

Highlights of the Week

In the Montessori Classroom, the day begins with morning circle. This is a time for the classroom community to come together and to greet one another. It's also a time where the teacher might review concepts such as calendar, time, and weather or introduce a new work or group lesson. Often, songs are sung, poems are recited, or bodies become aware with creative movement exercises such as yoga or music and movement with bean bags. Everyday the children work with the calendar. We sing the days of the week song and the months of the year song in circle. We count the days in the month and add a new number daily. The children who are capable of writing are invited to make a calendar to take home. The children are learning to read and write the names of the days of the week and months of the year too!

All of the children have learned about the parts of the clock. They have learned that clock has a face, numbers and hands. We know that when the minute hand points to 12 we read O'clock. We are practicing reading the half hour too! These are first lessons and we will continue our lessons learning to tell time. This is an abstract concept to children. Next we will learn there are different kinds of clocks and other ways to tell time.

This week in Science the children are learning all about Amphibians. They are studying different types of amphibians, the life cycle, and they know the difference between frogs and toads.

The Montessori science curriculum seeks to cultivate children's natural curiosity and to allow them to discover the answers to their "why" questions. Science study concentrates on process: hypothesis, procedure, observation, data analysis and conclusion. This teaches them to think before deciding, to use a logical method of discovery or testing and to use data to evaluate results and arrive at a thoughtful conclusion.

Along with process, the science curriculum aims to provide each child with a basic knowledge of zoology, botany, matter, energy, earth science, astronomy, human development and personal health. Hands-on experience with the natural world and with scientific materials and apparatus help to promote learning such things as animal classification, chemical processes, earth forces, botanical components and rock types.

The Montessori curriculum aims to fill a child with wonder at the complexity and grandeur of the universe, the simplicity of physical laws and the miracle of life. It encourages respect for our world and an understanding of our place in the natural order of things. The ultimate goal is the development of an ecological view of life and a feeling of responsibility for the earth.

Dr. Maria Montessori's Words:

"No one can be free unless he is independent. Therefore, the first active manifestations of the child's individual liberty must be so guided that through this activity he may arrive at independence." Dr. Maria Montessori

Reminders:

- 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

Parts of a Story

Talk with your child about how stories in books have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Then read a short, familiar story to your child. When you have finished, help your child recall what happened at the beginning of the story, in the middle of the story, and at the end of the story.