

Classroom 4 News

The end of the year always seems to be a rush of activities. The children have been preparing the gardens outside the classroom and planted vegetable seeds in indoor trays in anticipation of transplanting them. Unfortunately, the incredible amount of rain in April has delayed our schedule, but now that the sun has started to shine again, we are able to get back outside once more, and botany lessons abound, with samples of leaf margins and venation being carefully preserved and recorded.

Our Earth Day celebration was a wonderful event. The children, in teams, studied ancient Mesoamerican civilizations and reported on how those people met their needs, tying into the fundamental lessons they have been receiving all year about human history. They presented models, drawings, food, clothing, and artifacts of the cultures they studied, and practiced their public speaking skills at the same time- we are very proud of them.

Several parents have visited the class to share their knowledge and lead fun activities. Sanat's dad, Srikant Dharwad, gave a lesson on aerodynamics and helped students construct, fly, and measure the flights of two paper airplanes. Kelly Bradley, Bill's mother, had students perform statistical experiments involving marshmallow tasting- as it turns out, all marshmallows are not the same! Pete Kraska, Coralee's dad, visited and shared pictures, stories, and flavored honey from Alaska, where he spent part of his life working as a bush pilot and fishing guide. Vivien's mom, Sheila Kurtz, will be coming in the last week of school to talk about safety. Our parents have so much to share with the class; thank you one and all.

Our 4-H camping trip was a great success, despite the chilly weather, rain, and even a little hail! We could not make this trip happen without the help and support of the parents who volunteer their time to accompany us- we really appreciate the way everyone worked as a community. A huge thanks goes out to all of you! The staff at 4-H camp is also complimentary of our students- one of the interns remarked on how different and nice it is that they look at adults and hold conversations, and love to learn- a hallmark of the Montessori philosophy.

There's more to come in the last weeks- we will visit Classroom 8's Europe Fair this Friday, May 13. A former Classroom 4 student, Thomas Diggins, brought his Great Work project to the classroom and demonstrated how tornadoes form. First year students will visit the Ky. Horse Park on May 20 as a culmination of the Black Stallion Literacy Foundation's project that provided each child with a copy of the classic Walter Farley book Little Black, A Pony. Second years are finishing up their Junior Great Book lessons, and third years will complete the Junior Master Gardener program when Mr. Kolassa (father of Kaleigh in Classroom 8) visits to talk about beekeeping.

On the last day of school, Lower Elementary classrooms will conduct our moving-up ceremony together, and then hold individual traditional activities in our classrooms. These events are attended by teachers and children only. We will see everyone again on Friday, May 27, at Masterson Station Park for the annual end-of-year picnic. Again, we've had a great year and appreciate so much the trust in us and confidence in Montessori education you demonstrate on a daily basis- thank you!