

Classroom III News

January/February 2011

What's new in the classroom?

We came back from our winter break and the children got right back into work mode.

Ms. Campbell and Ms. Latimer started us out in the New Year with lessons of peace and acceptance. Ms. Campbell gave a wonderful lesson to the children about Owen and Mzee, a hippopotamus and a tortoise who have become inseparable after Owen was left stranded during the tsunami in 2004. We continue to enjoy the song and lesson of love about Owen and Mzee (www.owenandmzee.com). Ms. Latimer continued our lessons of peace with a week on Martin Luther King, Jr. She talked with the children about acceptance and equality and how important these were for a peaceful society. The children then were able to create books about Martin Luther King.

Ms. Rach will be teaching the children about the world's oceans for the rest of the year. She began her lessons by asking the children what they would like to learn about. Some responses were sharks, dolphins, sea turtles, fish, seahorses, eels, whales, penguins...just to name a few. She then introduced the children to the world's oceans and presented a puzzle map with all of the oceans named. The children have been able to create some rubbings of sea life and enjoy a book on the oceans. The lessons on the ocean will continue throughout the rest of the year.

Ms. Huntzinger then gave a lesson on the Olmecs of Central America. The children learned about where they lived and what their lives were like. The children were able to color in their own Mayan and Aztec symbols.

Ms. Campbell has been giving lessons to the children on directions and where we live in this world. She labeled our classroom with North, South, East and West and she brought in the REM song **Stand** for the children to dance to. They were then able to "stand" in the right direction during the song. This was a big hit!

Ms. Latimer has continued these lessons with talking about where we live in the world. She has broken this down for the children by talking about North America, the United States, Kentucky and finally, Lexington. She then continued the lessons by talking about the state symbols of Kentucky along with interesting facts about Kentucky.

Montessori Philosophy

"The hand is the instrument of man's intelligence"

The Absorbent Mind

Maria Montessori believed that children, ages 0-6, had an absorbent mind - a mind that would absorb the world through their senses. During the ages of birth-3 this is an unconscious phenomenon, however from ages 3-6 it is considered a conscious, absorbent mind. The child is developing their will, or their ability to make choices. This is the perfect time for a child to start in a classroom environment.

During this time the child begins to make choices that fit their needs. They are developing a level of concentration and order. The materials used in the Montessori classroom during this time are very

concrete and sensorial. The use of the concrete materials plays into the child's senses as they absorb the information. This will lead to the Mathematical Mind where abstraction, imagination and memory are a huge component.

Montessori in the Home

“Do not for the child, what the child can do for themselves”.

Bringing Montessori into the home is an easy and beneficial way to continue your child's development and education. Children at this age are in a great sensitive period for cleaning and order. We often notice children making a mess just so they can clean it up. They love to scrub and wash, sweep and clean. Allowing the child to help with these activities in the home will help to develop their concentration and order. Some simple things that you can do in the home to assist your child:

- have a small size broom for the child to sweep the floor
- a water bottle and rag so the child can wash the windows
- allow the child to prepare their own snack and help in the preparation of meals

The child at this age is very capable of doing many things on their own.

Upcoming / Important Dates

March 11 – International Night. Come and help us celebrate the Hispanic culture. There will be great food and activities for the children, along with cultural items brought in from Providence Hispanic families.

March 25 – No School

April 1 – April 8 – Spring Break

April 16th – Providence ROCKS! Come enjoy this adult only evening of dinner, drinks, silent auction and live auction. A great fundraiser for our school and a fun time for parents!!

April 22nd – Earth Day - ½ day of school (dismissal at 11:30) with picnic immediately following dismissal.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone again that made a donation to the Humane Society. We were able to provide the Humane Society with quite a number of food and toys for the dogs and cats. It was much appreciated!

Also, thank you again for the wonderful gift card for our classroom that we received at the holidays. This will be great in helping us keep our materials fresh and new for the children.

Gretchen, Heather, JoAnn, Viviana, & Melissa