



## Classroom III September News

Things are buzzing now inside of Classroom III.

The children are adjusting well to the all day routine and we are off to a wonderful start! We have really enjoyed meeting all of our new families and reconnecting with our returning families and we feel like this will be a truly wonderful year!

### What's New?

\*\*\*Our group lessons so far this year have focused a lot on our classroom ground rules. We discussed with the children what "respect" means and introduced them to our three main rules: respect others, respect our classroom, and respect

ourselves. The children seem to be grasping these rules and are learning what it means to be respectful of people and things. We have also had group lessons on sign language, "our place in space", and an introduction to music listening (we learned the musical terms adagio, allegro, forte, and piano and practiced making our own music in these ways.). This week, the children are being introduced to our Brummitt - Taylor Music Listening Program, which involves them listening to various pieces of classical music everyday for the entire school year. We are beginning our musical journey with a month of Vivaldi's Four Seasons (this week we are listening to "Autumn".)

\*\*\* Our shelves are filling up as the children grow and absorb all of the new materials. In math, the golden bead materials (which are the beginning of the decimal system) are out and loved by the children. Science and Geography are growing to include materials on land, air, and water and living/non-living. Language is booming with rhyming, beginning phonetic sound work, and pre-reading and pre-writing work. The shelves will continue to fill with new materials and we

encourage you to drop by and see what the children have been working on.

### Practical Life

\*\*\* I would like to take the opportunity with each newsletter to introduce you to one area of our classroom. Practical Life is often called the foundation of a Montessori classroom because it helps children to develop key skills that they use in all areas of the curriculum: order, coordination, concentration, and independence. By doing everyday activities such as buttoning a sweater, pouring water, folding a napkin, or washing a table, the children are developing their fine and gross motor skills and learning to concentrate on long and tedious tasks (chair and table washing both contain over 30 steps! That is a lot for a small child to concentrate on and remember!).

Within the Practical Life shelves, there are hidden motives; within these simple tasks lie huge lessons. The shelves of the Practical Life area are arranged from left to right, top to bottom as a pre-reading/pre-writing skill. By learning to hold tongs or tweezers, the children are perfecting their grip

for holding a pencil and by sorting similar objects, they are learning to sharpen their visual discrimination skills, which will help them when they begin to read. There are many of these lessons within Practical Life and we encourage you to stop by to see them for yourself! It really is a very important place!

You can help your child develop some of these skills at home by allowing him/her to hang up, button, or zip their own coat or by encouraging them to pour their own cup of water. They can learn to put on their own shoes and clothes or help you wash the dishes. They are amazingly capable and love doing all of these simple tasks!

### Reminders

\*\*\*Please make sure your child is in our classroom by 8:30 a.m. - from 8:15 to 8:30 we do the daily letter sound, take attendance, and sing one of our morning songs and then they begin their work time. It is hard for many children to adjust to their day when they walk in late and we have already begun our work cycle.

\*\*\*Pizza Day is every Friday (unless we do not have school on Friday, then it is the last school day of that week). Please send your child with \$2.50 if they would like pizza.

\*\*\*Scholastic Book orders are due on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>!!

\*\*\*The Observation Room is now open! Call the front office to schedule your observation.

### Important Dates

\*\*\*Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> = Parent Education Night. This night will give you an in-depth look into our Language curriculum. We encourage everyone to attend!

\*\*\*Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> = NO SCHOOL. This is an in-service day for our staff.

\*\*\*Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> = 1<sup>st</sup> year conferences/NO SCHOOL! Please call the front office to schedule your conference if you child is in their first year in our classroom.

\*\*\*Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> = Grandparents Day/Open House from 1-4p.m.

\*\*\*Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> = Picture day!  
Individual pictures of your child will be taken  
this day.

\*\*\*Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> = 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
conferences/NO SCHOOL! Please call the  
front office to schedule a conference if your  
child is in their second year in our classroom.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of  
our news! Please feel free to stop by, call, or  
email any time.

Gretchen, Heather, Janet, & Viviana