

Schoolhouse Scribbles

Olive Room

November 3, 2017

Highlights of the Week

This week the children are learning about the sciences. The children were introduced to the concepts that our world is made up of **Living and Non-Living Matter**. Next, we classify things into categories such as **Plants and Animals** and **Vertebrate and Invertebrate**. **What is a scientist?** ... We give the name scientist to the type of man who has felt experiment to be a means guiding him to search out the deep truth of life, to lift a veil from its fascinating secrets, and who, in this pursuit, has felt arising within him a love for the mysteries of nature, so passionate as to annihilate the thought of himself. ~ Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method.

Science is all around us. Young children interact with the natural world everywhere they go. Children are natural observers. They are fascinated by the phenomenon found in the natural world. On the playground, the children went on a nature walk and collected leaves. I asked many questions encouraging the children to describe the leaves using their senses. What colors? How do they feel? What shapes? How did they smell?

Maria Montessori recognized the young child's need to observe and absorb information about the world around them. She believed that experience with real objects should always proceed before learning the names or looking at pictures of things. Encountering something new in nature sparks the child's curiosity and leads to a spontaneous lesson as the child asks "What is this? What is it called? How does it feel/smell/taste/sound?" These sensorial-based questions are concrete evidence of the child's stage of development. In this sensitive period, children should be encouraged to explore their environment with their senses. Once their senses have been awakened, they can be shown more abstract concepts such as how to care for plants, how to feed and water the class pet, the different shapes found in leaves, the parts of a turtle or butterfly. Montessori realized that young children in the period of the absorbent mind have a real need to learn the proper names for things.

Montessori students are Natural scientists. They are very curious learners who are encouraged to ask many questions and share their knowledge with their friends. This week instead of singing **Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes** we are singing **Skull, Clavicle, Patella, Phalanges**. The children are learning to identify and name the parts of the skeleton.

"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."

-Maria Montessori

Reminders:

Please return any items from school that end up at your house. We have several materials missing parts and it renders them unusable.

- First Marking Period ends November 10th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences *(**No School**, child care provided for FD/EXD students only) November 17th
- Thanksgiving break November 23-24th (**No School**)

Home/School connection

Our conference list is filling up, The code is a little tricky! It is a capital X Z then number zero, not a letter O. Thank you parents for getting your conference appointment. Now would be a great time to jot down any questions you might have regarding your child's progress, then we can make the most of our discussion at conference time.

Conference entry code At ptcfast.com
code : XZ01208521