

Classroom VI News
November 10, 2009

The school year seems to be flying by! We have presented all of the "Great Lessons" - a cornerstone of the elementary curriculum. These lessons deal with the formation of the Earth, laws of the universe, the coming of life, the coming of humans, the development of language and the beginning of mathematics. All of these lessons have led to wonderful discussions and further research.

For November, our "bird of the month" is the Zebra Finch. As most of you know, we had two zebra finches in the classroom. Unfortunately, Snowball died last week. We celebrated her life at a burial ceremony and her passing inspired many creative and heartfelt poems. We will learn more about zebra finches during the month.

The third year students just returned from their overnight trip to Camp Shawano. It was a wonderful bonding and learning experience for everyone. In addition to botany lessons and hiking, the children participated in meal preparation, clean up, trail maintenance and - the highlight - the climbing wall! These events plus staying the night away from home encouraged a growth in self confidence and independence.

Learning all about NUTRITION is our November project. We have talked about the importance of eating healthy foods - little or no sugar, low fat, high fiber, etc. We will also be talking about the various systems in the body. The children are becoming more and more aware of how their body functions and how important it is to take care of themselves by eating well, exercising, drinking water, and getting plenty of sleep. **In connection with this project, we are asking you to send in the nutrition label from their favorite breakfast cereal box.** If your child does not eat boxed cereal, please send in the label from some other food that they like to eat. If the food name doesn't appear, please write it on the back.

We are also asking for those old Halloween Jack-o-Lanterns. We would like to add them to our compost pile to feed the worms and build new soil for our plants. Please send in any that you are ready to dispose of.

We have an upcoming field trip on Thursday, November 12 to the Montessori Middle School's "Classical Faire." Thanks in advance to all our drivers. Keep in mind that this will be held outside and your child should be dressed appropriately.

The crisp autumn air reminds us that winter is on its way. Remember to write names on jackets and other outerwear. Enjoy the fall season!