



In Our Classroom

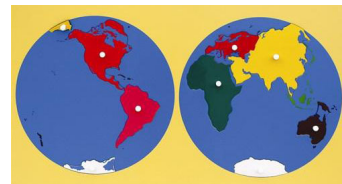
With signs of spring beginning to sprout up everywhere there is excitement in the classroom! We continue to make respect for ourselves and respect for each other an intrinsic part of our daily activities. The children have grown stronger as individuals and have built a supportive classroom community.

Practical Life continues to be an active area of the classroom! The children have been thoroughly enjoying the food preparation activities. They have been utilizing their ever growing independence and concentration as they juice oranges, spread butter and cheese, scoop cereal or crackers, slice carrots and bananas and wash and dry their dishes. The children have also been interested in the phillips head and flathead screwdriver choice, nuts and bolts choice and level choice which are available on the Practical Life shelves. Recently, we have also expanded our sewing activities and introduced button sewing on cloth.

Math also continues to be a busy area of the classroom. The shelves offer a wide range of choices from counting 1 - 10 activities through math operations with the Bank Game, stamp game and the bead frame.

Language is blooming with a continued love of the initial letter sounds, middle sounds and ending sounds. Some children are moving into three and four letter word building and reading books from a series. The children are always proud to check off items on their reading, spelling or short chain lists.

In geography each continent is introduced with rich cultural baskets containing objects and artifacts from the area. In the past few weeks, we have "traveled" through Asia, across Africa and we are now spending some time in Australia!



In science we continue making our way through the animal kingdom and are currently studying fish and birds. The children also marveled at our past study of the planets. Recently there has been excitement about many different science experiments such as: polishing pennies, mixing baking soda

with vinegar and observing the chemical reaction, dissolving sugar in water and observing sprouting beans.

March Open House

Our next Classroom II Open House is coming up on Friday, March 26th. The classroom will be open from 8:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **Children must be accompanied**



by a parent or guardian. We will have a variety of activities for you and your children to enjoy. There will be: tie dye butterflies, spring snack bags and an outdoor scavenger hunt! The rest of the school is on a half-day schedule and will have staggered dismissals mid-day.

Puppets at Providence



In February, the children in the morning class were able to attend an amazing display of Hobey Ford's Golden Rod Puppets. His presentation, called Animalia, showed the children life in the animal world. They observed how animals move, hunt, eat and even goof off! The story was told through movement and music; there was no speaking at all.

After the performance, Hobey did talk to the audience and answered many thoughtful questions from the children.

Concentration

In conjunction with independence acquired in a Montessori classroom, working with the materials also promotes concentration. A child goes through an activity she chooses over and over again, mastering the solution until she feels contented. Then she will proceed to another activity. Dr.



Dr. Montessori regarded concentration as the prerequisite skill for all areas of child development. She also associates concentration with discipline; discipline is born when the child concentrates her attention on interesting objects that provide her with useful exercise and control of error. When a child spots the error it motivates her to find the solution. This allows her mind and body to become focused and achieve her goals.

Thank You

Thank you to all of the people who have helped with our many classroom activities and projects. Thank you to Heidi Stone-Dodson, Surabhi Chauhan, Janee Brown, Jamie Fox, Bob Crovo and Chris Campbell.

Dates To Remember



March 26 Classroom II March Open House 8:15 - 10:00
(All other classrooms have a half-day)

March 29 - April 2 Spring Break

March 5 Classes Resume

April 23 Classroom II April Open House 8:15 - 10:00
Earth Day Celebration/Picnic at Masterson
Station Park 11:00am - 1:00pm
(All other classes have a half day)

May 3 No School FOR ELEMENTARY ONLY (PRIMARY AND TODDLERS DO HAVE SCHOOL)

May 10 No School FOR PRIMARY AND TODDLERS ONLY (ELEMENTARY DOES HAVE SCHOOL)

3rd year primary students will have visitation day with their parents.

Back from the Break

Please remember the transition tips you read in the winter about returning to school after a break:

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep. Sleep experts recommend at least 10-12 hours for children 3-6 years old.
- Create and allow physical activity for your child. This increases blood flow and stimulates mental sharpness.
- Control and limit television and computer game time. These activities can quickly diminish the concentration your children are working hard to develop in the classroom.
- Remind your children of the classroom ground rules.

Enjoy your time
together!



Have a safe and
joyful break!