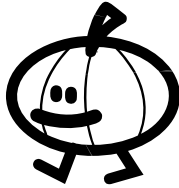


Classroom III Newsletter October 2007



1. What's been going on?

Our field trip to Boyd's Orchard was a success thanks to all that chaperoned and Mother Nature! It was great to see old and new faces there. Thanks again for coming.

We have been back at school for nine weeks. August and September were spent getting the children accustomed to the culture of the classroom and the full-day routine. To help with this we hatched a Monarch Butterfly from caterpillar to butterfly and released it on our patio. The butterfly is gone but the children remain and are excited to learn in their classroom!

In September we celebrated International Peace day with the whole school around the peace pole and then took a walk behind an enormous peace dove made from white sheets. Around this time we began talking about peace, respect, kindness, and tolerance. We do this through books, conversations and mediating conflicts at the peace area. The oldest children helped with the telling of the Black Elk Story to the younger children. They practiced several days and were very proud to pass on the story that they have heard for two years.

Even though it has felt like mid-July out there we have been studying fall themes such as parts of

a tree, bark and leaf rubbings, and leaf artwork.

Miss. Klaus began her yearlong project on South America, introducing it with a large poster of the continent, a book and cultural basket. If you have any items, stories, and/or recipes to share with Miss. Klaus she would be very interested.

2. What's going on now?

The observation room opened up October 1st. Some of you have been in to observe. If you are interested please schedule this time through the office. This is a great way to see what really goes on

When you come you will see a very busy room! Children will be moving all around free to choose activities they have had a lesson on. If they want something they have not had a lesson on they will be asking us.

One teacher will be giving individual lessons to one or more children in the rug room. These are pre-planned lessons that require uninterrupted teaching time. The other two teachers will be helping with spontaneous needs of the children that come up. If it is a lesson that requires uninterrupted instruction, she may redirect the child to the teacher in the rug room. She may also just stay with the child if the child has had a lesson and just needs help getting started.

Everyday we discuss the children and what they need. We keep detailed records on each child for each area of the curriculum.

3. What are the Montessori curriculum areas and their core materials?

Practical Life

This is the foundation of the classroom where children hone their fine motor and gross motor skills. This area contains lessons on care of self, care of the environment, and care of others. Examples are: spooning, pouring, cutting, gluing, folding, polishing, sweeping, and mopping. The following are the most popular choices:

- Snack with a friend
- Pencil sharpening
- Stool scrubbing
- Tweezing corn
- Spreading jam
- Thumb puncher
- Cutting snips

Language

The children learn pre-reading activities such as sorting and matching, letter sound, word building, writing, and reading. The basic materials are the Sandpaper Letters, Moveable Alphabet, and Metal Insets. Most popular are the following choices:

- Metal Insets
- Blue Boards
- Matching letter to object
- Reading books

Math

This area is devoted to counting activities, number recognition, place value concepts, and the operations. The basic materials are the Red and Blue Rods, Colored Bead Stair, Short and Long Chain, and the Golden Beads. The most popular choices are:

- Hanging bead stair
- Short chain

- Nine tray
- Building numbers
- Bank addition

Sensorial

The sensorial area teaches children about color, form, size, sound, and smell. The main materials are the brown stairs, pink tower, cylinders and constructive triangle boxes. The most popular choices are:

- Brown Stairs
- Pink Tower
- The Binomial Cube
- The Trinomial Cube
- Triangle Box
- Smells from S. America
- Feeling Balloons

Geography

This area focuses on landforms, the continent maps, flags, history (timelines, the clock, the seasons, and the calendar), and people around the world. The central materials are the land forms, continent maps, calendar, land, air, and water, and clock work. The favorites in this area include all of the above mentioned.

Science

The science area covers the following subjects: Physical, Zoology, Botany, Parts of (flower), Gardening, and nature walks. At the moment these are the most favorite works:

- Leaf rubbing
- Leaf patterning
- Non-living/living
- Rough/Smooth

Art

Ms. Mc Morris is teaching art this year. Art includes cutting, gluing, drawing, painting, artists and

their works, collage and sculpture. Recently, the children have enjoyed making leaf stain glass works out of wax paper. The children have enjoyed this process.

3. Future Plans

In November we will be introducing the topic of gratitude.

New activities on the horizon will be some cultural and/or geography lessons on South America, and an art unit on Degas. Other new activities will include story writing, grammar lessons, exchanging for ten, and sink and float.

Thank You's and Thoughts

- ❖ Thank you to Mrs. Blackford, Staige's mom, for ironing the wax paper leaf projects! Also we want to thank Julie Brock for cutting envelopes in half for our cutting snips work. We really appreciate the extra help.
- ❖ The holidays are not so far away! At Providence we try to keep the children in their routine so thins can stay calm and learning can occur. We ask that you try to do the same at home with morning and bedtime routine. We also understand that it is a time to visit family and friends, and trips may have been planned in advance; however, when your child is out of school they do miss a lot. For some children this is not much of problem and for others it can take several weeks to get back into the school routine. So please try to keep any extra days off to a minimum.
- ❖ Please look for our class list that will be posted on the web and the newsletter.

Next Months Dates and Events

- ❖ November 1st - In-service Day- No School for Primary
- ❖ November 2nd - Conference Day for first year children at all levels. Please schedule this through the office.
- ❖ November 21st - Thanksgiving Holiday begins.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN
FROM SCHUY, JANET, AND GRETCHEN