

Issue 02.2023

Winston-Salem Montessori School

February 2023

Dear Reader,

Thank you for reaching out to us and extending affirmations towards the magazine, Progress Reports, social media videos, Community Meeting feedback, and more. Your appreciative voices energize us as we continue to provide your children and our community with an enriching educational environment.

The February issue is focused on how we amplify the voices of people who are black during Black History Month and throughout the entire school year at all levels.

Welcome, to a peek inside the
Winston-Salem Montessori School.

Sincerely,



Alisha Gaskins
(she, they)

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*We are proud to maintain the privacy of our families.
Please do not share any images within this Zine. Thank you.*

Celebrating Black History Month

At Winston-Salem Montessori School we integrate black history throughout the entire school year. During Black History Month, we center Black voices in a variety of ways throughout all levels.

Toddler 1, 2 and 3

18 months - 3 years old

Reading

"I look up to Michelle Obama" by Anna Membrino and Fatti Burke

"Charlie Parker Played Be Bop" by Chris Raschka

"The Story of Rosa Parks" by Patricia A. Pingry

"The Story of Martin Luther King Jr." by Johnny Ray Moore.



Ms. Nice reading "My Hair is Beautiful" by Shauntay Grant.



Black Leaders

Showing and discussing pictures of black innovators, scientists, politicians, artists, and athletes



Ms. Chelsea Fabyanski introducing Ella Jenkins, an American folk singer who wrote many children's songs. They listened to Dulce Dulce, Miss Mary Mack and You'll Sing a Song and I'll sing a song.

Music

Learning the song "This Little of Mine" and the chant "Martin Luther King was a real good man."

Listening to the music of Ella Jenkins, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong.



Children's House

CH, 1 - 6 for ages 3 - 6 years old

"Maria Montessori didn't become a world-renowned educator because she was trying to improve education; rather, she became the leader of this field because she was trying to improve the world.

A vital part of this is instilling values that will lead children to become fierce advocates for equality, fairness, and anti-racism.

It's common to wonder how to start this journey with young children. How do we approach these difficult, and often uncomfortable, topics in a way that is accurate, respectful, and developmentally appropriate?

Children aged 3-6 love stories, and so one of the first places I turn to in the classroom is the bookshelf."

Virginia Sparkes

"We have told the story of Mae Jemison, the first female African-American astronaut. We have also dived into the famous artwork of Jacob Lawrence and seen how he tells stories through his paintings. We will be exploring the beautiful poetry of Maya Angelou and learning about her life, as well as enjoying the fantastic musical talent of Louis Armstrong."



Zeb and Raven are using a book to find things in Jacob Lawrence's paintings. They are pointing to the people dancing!



Stella, Vikrant, and Zeb are researching Mae Jemison, the first female African-American astronaut.

"One really fun thing all the children like to do is put our hands in a circle and try to explain what color we are." - Lauren Seger, CH2



Children's House Continued...

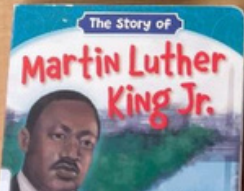
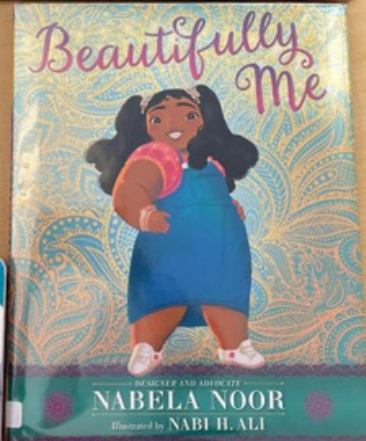
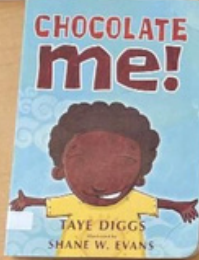
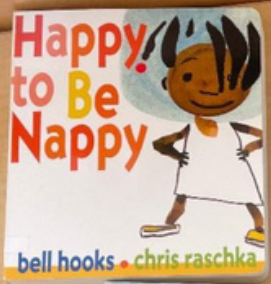
"In Children's House, we offer keys to the bigger picture. I recently was introduced to a switch in the way we talk about racism that I feel is important.

When we started to read about Ruby Bridges, I prefaced it with some open discussion about her story. I explained to the children that people in the government made unfair rules for people they didn't like because they were different. I shied away from the phrasing "because they/she/he was black." Example- Instead of saying- "They didn't want Ruby to go to the same school as the other children because she was black.", I said, "people made rules that weren't fair or kind for children with black and brown skin, like Ruby."

As these children grow, they will delve into the Civil Rights movement and what that meant. For now, I offer some truth in a way they can understand."

Amanda Langbehn





"All year long the children have been reading stories that show our children appreciation and respect for diversity. We want all the children to feel included. Since February is Black History month we have been reading and learning about black people and their contributions to our society and our country's history. We have been reading cards and books representing African Americans. Not only for Black History month, but all year long.

I read to the children a book about Martin Luther King and another one about Rosa Parks. Some of the children's reaction to discrimination because of the color of our skin was:
5 year old "There are white friends and black too in our class and I like to play with everyone. I just want everyone to be happy."

4 year old "My family likes all the colors, we like black, blue, all the colors."

5 year old: "I like playing with everyone"

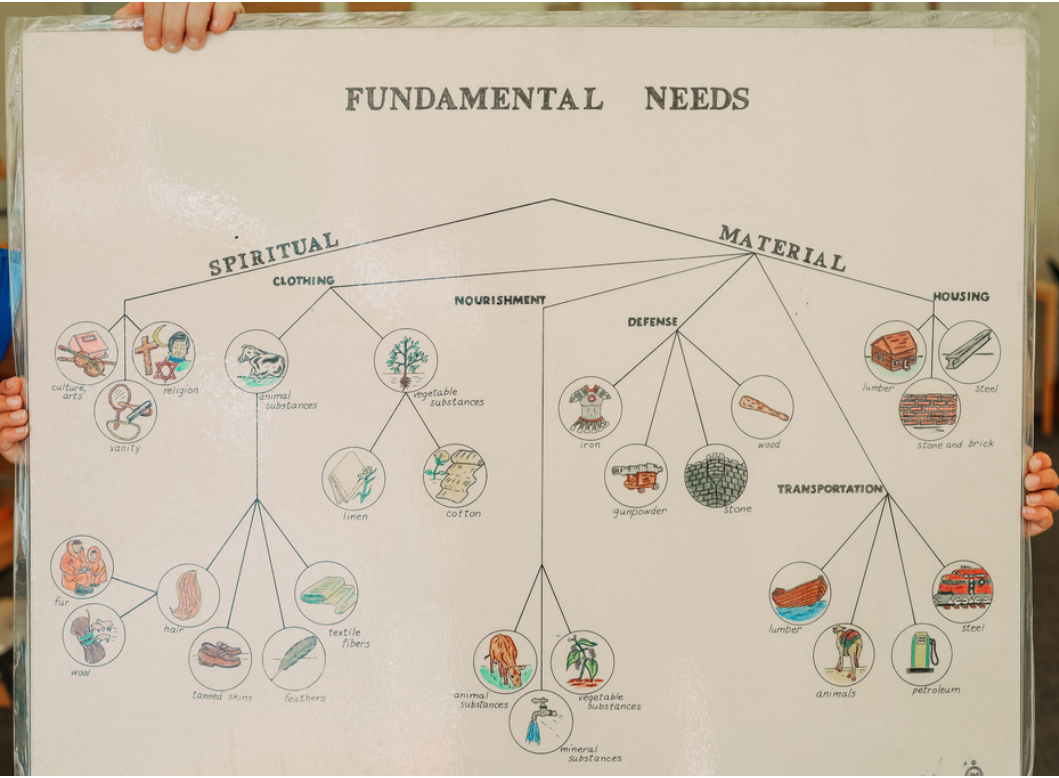
Maria Selles and Stefania Bedin

Lower Elementary 1 & 2

Grades 1 - 3, Ms. Shama, Ms. Olivia, Ms. Rachel and Ms. Nuala

In Lower Elementary, the students learn about the Fundamental Needs for a quality life. They learn about the beautiful variety of cultures in the world. To incorporate education on social inequities, their Guides tell them how people are prevented access to their fundamental needs. This approach centers on the dignity and beauty of the human experience while acknowledging systemic issues.

A lesson from Shama Doshi



Students in Lower Elementary made art inspired by Aaron Douglas. They are deeply proud of this work. When I came in to photograph their work, two students were devastated because they left their work at home that day. I promised to come back the next day and they brought in their work. That moment was such a testament to the deep pride they have for their work.





Upper Elementary

Grades 4 - 6, Ms. Abigail, Ms. Allison & Ms. Crystal

Students in Upper Elementary created a timeline which wrapped around the entire class. It started in the 1700's and ended in 2023. Students presented their research on important people in history who are black and created a visual a timeline of U.S history.

AP

December 16, 1922

Dr. Thomas F. Hopkins was born.
in Culpeper, Virginia and grew
up in Revere Ma.

"Dr. Thomas F. Hopkins became the first African-American laboratory investigator, whose work lead to the development of the first female oral contraceptive and he is my great, great Grandfather."

Adolescent Program

*ages 12 - 15 years old
Ms. Sally, Ms. Ellen and Mr. Greg*

"In the Adolescent Program we study Humanities (history, social studies, civics, economics, religion, etc.) in a three-year cycle. Our yearlong themes are Early US Nationhood, Great Cities of the World, and Peace & Conflict. These studies provide extensive opportunities to examine and celebrate the role of Black Americans in our collective history far beyond the month of February. Past major units of study have included the trans-Atlantic chattel slave trade, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights movement. In addition to learning about past injustices, we celebrate the resistance and resilience of the Black community throughout history. Lessons and research projects have included voter disenfranchisement, the Haitian Revolution and its impact on early America, Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and notable Black Americans including poets, scientists, and government leaders. We are fortunate to travel each year for field research and have visited sites such as St. Philips Moravian Church in Old Salem, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, the King Memorial in Washington DC, and several Civil War battlefields such as Gettysburg and Antietam. We strive to provide opportunities for all students to learn from the hard lessons of the past and empower them to help create a more just, equitable and inclusive future."

Sally Meehan

Thank you for being a part of the
Winston-Salem
Montessori School
community

