



MAY & JUNE 2026

The Albrook Almanac

A Bird's-Eye View of the 2025–26 School Year

by Ms. McNeill and Mrs. Virk

As we close another wonderful year at Albrook, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the people, experiences, and moments that made this year so meaningful. While we celebrate many accomplishments, what stands out most are the everyday acts of kindness, friendship, respect, and joy that filled our classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds.

Our theme this year, "Being Our Best Through Grace and Courtesy," served as a guiding light throughout our school community. Grace and courtesy are more than lessons we teach; they are values we strive to live every day. Throughout the year, our students demonstrated these values in countless ways: offering a helping hand without being asked, showing patience during challenges, welcoming new classmates, resolving conflicts with respect, and expressing sincere gratitude. These everyday moments remind us that being our best is measured not only by what we accomplish, but by how we care for one another.

Albrook is much more than a school; it is a community where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to grow into a confident, compassionate, and capable individual. Throughout the year, our students embraced new challenges, celebrated successes, and learned from setbacks. They supported one another with kindness and encouragement. Their curiosity, resilience, and love of learning continue to inspire us each day.

This vibrant community is strengthened through the partnership between our families, faculty, and staff. Together, we created meaningful experiences that enriched our students' education and strengthened the bonds within our school. From classroom projects and performances to family events and school celebrations, every opportunity brought us closer together. Parents generously shared their time and talents, teachers nurtured a lifelong love of learning, and students brought energy, creativity, and wonder to every experience.

Service remained an important part of our school year. Through coat drives, food bank collections, and our Backpack Lunch Drive, students discovered that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference. These experiences helped them understand that compassion grows through action and that giving to others strengthens both our community and ourselves.

Our Upper Elementary students also demonstrated exceptional leadership through their annual fundraising campaign, raising an impressive \$3,290. We are proud to share that \$1,645 will be donated to LLC PAMBE Ghana, where the funds will help improve internet access, purchase educational software, and



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The Albrook School

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provide training for their technology coordinator. Their team has expressed deep appreciation for Albrook's longstanding partnership and commitment to supporting their school's continued growth.

The remaining \$1,645 will enhance Albrook's Elementary STEAM program, providing students with exciting new opportunities for hands-on exploration and innovation. These funds will support curriculum materials in astronomy, ancient civilizations, the timeline of life, biomes, sound waves, simple machines, energy, and chapter books. This special partnership enriches both learning communities and fosters meaningful global connections among our students.

As the year comes to a close, we celebrate not only academic growth but also the friendships formed, confidence gained, and memories created along the way. We have watched our students take courageous steps, discover new passions, persevere through challenges, and grow into thoughtful, caring young people.

The spirit of grace and courtesy could be seen every day, in classrooms, on the playground, during school events, and in countless everyday interactions. Whether greeting a friend in the morning, collaborating on a project, welcoming visitors, or showing appreciation to a teacher, our students demonstrated the values that define our Montessori community. These experiences nurture empathy, self-awareness, responsibility, and a true sense of belonging.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Albrook Parents Association (APA) and our entire parent community for your extraordinary generosity and unwavering support. Thanks to your commitment, the APA was able to present the school with an incredible gift of \$85,000, which will support:

- Technology upgrades
- School library improvements
- Classroom wish lists
- Improvements to the Toddler Playground
- The gravel parking lot at Building A
- A new projector for Albers Hall
- Painting the Elementary Wing
- General campus maintenance and improvements

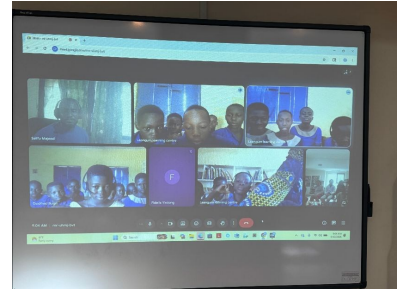
Your generosity has made a lasting impact on our school and will benefit our students for years to come.

We are also grateful for the continued generosity of our Kirby and Endowment Scholarship Funds, which provided six students with partial scholarships this year, allowing them to continue their Montessori journey at Albrook. These scholarships reflect our commitment to making an Albrook education accessible to families and ensuring that more children can thrive within our community.

As we look ahead, we are excited to introduce our theme for the 2026–2027 school year:

"Awareness Begins Within, Kindness Reaches Out." This theme will encourage our students to deepen their understanding of themselves while recognizing the positive impact they can have on others. We look forward to another year of nurturing mind-

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ful, compassionate learners who lead with empathy, purpose, and respect.

To our graduating students, thank you for the joy, curiosity, enthusiasm, and unique gifts you brought to the Albrook community. You will be deeply missed, but we know you leave with a strong foundation, cherished friendships, and a love of learning, kindness, and service. We are so proud of all you have accomplished and wish you every success and happiness as you begin this exciting new chapter.

To our returning students and families, thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall for another year filled with growth, discovery, friendship, and joyful learning.

As summer begins, we hope your days are filled with rest, laughter, adventure, and meaningful time with those you love. May this season provide opportunities to slow down, create lasting memories, and return refreshed for the year ahead.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Albrook family and for helping make this school year one of warmth, generosity, and shared purpose.

With warm wishes for a joyful summer!

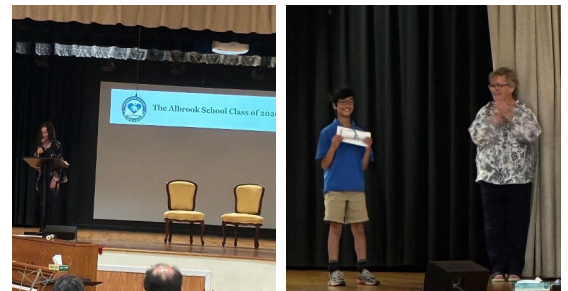
Elementary Graduation and Moving Up Celebration

By Ms. Vazaios and Ms. Lipman

It was wonderful to end our year with a musical recital and moving-up/graduation ceremony. We would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Crawford for organizing an amazing musical program to celebrate the end of the year! The students did a stellar job with all their musical compositions.

The Upper Elementary fifth-year students wrote heartfelt poems and shared them. We would also like to acknowledge two students graduating from the Upper Elementary program. It has been a joy to watch each of these students blossom into mature students who have not only excelled academically but also evolved into role models in our community. We wish Mishti success at Rutgers Preparatory School. We also wish Clement the best of luck as he continues his educational journey at Newark Academy.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Upper Elementary Class of 2026 for their generous class gift of replacing the overhead stage lights. The new LED lights will be brighter; we know that all students will appreciate having lights that do not emit heat!



Golden Guest Day

by Pauline MacNeill and Ania Virk

Golden Guest Day is one of the most cherished traditions in our school community. Each year, our students eagerly look forward to welcoming a special Golden Guest to share in a day filled with learning, laughter, connection, and meaningful memories.

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The morning began with a wonderful musical presentation from our older students, during a welcome coffee, tea, and light refreshments. As conversations flowed throughout the room, students and their guests enjoyed spending quality time together, sharing stories, and creating new memories.



One of the highlights of the day was watching students proudly lead their guests on tours of the school. They enthusiastically showed off their classrooms, shared examples of their learning, and offered a glimpse into their daily school experiences. Around every corner, smiles, laughter, and heartfelt conversations, and many hugs reflected the special bonds between our students and their guests.



The celebration concluded with a joyful preschool sing-along in Albers Hall. As voices filled the room, it was clear that this was a meaningful moment for everyone in attendance. The warmth, happiness, and sense of community perfectly captured the spirit of Golden Guest Day.

For Ms. Virk and me, one of the greatest joys was seeing the excitement on our students' faces as they interacted with their guests. It was also a wonderful opportunity to observe our learning environments in action. Despite the many visitors throughout the building, our students navigated the day with confidence and grace. We were especially touched by the many compliments shared during the event and the thoughtful notes we received afterward. Hearing how much the experience meant to our guests made the day even more special.



Golden Guest Day is a beautiful reminder of the importance of community, connection, and the people who encourage, support, and inspire our students. It is a tradition that fills our hearts with gratitude and joy, and we are already looking forward to welcoming our Golden Guests back in Spring 2027.



Thank you to all of our Golden Guests for spending this special day with us. Your presence, support, and enthusiasm helped make the day truly unforgettable.

Look for more images on the next page.

In Honor of Ms. Albers

By Nina Marvi

A beautiful campus for our children was part of Anita Albers' dream and vision. We are blessed to be located on six acres in Somerset County New Jersey. She took extraordinary pride and pleasure in adding to the natural beauty of The Albrook School's property by planting flowering trees, shrubs and a plethora of bulbs which bloom in the spring. We were able to count fourteen varieties of daffodils on some pre school nature walks for example! She herself worked tirelessly on planting perennials which return year after year to honor her spirit. In all of the seasons, the children see areas of interest, whether it be observing tree bark, blossoms, or seed pods.

This spring, all of the students took part in planting and sowing a variety of plants and seeds in various areas of the campus. These included the Heart Garden and Peace Garden, along with the Building A patio and areas adjacent to the Building B playground, as well as the labyrinth. Care was taken to prepare the soil and to mindfully take part in these activities. These plants are being nurtured, we hope, in a way that Ms. Albers would be proud of. The beautification of the campus for our children remains a special goal which is close to our hearts.

Principals for a Day

by Ms. MacNeill and Ms. Virk

One of the most anticipated highlights of our Spring Gala auction is the opportunity for a student to become Principal for a Day. This year, we were delighted to welcome three students into this special role: Alicia, Aiden, and Asher.

Our student principals stepped into their leadership positions with enthusiasm, curiosity, and confidence. Throughout the day, they visited classrooms, checked attendance, greeted students and staff, assisted with school activities, enjoyed lunch and a special snack of their choice, and experienced firsthand what it takes to help a school run smoothly.

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Golden Guest Day



From making announcements to checking in on learning across the buildings, each student embraced the opportunity with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. Their excitement was contagious, bringing extra energy, smiles, and joy to our school community.

It was wonderful to watch these young leaders shine as they took on new responsibilities and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at school leadership. The experience created lasting memories not only for the students but also for the teachers and staff who shared the day with them.

Principal Alicia quickly discovered that a principal's day does not always go according to plan! She was surprised that she wasn't able to check everything off her to-do list because new situations arose that required her attention. Alicia shared that she enjoyed her time as principal and gained a new appreciation for the many responsibilities school leaders manage each day. She also noted that she plans to continue focusing on her math and reading skills as she pursues her dream of a future career in business.

Principals Aiden and Asher especially enjoyed some of the unique parts of the job, including feeding the fish, choosing their lunch, shredding confidential papers, and helping to call safety drills. Their enthusiasm for every task made the day even more memorable.

Thank you to the families who supported our Spring Gala and helped make this incredible experience possible. We loved seeing our three Principals for a Day in action and are so proud of the leadership, responsibility, and school spirit they demonstrated throughout the day!

Upper Elementary Swimming

By Karin Baird

The upper elementary class participated in swimming lessons this spring at our own Albrook pool. We were very pleased to welcome Coach Luda from Raritan Valley Community College. Coach Luda was great at leading the children through a variety of warm-up, practice, and skills-based exercises over the course of the five lessons. The children worked on their techniques in freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, and beginning turns. Coach Luda was a master at explaining each stroke and offered positive feedback and instruction. The experience was a great way to prepare for the summer months with lots of pool time ahead.

Lower Elementary Swimming

by Kelly Antonello

The last few Wednesday afternoons of this spring were filled with great cardio exercise for the lower elementary students. During these weeks, they boarded the bus and drove to The Little Dolphin Swim Academy in Bound Brook. They had small group swimming instruction given at their ability level where they learned different stroke techniques and built their confidence

Elementary Field Trip Pictures



around swimming. Within Montessori, we strive to find practical life activities for our students to engage in, and these swimming sessions were a great reminder of the importance of developing this vital and enjoyable life skill. They were also a fantastic way to ring in the summer season and prepare the students with the skills needed for our spectacular end of year pool party!

A Wildly Fun Visit from the Lizard Guy!

By Ms. Fritsch

In June, our preschool classes enjoyed a special visit from Billy the Lizard Guy, who brought along some fascinating animal friends! The children were thrilled to meet a bearded dragon, a blue-tongued skink, frogs, tortoises, and even a snake.

There were plenty of smiles, wide eyes, and excited questions as Billy introduced each animal and shared interesting facts about where they live, what they eat, and their unique characteristics. The children loved learning about these amazing creatures, and some were even brave enough to gently touch them with one finger!

It was a fun-filled, hands-on learning experience that sparked curiosity and excitement about the animal world. The visit was definitely one of the highlights of the month!

Summer Came Early!

By Ms. Fritsch

What better way to kick off summer than with a splash? Our preschool pool parties were filled with laughter, sunshine, and lots of fun! The children eagerly looked forward to this special end-of-the-year celebration with their friends and families at the beautiful Albrook pools.

Mother Nature gave us perfect weather for swimming and making memories. Before the fun began, the lifeguard reviewed all the important pool safety rules, helping everyone stay safe while having a great time. The children splashed, played, and enjoyed every minute in the water. Delicious food, happy smiles, and wonderful company made the day even more special.

It was the perfect way to celebrate a fantastic school year and welcome the adventures of summer!

Pre-k 2 – Human Body

By Ms. Fritsch

Our Pre-K 2 students had an exciting time exploring the amazing world inside their bodies! Over several weeks, they learned about the different organs that help keep us healthy and strong. As they studied each organ, they brought their learning to life by creating colorful art projects using a variety of creative materials.

To celebrate all they had learned, the students assembled their organ creations onto an apron, carefully labeling each one to create their very own wearable human body model. What a fun and hands-on way to learn!

The students especially enjoyed discovering fascinating facts about how their bodies work. They learned about their brain, lungs, heart, liver, stomach, intestines, and kidneys, including where each organ is located and the important job it does every day. Their curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm made this unit a memorable learning adventure, and perhaps it inspired some future doctors, nurses, or scientists in the making!

The Kindergarten Play

by Elaine Dignam and Karen Tarangul

The Kindergarten Play is a longstanding tradition at Albrook. The school was built with a stage because Ms. Albers believed in giving children the opportunity to perform at a young age.

This year, Mrs. Lipman adapted a Dr. Seuss story into the play "Oobleck." Twenty-four kindergarten students took on speaking roles and danced together at the end of the play.

Following the play, the children sang together to close the celebration. The final highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the kindergarten albums. Each child received an album filled with work and photos from the past year as a beautiful keepsake.

Finally, the kindergarteners and their families gathered to enjoy refreshments served in a decorated Albers Hall. Albrook has many traditions, and the kindergarten play is always a favorite among students, families, and teachers.



Pictures from Spirit Day

