

### Highlights of the Week

This week all of the children are busy choosing their own work independently! The children have had several new lessons in Sensorial. The children are using color box I and box II to identify and match colors. Everyone knows all their primary colors! Many children knew all their secondary colors too! The color gray was tricky and we were trying to find gray objects in the classroom to help us identify gray. In Mathematics the children were so excited to see the new Halloween / autumn 1-10 counting works. They are matching and counting using the new leaf, pumpkin, spider, bat and mice counters. In Practical Life, the children have been introduced to the Dressing Frames. The Dressing Frames help teach the children to dress themselves by allowing them to master one dressing skill at a time.

One of the practical life activities that really stands out in a primary Montessori classroom is the rack of dressing frames. The purpose of the dressing frames is to build concentration, coordination and control of movement, all the while encouraging children to become more independent as they learn to care for themselves. There are several types of dressing frames: buttoning, zipping, snapping, buckling, lacing, and tying.

These may be displayed in a small box with each frame stacked one in front of the other or vertically on a stand. Children as young as 2 ½ or 3 are able to learn how to zip a zipper and button and unbutton buttons. As the child has more coordination and control of movement, these become easier and they move on to more challenging frames, such as tying or buckling.

#### It's cold outside! How to put on a coat or sweater.

Teach your child the "Montessori Magic Flip" method. Place the child's coat on the floor with the collar near the child's feet. The child bends down, places his arms in the arm holes of the coat, with their arms partially in have him lift the coat up and over his head, and Ta Da!!! He's wearing a coat.

"I did it myself!" Children love this activity and repeat it on their own. Off they run with a great sense of accomplishment. I have had children as young as 18 months master this skill. Children are always watching and observing. If you put your jacket on this way, they are much more apt to catch on and become independent about putting their own coats on.

Dr. Montessori believed that "Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence." The child who is able to say "I did it all by myself" has a feeling of joy and accomplishment and a sense of belonging in his world.

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

"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."

- Maria Montessori

#### 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

#### Home/School Connection

This week the children are interested in learning about the Continents and the Oceans. They have been introduced to the continent map and globe. Children in a Montessori primary classroom learn about geography through the use of puzzle maps, globes and cultural events. Children will often become interested in making their own maps. They are learning to identify Land and Water and learn the names of the Continents and Oceans. They love to sing "The Continent Song" and "The Ocean song."

##### The Continent Song

North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Don't forget Australia! Don't Forget Antarctica!

##### The Ocean song

In this great big world of ours all the oceans have a name. The first one is the Pacific, the next one is the Atlantic. Don't forget the Indian! Don't forget the Arctic! The new is the Southern. Oceans are water.

Many of the children are asking about map making. They are using the puzzle map to learn the names and shapes of the continents. They are making continent books and by coloring the continent pages in their book to match the puzzle map. They are pin punching the continent shapes and will bring home their completed maps. How exciting!

Next, we will begin our cultural studies of "Holidays around the World." If you would like to give a small presentation about a holiday your family celebrates, please contact me so we can make arrangements for a presentation.

In our cultural studies, we are able to look at realistic and beautiful pictures of people, places and animals from all over the world. We can listen to music, sing songs, study arts –n-crafts, taste foods, and learn to greet one another in a new language.