

# THE VOICE OF MSW

January 2024

STUDENT CREATED

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## Middle School Launches Newspaper

by: Christina Bain

This school year the Middle School class has started a school newspaper! The newspaper will include a spotlight on different classes every month, articles on school or class events, reminders, word games and photos of students. All articles will be written and edited by students in the Middle School classroom, so you will be reading from the perspective of a student.

This newspaper will be free to families so that everyone can learn more about our school. It will be paid for by using advertisements or sponsors from the MSW community. If you are interested in buying an ad space, please email: [newspaper@msw.org](mailto:newspaper@msw.org)

## International Peace Day

By Aristin Bittings

On September 21st, every year people all over the world celebrate International Peace Day. This was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly, set as a day of non-violence and ceasefire. To celebrate, all the Montessori schools around the world sing the song "Sing Peace Around the World." This historical event first took place on September 21st, 2009. The song "Light a Candle for Peace", starts on September 21st in New Zealand at 11:00 am precisely and is continuously sung for 24 hours by children in countries around the world until it reaches the Hawaiian Islands.

Alexis Pearce from Mrs. Felker's class said, "I like how people realize how much peace there is in the world." Every school participates in their five minute time limit. At MSW, we head down to the Willow Tree and each class joins hands as we sing. This year we made a "50" for 50 years of the Montessori School of Westminster. Weston Baer, from Mrs. Neiko's class said, "My favorite memory was helping make the 50 this year." Every child participates in this event and is taught the importance of world peace and how it can someday be achieved. Mrs. Malcolm from Mrs. Malcolm's class said "If we really want to achieve peace, we must teach it. We need to practice it and demonstrate it, too.". Rosalie Hart from Mrs. Malcolm's class said, "I think it's an important event to have at school."



Lower students celebrating International Peace Day near the Willow Tree

## Classroom Spotlight



Beginnings student, Maya, enjoying a book

## Mrs. Merena's Beginnings Classroom

by Caroline Schriver

The students in beginnings are young, which means there may be struggles adjusting to school early in the year. Being away from familiar things and having a space they share with others are some of the little ones' struggles. They may begin school barely speaking and by the end of beginnings many are talking a lot. Since they are so young, what do they learn about? In September, they learned about parts of an apple, crafts, independence and cleaning up after themselves. The beginnings students learn to pour water into cups. A key role of the beginnings program is to teach them to understand their emotions and to know themselves better. This sets them up to be a good member of their community.



Beginnings students working on pouring and sorting skills.





# October

## Classroom Spotlight



### Mrs. Strine's Class Spotlight

By Aristin

Mrs. Strine's classroom is one of the places where children start their MSW experience. In Primary, students learn how to be a friend and to how to take care of their belongings. One of the best things about teaching, according to Mrs. Strine, is that every day is different and fulfilling.

Each day begins with outdoor time. Once back in the classroom, they have group time, or as Mrs. Strine says, "Ellipse time." Ellipse time usually comes with a lesson. Then, they work on different activities that are placed on the shelves. Finally, they head outside before lunch to get their energy out. After lunch and recess, some children go to nap, and some go to work. After a long day of play and learning, students are ready to go home!

A great accomplishment in the classroom has been learning to work alone and with others. Mrs. Strine loves the way students' work can be individualized and that they can explore what they are interested in. Currently, in Mrs. Strine's class the students are learning about the ocean and fish, as well as the holidays that are in December.

### Lake Anna

By: Sahana Patel

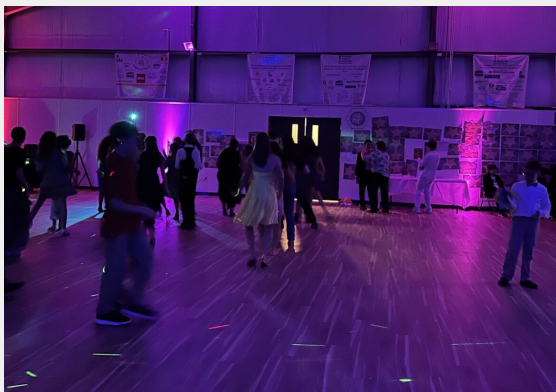
Twice a year Middle School visits Lake Anna on retreat trips. Retreats are used to bond the class while doing many fun activities. In addition to relaxing and playing games on retreats, students learn how to take care of a house and shop and cook for 23 people. Students participate in outdoor and water activities by the lake; such as paddleboarding, kayaking and swimming. There are two campfires during the week where students sing and play games. During the day, there are group activities such as improv games, cupcake wars and the MSW retreat staple game: Bunko. Middle School students enjoy a lot of free time during these trips which follow rigorous curricular cycles. This draws the class closer to each other and students return as a bonded group.

### MSW Homecoming Dance

by Oliver Blair

The homecoming dance was a special event as it was the first all-school dance. The dance was held in the UTZ Field House where Mr. Brim acted as the DJ and compiled a great playlist. A red carpet was set up for people to walk down, and there was even a party van. After 8:30 PM, all of the kids under grade 4 left, and the field house was left to the older students. Alumni were also allowed to attend the dance, which gave people a chance to reunite and catch up.

*Dancing at Homecoming 2023*



*The big game!*



*Mrs. Strine's Primary enjoying sunflowers!*







## Classroom Spotlight

### Mrs. Carroll's Class Spotlight

by: Caroline Schriver

In Mrs. Carroll's class, each day the students independently choose work, balance time playing and working, and during work time they learn about using their quiet voices. Mrs. Carroll says joys that come with teaching is being around the kids, watching them learn, grow, and watching them figure out who they are, what they like, and what they do not like. In the classroom they have learned about Native Americans, Mammals, North America, and pumpkins. The students have personal and curricular accomplishments, for example, hanging their jacket on their own, being able to pick out their name card, and caring for each other as well as their environment.

A day in Mrs. Carroll's class starts with morning recess then they go into group time where they read the calendar and have large group lessons. Then they have independent work time and small lessons and during independent time they can have snacks and cook! Around 11:00 they gather to read stories and sing songs. They go outside for recess until lunch time. Some kids leave at lunch time, and some can take naps. After lunch they have their afternoon work before they go get their energy out before dismissal.



*Lower and Upper Elementary Students Participated in the Fall Research Fair. Families visited the Field House to learn more about their projects.*

### Upper Elementary's Thanksgiving Feast

By: Alexandra Ghetto, Upper Elementary Student

For Upper's Thanksgiving feast, we had to set up the Field House for about 80 guests. It took us 3 days to fully set up. In the end it was worth it because after the feast, we had a dodgeball game with the families. It was so much fun!



*Student's from Mrs. Carroll's class counting, cooking, and using the movable alphabet.*







## Classroom Spotlight

### Mrs. Ruby's Class Spotlight

By: Liv Burley

Mrs. Ruby's class has been getting along great and let's just say handling a whole class full of primary kids can't be easy! Mrs. Ruby's class starts out their day by going outside and getting all their energy and silliness out before they go into circle time, after circle time they go into work time where they work until the next circle time and then back outside till the end of the day. The students in Mrs. Ruby's class are learning how to help each other and focus for longer periods of time. They have been doing great in being good friends to each other, and a class must have a kind community. But all communities have strengths and weaknesses, one of those weaknesses is choosing challenging work and honestly, I think at one point we have all had that problem. Mrs. Ruby loves it here at MSW with all her co-workers, students, and her wonderful aid Mrs. Moser, she thinks that they are all awesome! Mrs. Ruby's class is a perfect fit for our MSW community!



### Goodbye Barn

by: Christina Bain

Our lovely barn that has been a large influence on our school is being taken down soon. The barn is located next to the Primary playground and is often used for school photos. This barn is most likely well over 100 years old and accompanied an old farmhouse, which was demolished last spring. This barn is prominent to our school and will be a bittersweet change, but it will provide new memories and space for our community.

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*Mrs. Ruby's Class loves the outdoors!*



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Feilyxx Lippy, MSW Middle School student, created an amazing anxiety coloring book for teens that will be distributed within the community. Below is the website to learn more about Feilyxx's truly incredible project and to purchase or donate a copy! Copies are available at MSW with advance notice of your interest.

**Coloring Book Link:**

<https://anxietycoloringbook.com>



*Thank you for checking out our first edition. See you soon!*