

### Highlights of the Week

Spring has arrived, and although winter attempts to stretch its icy fingers out during this month, there is certainly a renewed feeling in the air and in the classroom. This is typically a time when students begin to feel the toll a long school year can put on the mind, body, and spirit. So, We will be taking our lesson outdoors if the weather permits.

Our theme of the week was Earth Day! The children read books and sang songs about taking care of the earth. We talked about when we recycle, reuse and reduce it helps save the earth. One of the children said, "Every day is Earth Day!" We talked about using reusable containers to pack our lunches instead of plastic and paper. Many of the children were happy to unpack their lunches and find reusable containers in their lunch boxes.

The children will begin their study of Botany. We are hoping to observe the buds on the trees, the grass turning green, and spring flowers sprouting out of the ground. They will learn to identify the parts of the flower, leaf, and tree. One of the things that I love most about the Montessori approach to Botany is that it embraces almost every subject — it's not merely a scientific introduction to flowers. It also encompasses language, practical life lessons, mathematics, art, and sensorial work.

#### FLOWER DISSECTION

After exploring the Botany 3-part cards from the Helpful Garden, we tried our hand at some flower dissection! Each of the children received a tulip and carefully removed each part, exploring and making observations as we went. We then glued each of the individual parts to some thick white card stock; some of the children took the extra step of labeling the parts of the flower, while others just discussed their knowledge.

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

*"Education is the natural process carried by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by acquiring experiences in the environment"*

#### Reminders:

- Tea with Mom **May 10th** at 8:45am to 9:30AM or 10:00AM to 10:45AM
- Detroit Zoo Field Trip **May 25th No regular school** on this day the whole school will be at the Zoo.
- Memorial Day **May 28th No School**
- May Day Mixer **May 29th**
- Music Program/Graduation **June 1st No PM Kids Club**

#### Home/School Connection

- Allow ample time for the child to dress themselves in the morning.
  - Encourage child to carry their own lunch bag or personal belongings.
  - Help them to learn their surname address and phone number.
  - Observe the child and become aware of their interests, so that you can provide challenge.
  - Be friendly with error and remember that learning happens when a child is able to attempt a new activity with encouragement from adults.
  - Give the child positive feedback and resist saying you did that the wrong way. Correct by setting the good example.
- Remember it is the process of learning that is important not the product.