



2M Newsletter
May 1, 2026

Dear 2M families,

The rain has brought green grass and beautiful flowers. Spring is a wonderful time of year in Vermont. It gives 2nd grade students the opportunity for new adventures.

Arbor Day:

We began our week with several special guests teaching us about trees and their work in honor of Arbor Day. We watched a short video about Arbor Day before Burlington City's Arborist VJ Comai and his tree crew (Matt Fredenburgh, Pat McKelvey, and Lil Bradbury) arrived and helped us better understand the value of trees in our environment as well as the important service that they provide in our community. We helped them plant a new maple tree on the MCS campus and we got to explore their work vehicles. What a fun start to our week!

Arbor Day is a day dedicated to planting and caring for trees. It's both a celebration of nature and a reminder of how important trees are for clean air, wildlife, and climate balance.

When is Arbor Day?-

- In the United States, it's observed on the **last Friday in April** (though some states choose different dates based on their best planting seasons).
- Many countries have their own versions, often called "Tree Planting Day."

People celebrate by-

- Planting trees in yards, parks, and schools
- Hosting environmental education events
- Volunteering for reforestation projects
- Learning about conservation and sustainability

Why it matters-

Trees:

- Produce oxygen and improve air quality
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Reduce erosion and cool urban areas
- Help fight climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide

Quick history-

- The first Arbor Day was held in 1872 in Nebraska, organized by J. Sterling Morton.
- An estimated 1 million trees were planted on that first day.







May Crowning:

The MCS community attended mass on Thursday morning and our May Crowning. May Crowning is a beloved Catholic tradition where children honor Mary as the Queen of Heaven by placing a crown of flowers on her statue. It is typically celebrated in May. The month of May is dedicated to Mary. Whether at home, in a classroom, or at a parish, it serves as a meaningful way to teach kids about Mary's role as our spiritual mother.



Science:

In science this week students began researching their habitat. We went to the computer lab in order to access kids.getepic.com. This site allowed the children to read age appropriate books about their selected habitat. As they read, they looked for key information and recorded it on a provided graphic organizer that included sections on location, characteristics, weather, animals, plants, fun facts and resources. We will continue this research next week. In addition the children made a plan of what they would like to do to represent their habitat. These may be dioramas using shoeboxes or homemade platforms, mobiles, or posters. The models may include drawings, printed pictures, pictures from magazines, homemade clay, paper models, or real grass/dirt/shells/branches to represent plants and animals. These representations will be constructed in makerspace.

Four Winds:

Four Winds took place on Friday morning. The students learned all about white-tailed deer. A white-tailed deer is a gentle, wild animal that lives in forests, fields, and even near neighborhoods across North America. It gets its name from the white underside of its tail, which it raises like a flag when it runs away. This helps other deer know there might be danger nearby.

Here are some fun and simple facts for kids:

- Looks: White-tailed deer have brown coats in summer and grayish coats in winter to help them blend in with their surroundings.
- Size: Adult males, called *bucks*, grow antlers each year that fall off in winter. Females, called *does*, don't have antlers.
- Babies: A baby deer is called a *fawn*. Fawns have white spots on their backs that help them hide in tall grass.
- Food: They eat plants, leaves, fruits, and twigs—they're herbivores!
- Behavior: Deer are great runners and jumpers. They're most active early in the morning or late in the evening.

White-tailed deer are an important part of nature. They help spread seeds and keep the forest plants in balance.





Testing Week:

The students will be taking a standardized test next week. Please be sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and has a healthy breakfast to start their day. All of our testing will take place before lunch each day. 2nd graders will only be asked to read for 20 minutes a night for homework. They will not have a math skill sheet or word study words.

Please help reduce any stress related to this testing. I told the students that it's more about gathering information regarding the instruction in our school and less about their progress individually; it certainly doesn't impact their progress to third grade.

First Communion Mass:

Second graders have been preparing all school year to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation (First Confession) and Eucharist (First Communion). The time has arrived to celebrate our First Communicants and the 2nd grade class.

Our MCS First Communion Mass will be on Monday, June 8th at 9:00 in the chapel.
Everyone is welcome to attend mass and the reception.

- All 2nd grade students will be taking part in the mass.
- It is a dress up out of uniform day for 2nd graders.
- They may bring their uniform to change into after the celebration.
- There will be a reception for 2nd grade students and their families immediately after mass.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Ms. McClellan