

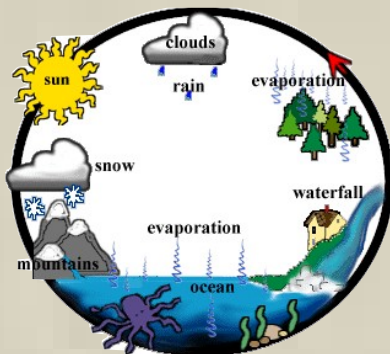


Classroom I Newsletter

May 2011

It is so hard to believe that another year is coming to a close. It has been such a wonderful year...days well spent with this group of fascinating children. They have all grown so much, not only physically, but socially and academically as well!

The Latest



In preparation for Earth Day, **Mrs. Spencer** did a variety of lessons on how important it is for each of us to take care of our planet. We discussed the importance of throwing trash away properly rather than littering so that our world remains a beautiful,

safe place for all living things.

Mrs. Spencer also talked about how our actions affect others by demonstrating how litter in a stream can float downstream into a river, then into another river, and could potentially make its way to the ocean. We all live downstream from someone! Along

with keeping the water clean, we also discussed the importance of conserving water by turning off the faucet while brushing our teeth, or placing leftover ice cubes from a drink into the grass or a potted plant, etc. Mrs. Spencer did a demonstration to show the children the stages of the water cycle. We discussed how there is a finite supply of clean, usable water on our planet so it's imperative that we make every drop count! The children were surprised to learn that some of the water on Earth today might have been here during the time of dinosaurs! It simply moves continuously through the stages of the water cycle.

We also discussed the importance of keeping our air clean, and how trees and plants purify our air by producing oxygen. The children were given the opportunity to plant coleus seeds and watch them sprout. This worked out to be a wonderful Mother's Day present, which you can hopefully enjoy all summer!

In addition, we discussed ways we can all reduce, reuse, and recycle. The children are already very familiar with recycling, and Mrs. Spencer pointed out some of the ways we reduce and reuse materials in our classroom – using cloth napkins for both snack and lunch every day, reusing plastic applesauce containers for painting, etc. To conclude our Earth Day lessons, we demonstrated how each one of us doing our small part can make a BIG difference!!!



Mrs. Kessinger did many wonderful lessons on flowers and insects. She taught the children the parts of the flower and their functions. The children had the

opportunity to make their own flower using tissue paper and pipe cleaners. We had the loveliest bouquet at the entrance of our classroom for several days. The children were fascinated by the discussions on insects. They learned about winged and non-winged species. Mrs. Kessinger spoke of the important role that insects play in the pollination of the many foods we consume. Mr. Kolasa, a Providence parent, is a bee keeper. He came to our school to talk to the children about the process of making honey. Did you know that it takes 60,000 bees to make one small jar of honey?? Mr. Kolasa came in his bee keeping suit and brought along a colony of bees. We even got to sample fresh honey right off of the comb! Yum! This was a fun and sticky experience for all!



Summer vacation is just around the corner which means the children will be spending more time outside enjoying the warm weather. **Mrs. Young** is educating the children on summer fun with an emphasis on "Safety First." We first discussed bike safety and the importance of wearing a helmet EVERY time they ride a bike (or scooter). Riding a bike is fun but sometimes accidents can happen. The children were reminded that a helmet will protect their face, head, and brain in the case of a fall. They were shown pictures of Lexington's Legacy Trail and encouraged to talk to their parents suggesting a family bike ride one summer day. What a great way to spend an afternoon together! We also talked about the importance of wearing sunscreen when spending time in the sun. The children had an opportunity to practice applying sunscreen to their arms and

face. Throughout these last days we will discuss pool safety, storm safety and street safety. Please reinforce these safety tips with your child so everyone can enjoy a safe summer!

Farewell From Mrs. Dugan



Last August I started my journey as a Montessori intern in Classroom I and what an amazing experience it has been. I knew that I would love

teaching the Montessori philosophy but it was the addition of the amazing young students that I encountered each day that has made it so special.

Each and every day I really enjoyed working with the children. It was amazing to me to witness the growth of each student from the beginning of the year to now. The children have taught me a lot! They love to learn and I have really enjoyed teaching them about the United Kingdom and Ireland. I particularly enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day with them. We made necklaces from Celtic medallions, sampled soda bread and had a lesson on the Blarney Stone. The children had the opportunity to make their own Blarney Stone to take home.

It has been a very fun year and I could never have done this without the wonderful mentoring and guidance that Mrs. Young, Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Kessinger have shared with me.

I am not sure where this journey will take me but I know that my life will be richer for having met the teachers, students, and the parents of the children of Classroom I and Providence Montessori.

Congratulations

To Lina Moammer's family on the arrival of Lina's new brother, Murad.

Reminder

On Monday, May 23rd the oldest children who are moving on to lower elementary will go down the hall for a sneak peak of what's to come next year. The children will have the opportunity to spend the morning in an elementary classroom. The classroom that they visit may not necessarily be the classroom where they are placed.

Class in the Grass

During the last week of school it is a tradition at Providence to have "Class in the Grass". This means that on Wednesday and Thursday (May 25th and 26th) all of our choices will be outside! All three Primary classroom patios and grassy areas are filled with activities for the children to enjoy. The children have the freedom to go between all three patios. It is a fun time for all!

On these days, please dress your child for outdoor play and apply sunscreen before they come to school.

If it rains, we will move some of our outdoor activities inside and have class as usual.

Dates to Remember

May 25th and 26th - Class in the Grass

May 26th - Last day of school

May 27th - School picnic at Masterson Station Park.

Thanks To You

To the Humble family for the beautiful flowers.

To the Swan family for the hot plate and for sending in Magee's for the teachers!

To Miss Marilyn (Shannon's Godmother) for the wonderful snacks and for the summer goodie bags!

We wish you a SAFE, fun and relaxing summer! May your family make many wonderful memories together!

Joan, Christie, Diane and Bernie

“The child is truly a miraculous being, and this should be felt deeply by the educator.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

