

Highlights of the Week

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year !

This week we reviewed the ground rules and how to use many of the works. The children were working and concentrating in all areas of the classroom. In Practical life the water works were very popular. Pouring water back and forth, funnel pouring, and baby washing were just a few works introduced. The children enjoy all of the Art works too! They were coloring with markers, working with clay, and gluing art scraps to make collages. On Friday, the children marble painted with white paint and glitter. We have a group of Modern Artists.

The children are very excited about learning to read. I read stories to the children daily and then the book is placed in our classroom library (reading corner). The children can visit the library and re-read the book to themselves. It is amazing how much they remember and how they imitate my actions. All of the children are learning pre-reading skills such as rhyming, opposites, and story sequencing. There are many activities "works" that are presented daily at your child's individual level. All of the children are learning their sounds of the alphabet. Everyone has new sound book. When your child completes all their sounds, then they may take it home to practice. Some of the children are building 3 and 4 letter words and reading them. They are making word books. They will begin the study of blends, phonograms, long vowels. The Kindergarten students are beginning there Reading A-Z website reading comprehension program and will be receiving reading homework folders.

One of the things that I love so much about Montessori education is its emphasis, from a very early age, on geography. I feel that this was a neglected area in my education. And to be perfectly honest, my knowledge of geography increased tremendously when I began teaching Montessori. This would probably surprise people who aren't familiar with Montessori education. After all, most pre-school programs do not teach geography. The children are all working on pin punching maps. They are making maps using a puzzle map and control chart. All of the children are working on making different continent maps according to their individual progress. We have begun the study of land forms. Everyone is excited to make a volcano and see it erupt. This month we are studying the continent of Asia.

Montessori education helps children develop an understanding of their place in the universe. In fact, Montessori education is often called a "cosmic education." To this end, children are presented with the big picture first. This can play out in the pre-primary classroom in several ways. One thing that I like to do early on in the school year is to teach the children the "continents song" .

Dr. Maria Montessori's Words:

One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.

Maria Montessori

Reminders:

- January 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL
- February 12th Curriculum night phase 2
- February 16th Family Ball at Troy Community center 6pm to 7:30pm
- February 19th & 20th Mid-Winter Break NO SCHOOL

Home/School Connection

Say silly tongue twisters. Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

Use your child's name. Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word jump begins with the same sound as your name. John, jump.

Rubber baby buggy-bumpers.

Give papa a cup of proper coffee in a copper coffee cup.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
Did Peter Piper pick a peck of pickled peppers?
If Peter Piper Picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
Friendly fleas and fireflies.

I scream you scream we all scream for ice cream.

Eleven owls licked eleven little liquorice lollipops

Red Leather Yellow Leather

Six slippery snails slid slowly.