

CLASSROOM IV NEWS

Children in classroom IV have had an exciting, productive year exploring their interests, taking in lessons with increasing eagerness, maturity, cooperation and deep understanding. Mrs. Torabi and Ms. Balsam have had a whirlwind of teaching and learning themselves. By the end of the year, Mrs. Torabi will have completed her Master's degree in Montessori Education, no small feat to accomplish in one year of distance learning- congratulations, Ms. T!!

THANK YOU!!!

We feel fortunate to have such a wonderful group of parents who are so willing to help and share their expertise. **Madeleine's** mother Nancy Jones not only brought her students to perform plays, she has been generous in helping us obtain parking permits for our field trip to see "Peter and the Wolf" at UK's Singletary Center and has donated a wealth of costumes and props for classroom productions.

Jenny Collins, **Michael's** mother, came again this spring to help students plant vegetables and flowers in our gardens which are now producing delicious lettuce, spinach, and radishes, among other things. Thanks to Leonard Atkinson, **Williams' dad**, for supplying timothy hay for our guinea pigs all year. Between that and the garden, plus many apple cores from snack, Fudge and Binders are sassy and plump, squealing whenever the refrigerator door opens- they have us well-trained!

Evan's mom Julie Brock has made it possible for parents to order Scholastic books all year, and due to the volume, our classroom now has been awarded many wonderful books. **Drew Whitley's** and **Nathaniel Pederson's** families have also given us books from the book fair, for which we are extremely grateful. The Kamers (**Paul's** parents) kindly donated their tickets to us for the Miller House event, which was a great time.

Anna Kate's dad Tom Ackerman of LEX18 came to talk to us about weather and even earthquakes- he was so kind to answer all questions (and there were many!). We also had the privilege of a personal tour of UK's s.ky Blue solar house from **Miller's** dad, Greg Luhan, one of the principals of the project. Upsorn Hutchens, **Serena's** mom, took many great pictures at 4-H camp and provided us with a CD to show parents at the parent meeting on May 6. We know there were other photographers there too, and are looking forward to seeing their pictures too. Jen Pederson (**Nathaniel's** mom) has generously donated a sewing machine to us. Thank you to ALL the parents in our classroom; so many of you have driven on field trips, offered your help, and done many small kindnesses throughout the year- you truly are appreciated!

EARTH DAY

Earth Day deserves special mention. First, we had a class with Roberta Burnes (parent of Gareth in classroom 8), who taught us about carbon footprints, and then Mrs. Hiler presented her lesson on ecological footprints as well as revealing Green Bean for the first time. Our Earth Day focus naturally flowed from these lessons into many demonstrations of our interconnectedness with the Earth and each other, a principle Maria Montessori was passionate

about. While the children did individual and group projects, they all grasped the big picture concepts that form the basis of Montessori education. Although the process seems each year to build to a crescendo of feverish research, poster and model-making, when the day finally came, each student had a project he or she was proud of, and from our conversations, learned from.

4-H CAMP

The culminating event of the year was our trip to 4-H Camp, which we teachers have decided was one of our best. We were so proud of all our students, we enjoyed their company in the beautiful surroundings and outstanding weather, and we learned so much along with them. Parents, you really listened when asked to be a community and watch out for everyone- we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope you had a great time too.

We have had a busy, active year, and are grateful to all of the parents for entrusting us with their children- their enthusiasm inspires us, and keeps us striving to be better all the time. We learn so much from them and feel rewarded by their love and respect, which is absolutely reciprocal!

Our wish is for all our families to have a safe, happy, fun summer, full of discovery and new experiences. We look forward to next year already!