

Classroom VI News
Fall, 2011

We have settled into the school year with many wonderful projects going on. Everyday, a glance around the classroom reveals much activity, research and learning.

Montessori Great Lessons

The Great Lessons which are part of the history curriculum, present scientific theories about the formation of the earth, the coming of life, and the origins of language and math. These lessons have sparked the children's imagination. They have come up with imaginative stories of their own to fantasize such things as how life began and of the demise of the dinosaurs. The Mesozoic Era, the age of reptiles, was the overwhelming favorite era. They enjoyed researching and reading about various dinosaurs, fossils and other prehistoric life. An extension of this study will be the focus on our trip to the Falls of the Ohio on Nov. 8.

Our Garden

The school's native plant garden has graced us with its bounty as it does every season. Not only do we get to enjoy its beauty through our classroom windows but also the specimens it provides us. So far this year we have found a praying mantis, spiders, butterflies and even a garter snake. Students new to the classroom have made their botany presses which are used to press leaves and native flowers from our garden. They will continue to use them through their third year.

Spelling Tests!

Second and third-year students have started their end-of-the-week spelling tests. They receive their words on Monday and work with them throughout the week. They are welcome to take their spelling folders home for study but they MUST be returned to school the next day.

First-year students will be starting their spelling lessons after fall break. They will receive their words the day before the test (generally Friday). We start with simple three-letter phonetic words to get them accustomed to the process.

Junior Great Books

Third-year students will start *Junior Great Books* study after fall break. They are all anxious to start reading and discussing the wonderful stories. A letter will be sent home to third-year parents explaining the program.

Native American Study

Did you know that November is "Native American Month" in Kentucky? We will begin our study of Native Americans shortly and culminate with a "Native American Fair" on November 11. You are invited to come in to see the projects and a short play related to this study. Additionally, Providence has invited Anthony Redfeather Nava to speak on Nov. 21 about Native Indian culture.

Field Trips

We have planned a field trip on Tuesday, October 25 to the arboretum. We are excited to see the *Children's Garden* and learn about Native American plants. Look for the driving request form in your child's lunchbox on the day back from fall break.

Other events to put on your calendar:

- October 27-28: 3rd year overnight
- April 26-27: 4-H Camp overnight

We look forward to a wonderful fall season. Again, you are welcome to come to the classroom for lunch or an observation anytime that fits your schedule.

Amy and Mary