



VMS Weekly News - December 16, 2016

Nothing without Joy! ~ Loris Malaguzzi

Primary 1 Classroom

- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

This week, I presented the lesson of "Solid, Liquid, and Gas". This basic science lesson for the three- to six-year olds is an exploration of the properties of matter. I began by explaining that all matter is made up of molecules. (Scientists reading this, please be aware that this is really simple and is meant to give an impression that will strike the child's imagination.) I continued to say that everything is matter, and all matter has molecules.



I then began a little drama. Matter that is SOLID has its molecules stuck so close together, it is stiff and cannot move easily. I chose two children, and we acted out being stuck together. I then said that this state of matter does not change its shape easily – it keeps its shape unless acted on by an outside force.

Then came the acting out of matter that is LIQUID. I chose two other children, and we held hands and sort of slid around the circle. I explained that liquid sticks together but takes the shape of any container holding it. For the GAS enactment, the two children I chose and I were not connected at all and were very far apart, acting like we were floating. Gas molecules, I explained, want to expand and move further and further apart.

The actual exercise on the shelf contains three examples of each: solids, liquids, and gasses. Children take the tray to a rug and sort the glass jars containing the various samples.



Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss
Holly

As we head into the winter season, some of the conversations in class have been revolving around animals during the wintertime. Often times children ask, "What do animals eat in the winter when there are no leaves or berries anymore?" or "Why don't animals have a house so they can keep warm?" We will be starting a unit on how animals survive the climate changes and have already introduced the idea of hibernation, migration and adaptation. We will also be focusing on birds by identifying different local species and how we can help them throughout the upcoming winter season. Next week, our class will be stringing popcorn and cranberries to create food for the wild birds. Karyn Borella, Brea's mom, will be coming in to work with the children, helping to create the bird feeders. If there is one other parent that would like to join us, please let me know.



This week, Miss Ava wrapped up her unit on apples. The children helped to peel, chop and mix apples with cinnamon to create our own homemade applesauce. We let it cook all day in a crock pot, and the aroma from our room was incredible. We were able to share this tasty treat during snacktime. Overall, it was a big hit among the children.

I would like to remind all parents that the children should be bringing a hat, mittens/gloves and a warm jacket to school now that the weather is turning quite cold. We do try to go outside every day, and it is important that your child be warm and comfortable in this colder weather. Trying to get ready to go outside with all these new layers can be challenging for some children. You can help by practicing at home how to put on mittens/gloves and how to hold the sleeves of a shirt while putting on a jacket. Our saying for getting ready to go outside is, "Shoes, jackets, hats then gloves". We need our hands to put everything on so they cannot be covered by gloves until the end. Practicing at home can help alleviate some frustration when getting ready and also lead your child to becoming more independent.



Elementary Classroom - Miss Irene and Miss Nora

Once again, the elementary class has had a busy week. The heath hen unit continues, always with great enthusiasm and fun follow-up projects. This week, the students studied habitats of Martha's Vineyard. They made maps of the different habitats, including oak pine woodland, mixed woodland, shrub land, grassland, oak barrens and ponds.



We have been studying various aspects of Spain in conjunction with Cristina for our holiday presentation next week. Upper elementary students had a very successful weekend at Christmas in Edgartown. They raised over \$600.00 from wreaths that they carefully and beautifully decorated. The wreaths were donated by Tim Clarke, a former Montessori parent of both the primary and elementary classrooms. We would also like to send out a big thank you to the Worley family who generously donated a new laminator for material making.



Late Day

- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

The weather cleared on Monday in time for us to walk to the Art Studio. Pam introduced students to the work of renowned French artist, Henri Matisse. First, we saw images of his work

and talked about his style of using surface patterns and brilliant color. The students were given a large piece of white paper and a variety of shapes for gluing. The final process involved painting around the shapes to replicate Matisse's collage technique. These unique and beautiful student works will be on display during our art show.

Some children in the afternoon program chose to make paper bag puppets. This followed our puppet show of last week as a "story stretcher" concept.

This is a high-stress and high-energy time of year for many families. Children benefit from extra hugs and reassurance that all is well. It is a perfect time to include some "read-aloud" story time for comfort. Our library books this week included, "The Sneetches", "The Invisible Boy", "Peepo" and "Mad at Mommy".



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Looking for a unique item or holiday gifts? Purchase our school-themed items and support VMS at the same time. Check out our collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and more by clicking [here](#).



Upcoming Events

**Thursday, December 22nd at 1:30 pm --
Elementary Winter Gathering**

**Friday, December 23rd at 11:00 am --
Primary Winter Gathering**



Recommended Reading

"What do P. Diddy, Sergey Brin, and Peter Drucker have in common?"
by Glenn Rifkin

"Succeeding at their own pace" by Alex Beam, Boston Globe Columnist

Book Corner for Parents

"LastChild in the Woods": Saving our children from Nature-Deficit Disorder
by Richard Louv

"Montessori Madness!": A parent to parent argument for Montessori education
by Trevor Eissler

"Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius" by Angeline Stoll Lillard

Book Corner for Children

"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada

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