



In Our Classroom

The fall has been an enriching time in our classroom! The children have internalized ground rules, are developing independence and deepening their concentration levels. As a teacher it's always rewarding to witness the enormous growth that occurs as the year progresses. We can't believe winter break is almost here!

From sandpaper letters and numbers to story writing and subtraction, the children are working hard at increasing their language and mathematic skills. In geography we've explored North America, South America and are currently delving into the rich culture of Europe. In science we are making our way through the animal kingdom and are currently studying mammals. Our practical life shelves are filled with attractive choices designed to help the children master practical skills. Some current favorites are button sewing and pouring with a funnel.

In January some of the subjects we will explore include, the continent of Asia, planets, and rock forms.

Our Community Project

Our classroom Heifer International project has been a big success! Your children have raised over two hundred dollars! We have been touched and humbled by the generosity, excitement and genuine caring your children have brought to this project. They have dug into their piggy banks, worked chores and persistently bugged their parents for money to feed the heifer.

In age appropriate ways, we have tried to help the children understand how their efforts can directly help others. Christopher and Dianne Brann, parents in Classroom III, brought a live rooster, two hens, a sheep and an awesome presentation of how these animals can help feed a family. The children loved it!

Before holiday break we will conduct an election of which animal the children will purchase with the money they have collected. We will make sure each child gets a vote. It will be an exciting announcement.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging your children in this project.

Winter Open House

We hope you can join us on December 18th for our winter open house. The classroom will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Enjoy winter fun and crafts with your child on this last day before winter break. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

An additional holiday festivity on this day is the choral performance from the upper elementary children. It is scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend both events, we recommend coming to the open house first. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Independence

Maria Montessori dedicated her life to creating a method of teaching which would allow a child's full potential to be realized. An important quality necessary in reaching this potential is independence.

From the moment a child enters the classroom we encourage independence. Every aspect of the classroom is child-sized, accessible and simple to allow for independent use.

Choices on the shelf are designed to be self correcting so that the children can master their independence and gain confidence in their own abilities.

As an adult in the classroom, it is humbling to recognize how much the children can accomplish on their own. The joy and confidence that is gained by these acts of independence is obvious in the pride that radiates from the child after completion of a newly mastered task.

One way that you can partner with us to help your child gain this joy and confidence is by helping them become successful with hanging up their coat. It is the first act of independence in the classroom each day and for some children; frustration with a zipper or an inability to complete this task may set a disappointing tone for the day.

Over the holiday break is an excellent time to help your child master that coat hanger, zipper or button and begin the New Year more confident in their own independence!



Fencing

The children at Providence were treated to a lively fencing demonstration organized by Tom Monarch. (Mrs. Monarch's husband) The children enjoyed viewing the elegant and exciting traditional fencing bout. The demonstration also included two wheelchair fencers using electric sensor lights. The lights displayed to the audience the victor of each bout. This was an exciting feature to the children.

To bring the demonstration to life in our classroom, the Monarch's created some engaging choices for the shelves. The children especially enjoyed a basket containing child-sized fencing equipment. The sword was not included in the basket!

Dates To Remember

December 18 th -	Winter Open House 8:30a.m.to 10:00a.m. Winter Choral Performance 9:00a.m.-10:00a.m. Winter Break begins
January 4-	Classes resume
January 18-	No school- Martin Luther King Day
February 5-	No school- 3 rd year morning conferences
February 12-	No school- 3 rd year afternoon conferences

Thank You

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support of your children and their classroom. Thank you to Anika and Sanjana's mom, Annie's mom, Sebastien's mom, Isaac's mom, Ella's mom and Tom Monarch for time, talent and treasure.



Enjoy your winter break!

Transitioning Your Children Back To School

As joyful as winter break can be, the transition back to school can be difficult for some of the children. Below are a few tips to help your children have a more peaceful transition.

- 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 ground rules.

Enjoy your children this break!