s in the Sack?”
* Odysseus should be practicing “Once Again”

- Work on a submission for the MCH student newspaper. Ask a teacher if you have questions or want to discuss ideas.

-Start a project with a classmate

- Do you have any follow-ups to do still? If you're not sure, ask a teacher. You can also look in Teams under "classroom materials" to find information on what to do for follow-ups.

- Memorize poetry: There’s a new poetry folder in classroom materials: files: language. You can memorize “Jazzy Goats Gruff” or a poem called “The Year.”

- social thinking videos to help your child through the social/emotional aspects of social distancing: <https://www.socialthinking.com/free-stuff/video-lessons>

- Journey North-- <https://journeynorth.org/>

Celebrate the change of seasons by following the migrations of various animals on this website.

-Create a Natural History Musuem Box:

<https://childhoodbynature.com/build-a-homemade-natural-history-museum/>

-Download a packet of activities from the Burke Museum: <https://www.burkemuseum.org/burke-from-home>

- Find the latest Art video from Ms. Michelle in her file on the classroom materials channel.

-Find something to get deeply involved in. Lose yourself in a subject.

**Some follow-ups you might have:**

Practice sounds using the process we outlined

Types of stems extensions

Geometry follow-ups— do as many as needed to learn the concept

What does the farmer produce? Follow-up

Additional river follow-up —check classroom materials

3rd years have a follow-up for River Civilizations