

CLASSROOM IV NEWS

Fall is always a busy time, and this season is no exception. Children are exploring all areas of the curriculum, working hard and making discoveries about themselves and the world. We enjoyed our conferences with families of first year students and encouraged them to come and observe their children, an invitation to all parents, of course. Come have lunch with your child sometime- we eat at 11:15 every day except Tuesday, when it's at 12.

The children are becoming aware of the environment and are active recyclers and composters. The third year students completed a can collection drive last month, and a member of Bluegrass PRIDE visited our classroom to talk about trash and looked at the recycling and trash from the day before, which we had saved. We were proud to hear that our recyclables outweighed our trash!

At the lower elementary level, children become able to really imagine and have empathy for people in far-away places, and they responded generously to the annual UNICEF campaign. And are now counting and rolling the coins. We will begin work soon on a service project for the end of the year- details to follow.

Field trips are always exciting and we are very grateful to have so many parent volunteers- thank you one and all. Last month, we had a wonderful trip to the Salato Wildlife Center in Frankfort, and saw many native plants and animals in their natural habitats. The annual third year trip was also a great success and brought out the best in our eldest students. Spending time outdoors is a hallmark of Montessori education, and the results are immediate and rewarding.

We were invited to the Classical Faire presented by the scholars of Montessori Middle School of Kentucky and enjoyed visiting booths featuring Greek, Roman and Celtic characters and activities. It was an impressive example of the work students do at the middle school level- their knowledge and enthusiasm were evident and contagious.

Other activities we've participated in at school include listening to Paschal the Rascal, a local storyteller and former parent whose child attended Providence when it was still housed in St. Peter Claver Church. And Tom Monarch, father of Catherine Monarch in classroom VI, gave a fencing demonstration, including a friend who is a paralympian champion, who fences from his wheelchair.

Tidbits: Cold weather will eventually arrive, and with it the need for warm clothing. Please, please label EVERYTHING. Children sometimes forget what's theirs and time is wasted trying to determine whose is whose. Also, we are looking for vacation homes for our pets for winter break- look for the form!