



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024

The Albrook Almanac

Albrook Summer Camp 2024

By Pauline Ms. MacNeill

Time truly flies when you're having fun, and this summer was no exception for our campers! It was a season filled with joy and discovery, creating unforgettable memories for our young adventurers. With perfect weather, we embraced endless opportunities for both outdoor and indoor exploration.

In Explore the World, the students explored the two biomes of Antarctica, penguins, and hands-on projects. In Cooking around the World, the students studied different cultures through diverse culinary traditions tasting delights that stimulated their taste buds. The students had fun while constructing their recipe books decorating their chef hats and aprons. The Exploring Nature students focused on topics like different animal habitats, food chains, and insect architecture. While making discoveries during their nature walks on campus. In Soccer Camp, young campers had fun learning skills such as dribbling, shooting, and passing while understanding the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.



Upcoming Events

November 6-8 Book Fair

November 7 and 8
Parent-Teacher Conference

November 17 Open House

November 27 Early Dismissal

November 29 and 29
Thanksgiving Break School Closed

In Digital Art, the students developed their computer skills while exploring art through technology and tapping into their creative side while navigating software such as Paint 3 D, Adobe Photoshop, Sketchbook Pro, and Kid Pix, producing their masterpieces, and exploring different hands-on art mediums in the classroom. In our STEAM program, students delved into the energy world, discovering energy creation and forms (magnetic, electrical, and mechanical), energy transformation and its impact on our planet. The students integrated math, science, art, and technology through open-ended challenges to create innovative projects. In the drama pro-

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gram, our young performers had an opportunity to shine! Over two weeks, they mastered acting skills (line memorization, staging, and character portrayal) while developing expression and emotion in performance and showcasing their talents through a performance for their families.

Yes, indeed, time flies when you are having fun! Having fun while building confidence and self-esteem as they develop a better understanding and respect for the world around them is a wonderful way to spend a summer.

Summer Camp 2024 was a tremendous success, exceeding expectations. We acknowledge all of our alums and staff for their energy and enthusiasm.

Mark your calendars-Summer Camp 2025 registration opens in January.

An Attitude of Gratitude

By Nina Marvi

This year, our school focus is on an 'attitude of gratitude'. Such a commitment to focusing on gratitude is not new to Montessori education. Through our grace and courtesy exercises the children learn to express appreciation to those around them. The very vocabulary of gratitude and appreciation is practiced. In our classrooms it is a daily activity to be mindful of respectful interactions by expressing such grateful feelings. Our children are thankful when mats are rolled neatly, when work is put away correctly, and when a friend helps them to clean up a spill. They are thankful when a door is held open or when snack is available. A study of history, at the elementary level, highlights the contributions made by our ancestors to our very lives today. Gratitude, for the many inventions, discoveries and innovations is inspired as we study many cultures. While today, research indicates that there is a clear connection between hap-

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piness and gratitude, we remember Montessori's words on the subject: Happiness is in many respects a skill that parents can teach their children, and the relationship between gratitude and happiness is really strong. Maria Montessori.

Back To School Night 2024

As the season changes and a new school year begins, we reflect on our blessings. On September 19, parents gathered, eager to reconnect and celebrate.

Ms. MacNeill's welcome address was followed by staff introductions. Ms. MacNeill highlighted Albrook School entering its 45th year serving the community and sharing its humble beginnings as "a dream in a young girl's heart." The spirit of Albrook has blossomed and transcended through different locations, building projects, and special events; however, what has remained the same is Albrook's commitment to the Montessori philosophy and unwavering love for our students. Ms. MacNeill concluded her talk by sharing this year's goal of Attitude of Gratitude and discussing how our peace curriculum has always been a part of Albrook culture. She also defined activities to be added to this year's curriculum to prepare the children to be world citizens and develop a deep passion for our planet. Ms. Albers, 95 years young, was introduced as one of the founders of our school. A tribute to her passion and vision was recognized after 44 years of devotion to the staff, children, and community of Albrook. She was touched by the heartwarming applause for her achievements.

Kara Chabot and Angela Masi, our co-presidents of the Albrook Parents' Association, welcomed everyone and discussed the importance of involvement. They encouraged everyone to offer their time and talents in any way, small or large, to Albrook. They concluded with an invitation to be active in the community and join them in supporting Albrook.

The parents were directed to the classrooms for an introduction to the curriculum and to participate in a discussion with their child's teachers.

A wonderful evening of connection, celebration, and looking ahead to the new school year!

The Albrook Students Celebrate World Peace Day

By Ms. MacNeill

On September 20, our school community gathered in Albers Hall to commemorate the United Nations' International Day of Peace. Since 2009, Albrook students and the community have participated in Sing Peace annually to honor this special occasion. Ms. Lipman welcomed everyone and invited students to share what peace means to them. Heartwarming responses included moments like reading with my mom in bed, playing with my toys, walking in nature, and sharing brotherly love (not fighting with my brother).

One of our upper elementary students, Amelia, beautifully recited Albrook's Peace Pledge: "We learn to love the world by being peaceful, loving, caring, and kind." The Community Peace Candle was lit, followed by a minute of silence and the harmonious singing of "Light a Candle for Peace." Under the guidance of Mrs. Marvi and Mrs. Dignam, students performed peace-

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themed songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "We Are Flowers in One Garden."

In preparation for International Peace Day, Albrook students engaged in meaningful explorations across all levels: the O'Keeffe Class read "The Peace Rose" and created their own love lights; the Van Gogh Class read "The Peace Book" and discussed its significance; and the lower elementary students explored "Peace One Day" by Jeremy Gilley, learning how to say "peace" in different languages. These activities laid the groundwork for a thought-provoking and heartfelt celebration.

For over 44 years, Albrook has championed Peace Education, empowering students to become compassionate global citizens. We proudly continue this tradition, inspiring a brighter, more peaceful future.

Getting to Know You

We welcome Ms. Ania Virk to the Albrook Team. With over 23 years of experience in teaching, administration, and leadership within Montessori schools, she has dedicated her career to fostering student growth and academic excellence. Throughout her journey, she has had the privilege of serving in various roles, including Elementary Teacher, Director of Elementary Education, Admissions Director, and Director of Placement, where she achieved an impressive 80% acceptance rate to top-tier private schools as an admissions counselor.

Ania's leadership extended beyond the classroom by being involved with the Montessori Model United Nations, serving as President of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, Rome, Italy, and New York City.

Ms. Virk is a graduate of Rutgers University, with a Master's in Education with a focus on Learning, Cognition, and Development, as well as a Master's in Theology. Her passion for Education is complemented by her proficiency in English, Polish, and Russian, which allows her to connect with a diverse community of students and families.

As the Assistant Head of the School, she is deeply committed to supporting Albrook School's inclusive and nurturing environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. Ania believes in the power of Education to transform lives and continue to positively impact our Montessori community.

Autumn Holiday Decorations

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By Ms. MacNeill

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the APA Decorating Committee for their invaluable contributions to enhancing our school’s beauty and creating a festive atmosphere. Special thanks to Mrs. Nicole Gujral, Mrs.Kara Chabot, Mrs.Alexandra Petrucci, Mr. Barak Shimon and Mrs. Lauren Smith and the entire committee for their dedication, creativity, and talent in transforming both the interior and exterior of our school into a vibrant display of autumn colors.

Some highlights include the beautiful décor throughout the campus, particularly at the entrance sign and gated entries. We also appreciate the joyful Diwali signs, which add a meaningful touch of cultural celebration. The committee's magic truly brings warmth and cheer to the holiday season.

Thank you, APA Decorating Committee, for this precious gift to our community!

A Perfect Day for a Trunk or Treat!

Trunk or Treat was an absolute blast! On Sunday, October 27, the weather was amazing and set the perfect backdrop for a sunshine day filled with joy and excitement. It was so much fun to see students and their families hiding behind their creative costumes—some were even a bit spooky! The beautifully decorated trunks added to the festive vibe, and the pumpkin decorating activity brought smiles to everyone’s faces. The anticipation surrounding the candy guessing game was fabulous, and it was a major hit. The muffins and apple cider were incredibly popular, making for some delicious treats throughout the day. A special shout out to the families who got into their creative vibe and decorated their car trunks.

We want to thank the APA and the Trunk or Treat committee for all their hard work in making this event such a success!

It was a delightful experience that ever

