

Schoolhouse Scribbles

Olive Room

September 29, 2017

Highlights of the Week

This week in our classroom we really expanded our geography area. Last week we discussed the topic of land air and water. This week we took those land parts and gave each of them a name. It is especially fun for the children to learn about the continents since they now are singing the very special "Continent Song." Singing a little jingle is a great way for children to learn new things. As the song is enjoyed again and again the children internalize the words...then it becomes second nature. (Ask them to sing the Continent Song for you!) This discussion evolved from a focus on the invention of map-making.

At gathering time when we all study the globe, the children realized how difficult it is to see all the continents at the same time. So we ponder, what can solve this dilemma? The answer becomes a demonstration on splitting the earth in two, thus creating the eastern and western hemispheres. Then the boys and girls fully understood how valuable the resulting "Continent Map" is in showing us both sides of the earth in full view. Speaking of east and west, we talk about directions too. The children have so much fun locating and traveling to each part of our classroom, depending on the directions given. Be prepared parents—while you are driving with your child, you might find them asking what direction is home, or what directions you take to get to family and friend's homes. In the classroom, all four directions are prominently displayed on our walls. The children are shown an activity that allows them to match like directions. They can now "travel" around our room all year!

The Continent Song

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

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In the Sensorial area of the Montessori classroom, we begin with the very basic elements in form. We start with the sphere. Sometimes boys and girls call the sphere a "circle", so we discuss how a sphere is round all around and a circle is "flat". So when we talk about the conversion of a globe to a map, the boys and girls have been familiarized through a previous lesson. With following lessons, they can base their answers on what they know and indeed, understand!

"The teacher's task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child."

-Maria Montessori

Reminders:

- Please continue to label your child's lunch box with their name and the date daily.
- Blake's Apple orchard field trip forms due date September 29th
- Blake's Apple orchard field trip October 6th
- Whole School Portraits October 19th

Home/School connection

Thank you Parents for following our new curbside routine. Your support really helps our curbside go smoothly.

New name cards will be issued for families using curbside. Please display your child's name so we can prepare your child accordingly.

One of our themes next month is fire safety. We discussed what to do during a fire drill and recalled what we did when we met safely outside for the fire drill at school. The children mentioned that they have smoke detectors at home which led to a discussion about having a fire safety plan at home. If your child has not yet heard the smoke detector at your house, now might be a good time. It would also be a good time to practice how to get out of your house safely and where your family will meet in such an emergency.