



UNDER crott

Annual Fund



There's a lot to be hopeful for this school year. Despite continuing COVID-19 mitigation, we have been thrilled to watch our students explore, flourish, and learn together in person in their classrooms, on the playscape, and on field trips. These beautiful opportunities for reconnection are something we do not take for granted. It is because of you that we have the materials, outdoor classroom spaces, and more to make this school year a success.

What is the Annual Fund? Tuition keeps us open, but the Annual Fund helps us grow, respond, and enhance. Annual Fund donations are unrestricted, which makes them flexible and responsive. In the past, they have purchased our buses, provided training opportunities, improved our beautiful playscape, and created our

outdoor classroom spaces. Each year, the needs are different, and this fund allows us to tailor our approach. It is also how we plan for the future of our unique school.

What if I can't make a large gift? Every year, our goal is 100% participation among our families, staff and board. Small gifts join larger gifts to make a huge impact, so every donation makes a difference.

How can I contribute? You can donate by cash or check sent to our office, or make your gift today at paypal.me/undercrott.

Undercrott is so fortunate to have a caring, committed community. Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting our students as they grow, learn, and realize their potential.

REMINDERS

November 23 (p.m.) - 26
Thanksgiving Holiday
School Closed

December 1
CBC Meeting
12:00—1:00 p.m.

December 14
Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m.

December 20 - 31
Winter Break
School Closed

January 3
Staff Professional Day
School Closed

January 5
CBC Meeting
12:00—1:00 p.m.

January 6
Parent Education—Alumni Panel
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

January 11
Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m.

January 17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Closed

February 2
CBC Meeting
12:00—1:00 p.m.

February 3
Open House and Presentation Night
6:00—7:30 p.m.

February 8
Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m.

February 21
Presidents' Day
School Closed

Strategies for Building Community: Classroom Meetings

By Stephanie Branch

"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness." - Maria Montessori

Class meetings are an important part of the Montessori environment from early childhood through middle school. Research has shown the use of regular class meetings helps students develop lifelong social skills, and empower children to be contributing citizens of a learning community, working together to attain a sense of belonging, and to develop individual responsibility.

We adjusted the structure of our class meetings, following our Positive Discipline workshop at the start of the school year, with encouraging results! We're happy to share this example of the structure of the daily class meetings in our upper elementary classes (grades 4-6).

Beginning the meeting: At the appointed time, the herald/scribe announces, "Please clean up completely and come to line for meeting." Students lead the meeting in the roles of meeting facilitator, time keeper, scribe and secretary. There is a meeting outline script the facilitator follows, and each section of the meeting is timed. The facilitator rings a bell to start the meeting once all the students have gathered and says, "I call this meeting to order. Would someone like to start compliments, appreciations, and apologies?"

Compliments, Appreciations and Apologies (5 minutes)

Students should remember that what they say should be *direct, meaningful, and specific*. For example, a student might say "John, thank you for helping me with my stamp game division work today." After the compliments are shared, the facilitator will say, "Does anyone need a compliment or appreciation who didn't get one?" Students will raise their hand if they need a compliment and other students will offer them a compliment.

Follow up on prior solutions (2-3 minutes): The meeting facilitator asks the secretary to review the solution(s) to a previously solved problem to decide if it is effective or needs to go back on the agenda. For example, a class worked to find a solution to an active, noisy dismissal time and created an expectation of journaling independently during dismissal — many students said this was much quieter, more respectful and responsible.

Agenda Items (10-12 minutes): The meeting facilitator next addresses new agenda items. For example, a student raised a concern about the tidiness of student cubbies and caddies in the classroom. Students first pass the talking rock around the circle and may say if and how they consider the agenda item an issue in the classroom. The facilitator asks the student who brought the agenda item to the meeting, "Would you like some help from the class?" If the answer is yes, the next round is for discussion without fixing or offering solutions.

Once the discussion round is complete, the facilitator passes the talking rock around for solution suggestions from the students. Students should abstain from judging or voting on the solutions until this round is finished and everyone who wishes has had a chance to speak.

Solutions are included for a vote if they are *helpful, reasonable, respectful, and related*. Voting can be blind (students cover their eyes and raise their hands) or open with a thumbs up/thumbs down vote.

Announcements (1-2 minutes): The meeting leader asks if anyone has announcements for the good of the group. An example of these could be a friendly reminder to wash your hands, or that PE is this afternoon.



Alumni Feature: Luna Wolfe

I graduated from 8th grade at Undercroft in 2019, where I had been a student for 10 years, since early childhood. After graduating, I went to Will Rogers College High School. As a tenth grader, I'm taking AP history, which is a class meant for juniors and will earn me college credit on completion. I am working toward dual enrollment with Tulsa Tech or TCC next year. I really love my school and the people here. I participate in choir, singing the national anthem at assemblies, and helping with costumes for theater productions regularly at my new school. Undercroft really helped me develop skills like time management, resourcefulness, and the ability to work with others. I am really grateful to have gone to Undercroft, and I think it really helped me be ready for a successful high school experience.

CBC

COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

CBC Co-Chairs

Laura Thomas & Elizabeth Edwards

Laura.Thomas@Undercroft.org & Elizabeth.Edwards@Undercroft.com

CBC Meetings

Join the CBC for monthly meetings, now on Zoom! Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. We meet to discuss upcoming events, answer questions, enjoy some laughs and community fellowship! See your Weekly Reminders email for instructions on joining the Zoom.

Spirit Nights

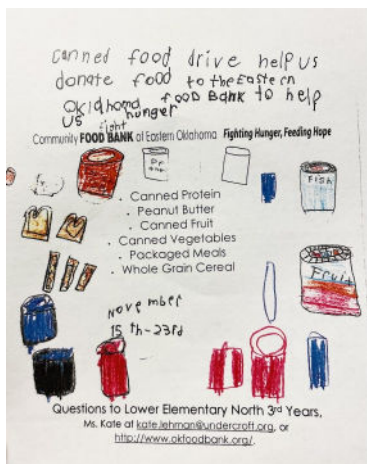
Support Undercroft while you dine or shop! Spirit Nights are opportunities to give back to our school when you buy dinner for your family, purchase gifts, and more! Check *Weekly Reminders* and *Facebook* for more Spirit Nights in the future. If you have a favorite business who supports local charities, email Brigid.Vance@Undercroft.org.

AmazonSmile

Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Undercroft Montessori School whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Name Undercroft Montessori School as your AmazonSmile charity today!
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-6099978>

The Food Bank Project

by Alice Varner and Carter Sherry
(Lower Elementary Students)



The lower elementary north 3rd year students, Alice, Carter, James, Harrison, Omar, and Austin, have begun a project to collect and deliver food to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

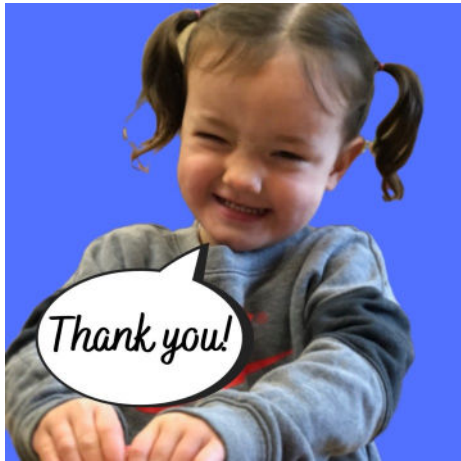
We were inspired by a book titled *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate, where a boy's family goes to a food pantry when they are experiencing hunger and homelessness. We took a virtual tour of the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank to research what they do to help fight hunger. Donating food is important. The Food Bank has programs for kids, seniors, and veterans.

We presented our idea to the Head of School. James and Omar designed a unique flyer, and we passed them out to all the students. We went to each classroom to declare this school-wide project. All of us have felt proud about sharing the service project.

We have been collecting canned and non-perishable food for the past few days, and it is going very well so far. Two of our classmates donated A BUNCH! We will be collecting food until November 30th, when we will be taking the school bus and delivering the food to the food bank as a field trip. If mostly everyone contributes, then we will have enough for a donation to a local high school food pantry as well. Our goal is to get at least 20 pounds of food to donate. Thanks for your support!



LE—North 3rd year students present their project to an early childhood class.



Thank you to all the Early Childhood classroom families for the November Staff Appreciation Lunch!

Undercroft Values Word Scramble

- UURENTR _____
- OPMNICASOS _____
- SCEPTER _____
- PAECE _____
- TPOSRPU _____
- ENRIGNAL _____
- NVEIMORNETN _____
- YSEIVDITR _____

Answers: nurture, compassion, respect, peace, support, learning, environment, diversity

Loving Learning



ADMINISTRATION

- Sydney Atchison**
Business Officer
- Nancy Davis**
Head of School
- Phil Decker**
Facilities Coordinator
- Jamie Gartside**
Admissions Coordinator
- Mike Noviski**
Facilities Assistant
- Brigid Vance**
Development Director

UNDERCROFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Funds Development / Crisis Response Team / Policy / Cyber Security Task Force
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Finance / Nominating
- Elizabeth Edwards**
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- Scott Ferris**
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- Tess Hanner**
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- Bevan Houston**
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Finance / Cyber Security Task Force / Crisis Response Team
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