

Gratitude



What a wonderful time of year! As we have been enjoying the beautiful flowers bloom we have also been watching the growth that has occurred in the children. It is such an awesome experience to think back to the beginning of the year when our new students were first introduced to the Montessori way and our older children stepped into their new role as classroom leaders. All types of learning have occurred and it is such a pleasure to observe the independence, confidence, and care for one another that is so much a part of each day. We thank you for entrusting your precious children to us and the opportunity we have been given to be their teachers.

In Our Classroom

In celebration of Earth Day the children have been learning how they can reduce their carbon footprint. We were treated to special lessons by our director, Carol Hiler and also by a parent, Roberta Burnes. The children offered wonderful suggestions on how they could help make this planet a better place.

In keeping with our Earth theme we have been studying the parts of the plant and flower. We anxiously observed the growth of bean seeds, carefully noticing as each part of the plant developed. We then planted them in pots and the children are now taking responsibility for watering the plants. We have also been taking nature walks around the school observing the new growth and also learning the names of some of the plants.

One of our most popular food choices has been salad making, a chance to enjoy our plants in a different way. Lettuce, radishes, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, sunflower seeds, and celery have been cut up and mostly enjoyed.

We have also been learning about Antarctica and animals of the Arctic. We have been experimenting with magnets in water, counting money, and practicing mapping skills. Some of the children have been learning about articles, nouns, adjectives, and verbs in a very concrete way.

In May, we will be learning about Kentucky and exploring pets.



Music



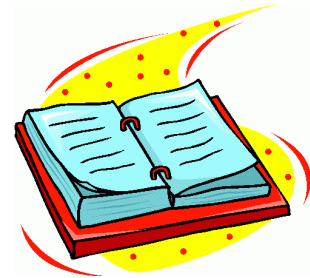
We are experiencing singing at a whole new level. We are very thankful that Theo's mom, Maria Franzini, has been volunteering her time to teach music and movement to the morning class. We have been learning songs, playing musical games, exploring rhythm instruments, and moving our bodies. The children have developed a new-found confidence in their abilities and are now volunteering to sing solos to the class during line time. Many times these are songs the children have composed themselves. Here are the words to one of our favorite songs by John Forster and Tom Chapin.

This Pretty Planet

This pretty planet spinning through space. You're a garden. You're a harbor. You're a holy place. Golden sun going down. Gentle blue giant spin us around. All through the night. Safe til the morning light.

Important May Dates

We have many exciting events happening this month. As the weather is warm we often open our patio for the children. Since we spend some time outside we recommend applying sun block to your child before they come to school.



May 10th Visitation Day for Third Year Students. No School for first and second year primary students. *Our graduating children (those entering elementary) invite their parents to this open house from 9:00 until 11:00. At the end of the morning we will have a special presentation so please stay until 11:00.*

May 18th. Chair and Table Washing Extravaganza- *The children will be helping to put the classroom to sleep for the summer. We will be washing tables and chairs outside. Remember sun block and play clothes.*

May 19th and 20th. *Class in the grass. We will spend the day outside exploring many special activities. Sun block and play clothes please!*