

### Highlights of the Week

This week the children learned about a pumpkin's life cycle. As an introduction, I read the book "Pumpkin Pumpkin" by Jeanne Titherington, which illustrates the life cycle so simplistically through the eyes of a young boy named Jaime. The life cycle is: seeds, sprout (or seedling), plant, vine, yellow flower, green pumpkin, orange pumpkin. At the end of the story, after Jaime carves a jack o lantern, he saves 6 seeds to plant in the spring - which begins the cycle!

The children were shown how to scrub a pumpkin. This was a *very* busy work station that involved quite a few steps from start to finish. As you can imagine, it has been scrubbed thoroughly! I hope it holds up until next week as I would like to use it to explore the **parts of a pumpkin!!**

Another fun activity introduced in practical life this week relating to "air", was bubble blowing. The children pour water into a bowl, measure then stir a small amount of liquid soap into the water, put in straw and B L O W! This was another work that spent very little time on the shelf!

You may recall mention previously of the sandpaper globe. It has rough areas (painted gray) and smooth areas. The rough areas represent land. This week, the **continents** globe was introduced. This globe displays those land areas in various colors. These colors now represent land/continents on our planet Earth. The colors for each continent are as follows: **North America** - orange; **South America** - pink; **Africa** - green; **Europe** - red; **Asia** - yellow; **Australia** - brown; **Antarctica** - white. Throughout this school year we will explore each of the continents.

Now that the continents globe (a sphere) was introduced, the children were given a demonstration of a sphere being cut in half creating hemispheres. This was done as an introduction to the continents puzzle map which shows each continent (in their distinct color) and their position on the eastern and western hemispheres.

#### Dr. Maria Montessori's Words:



*"Education is a natural process carried out by the human individual and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."*

#### Reminders:

- Halloween (No PM Kids Club) October 31st
- First Marking Period November 10th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences \*(**No School**, child care provided for FD/EXD students only) November 17th
- Thanking giving break November 23-24th (**No School**)

#### Home/School Connection

*On Wednesday, Giovanni Zago turned 5 and celebrated with his class. He took 5 "Walks Around the Sun". Happy 5th Year of Life, Giovanni!*

*A "Walk Around the Sun" is a montessori birthday tradition where a child holds the "Earth" (the continents globe) and walks around a replica of the "Sun" which is placed in the middle of the circle and is surrounded by the 12 months of the year. He stands by his birth month to begin his walk and ends there. For every year of life, the child "Walks Around the Sun"! We also sing as they are walking: the Earth goes around the Sun, tra la la, the Earth goes around the Sun, around and around and around and around and today (the child's name) is 1, etc.*