



Classroom I Newsletter

October 2009

We have had a wonderful beginning to our school year. After many lessons and much review of our ground rules our classroom is "normalized!" Maria Montessori said, "As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability and learn to concentrate."

The Latest

This month Mrs. Spencer taught lessons on art. The children practiced mixing primary colors to create secondary colors. She also introduced the children to a few famous artists and their unique styles. They learned how to classify artwork as a still life, a landscape or a self portrait. They each had the opportunity to paint their self portrait.

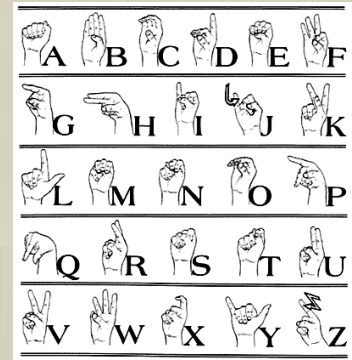


Mrs. Kessinger did a fabulous cultural lesson with the group. We tasted foods from around the world. We got to experience cuisine from each of the seven continents. From North America we sampled delicious maple syrup. We read a book and learned how sap is extracted from Canadian sugar maples and made into syrup. We tasted polenta which Mrs. Kessinger told us is native to Brazil. We all agreed



they are better dipped in maple syrup. A favorite for everyone was "Nutella" which is manufactured in Europe. We tasted soy beans from Asia, sweet potato chips from Africa, dried fruit and meat from Antarctica and Vegemite from Australia. It is safe in saying that no one will need to add Vegemite to their grocery list.

Mrs. Young ended the month with an introduction to ASL (American Sign Language). We've practiced numbers 0-10 and the twenty six letters of the alphabet. The children know signs for many farm animals. We sing "Old McDonald had a Farm" as we sign all the different animals. We also have been practicing signing our classroom ground rules; walking feet, pushing in chairs, lowering our voices, rolling up rugs and more. This is a fun way to give a friendly reminder without using any spoken words.



Our Brummitt-Taylor music appreciation lessons are a continuation from last year. We begin each morning listening to a short piece of classical music. The goal is to fine tune the children's ear to different composers. We began by listening to Benjamin Britten's composition of a simple symphony titled "Playful Pizzacota". Over the next few weeks we will listen to Beethoven, Byrd, Kodaly and Haydn. It is lots of fun to watch the children move and bounce as they experience the uniqueness of each composer.



Reminders and Requests

On the day your child provides snack for our class they may also bring a special something to share during group time. This may be a favorite stuffed animal, an artifact from a family trip or a favorite collection.

Every Friday is Pizza Day OR the last day of the school week. Papa Johns will not accept personal check so **cash only**, please.

- October 8th- Parent Education Night.
- October 15th- No School. In- Service Day for Teachers.
- October 16th- First year conferences.
- October 25th- Grandparents Day
- October 27th- Individual Picture Day
- October 30th- Second year conferences.

Thanks To You

To the Cox family for our picnic table. The children have been enjoying afternoon snacks on the patio.

To James Kolasa for being our resident handy man.

To the Crase family for supplying our classroom with beautiful fresh flowers.

To the Frazier family for the banana slicers.

Our observation room is open! We hope you can set some time aside to come and visit our classroom.

Joan, Christie and Diane



Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.

Maria Montessori