

### Highlights of the Week

**Konnichiwa!** This week we explored the country of Japan. The children were introduced to the word “archipelago” - a cluster of islands, which is exactly what Japan is. Japan is comprised of over 3,000 islands, however there are 4 main islands. We discussed the capital of Japan, Tokyo, and examined the flag of Japan, a white rectangle with a red circle in the middle. We talked about the fact that people of Japan have a longer lifespan than any other people of the world due to their diet, which consists primarily of fish, rice and vegetables. They do not include meat or dairy in their diets. We talked about samurai, sumo wrestling, and more!

I told the story of Sadako and the 1000 cranes. It’s a beautiful story about hope! Sadako became stricken with leukemia as a result of the bomb being dropped on Hiroshima. While hospitalized, she was told of an old Japanese legend which says if you fold 1000 paper cranes you will be granted a wish. Ask your child to tell you about the story and its outcome!

Friday is Groundhog Day! Everyone’s predictions were taken in class on Thursday and the children were challenged to find out what Punxsutawney Phil does, before they arrive to school.

In practical life this week the children practiced using chopsticks.

Color Box 3 was introduced in sensorial. This box allows the children to visually discriminate colors from darkest to lightest.

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



*“Of all things love is the most potent”.*

#### 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

We said “goodbye” to January and welcomed February with our poem for the month:

Love is a circle, round and round  
 Love goes up and love comes down  
 Love is on the inside trying to get out  
 Love is whirling, twirling about

