"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"

- Henry Ford

Calendar

Saturday, November 4th: Family Yard Day -- 9:00 a.m. - Noon - See you
**Primary 1 Classroom**

-Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

It was great to see every student with their special visitor at Special Visitor Day. The children’s faces were precious! They started thinking about what work they wanted to show as soon as they arrived to school that day. Thank you for coming!

There was a lot of art happening in our class during this past week. The first project was necklace making. First, we introduced the skill of snipping yarn. Taking a pair of scissors and snipping a piece of yarn is challenging for young hands, but most children in our class have practiced this with quite a bit of success. (These small pieces of yarn are saved over the winter and will be spread in our outdoor environment for the birds to use in their nests!) Then, the children practiced threading a needle. They took a needle, placed a “needle threader” in the hole, and then proceeded to do the very complex work of drawing the yarn through the hole in the needle. It is not an easy task, but many of the students are experiencing success with this. The last step was to place bits of paper and straws on the thread. Voila, they made a beautiful necklace!

We are using our stand-up easel now for painting big pictures. It is important for pre-school children to have experiences with large motor activities, and this large brush work will allow them to stretch and draw their dominant hand across their “midline”. Plus, it is just fun to paint big pictures! As with everything in the classroom, the children are learning to clean up after themselves and ready the exercise for the next person who will use the easel.

The letter sounds that we learned this week were f, z, k, and b.
Primary 2 Classroom  
-Miss Chris and Miss Holly

One of the most important parts of being a Montessori teacher is observing. When a teacher observes her class, not only does she learn about each child and notes their progress, but she also observes the lessons on the shelves. In some of the areas of the class, lessons need to be changed and switched out, and knowing when the right time to do this is critical. A teacher does not want to remove an activity that some children are still working intently on or leave a lesson out too long where it is no longer being used by anyone.

This week, I changed some of the Practical Life lessons and added a degree of difficulty to some. The concept may be the same, but the level of difficulty has increased, such as using smaller pitchers for the pouring lessons so that the child needs to be more precise in his/her movements or using smaller sized beads in the tweezing lesson so that the child needs to use a pincer grip to hold the bead. All of these activities will help define a child's fine motor development and will aid in future writing skills.

It was so nice to see so many parents and friends during Special Visiting Day. It is always fun for me to be able to sit back and watch the children show their visitor the works that they have been using. The children feel a sense of pride being able to "teach" their parents their lessons. I hope everyone enjoyed their visit, and please know that if you were not able to make it this time, there will be two more opportunities during the school year to come and spend this exciting time with your child.

Elementary I Classroom  
-Miss Nora

This week, Anne introduced us to Laura Jernegan, a young Edgartown girl whose father was a captain on a whaling boat. Captain Jernegan took his family along with him whaling around the world for two years. Laura kept a journal about her travels and the exotic places she visited. Laura is a distant relative of Miss Debbie. Miss Debbie has a daughter named after the original Laura Jernegan.

We made our own whale journal with all the proper stamps and pertinent
information for the day’s catch. We recorded how many whales were caught, if any, which boat caught the whale, and how many barrels of oil were yielded from the whale.

The indoor peas have not sprouted yet, so we headed outdoors to work in the outdoor garden. We fanned pea seeds in a new garden bed to fertilize the garden and see what sprouts. Our radishes are growing nicely. We tasted the leaves, and they were very well received by almost every student! We are hoping that next week we will be able to harvest our first vegetable of the year.

Elementary II Classroom
- Madeleine Clatworthy

Hi Peeps. This is Madeleine Clatworthy here!

This week, as you probably know, was Halloween. There were some very interesting costumes in our class. Although we did not wear them in school, everyone went trick-or-treating. Connor was a 70’s tennis player, Silas was a green blob, Arin was a Star Wars character, Marysol was a unicorn, Carly and Grace were also unicorns, and I was their unicorn owner. Throughout the evening, I told them to come, sit, and shake!

We are continuing to work on the timeline of writing and had an assignment to write a paragraph on the most important aspect of Mesopotamian civilization. I think that I did pretty well. We also had other writing assignments that simulated PARC writing tests. The focus was on paragraph structure and using details from the passage in our writing. In science, we researched members of the bacteria family in the tree of life. We have been researching our countries for MMUN and printed out our background guides on our topics. We have an assignment to answer questions on our MMUN topic. My topic is United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. It is about helping Palestinian refugees from the Israel civil war.

Carly, Grace, Matthew, and I ran in the All Cape Cod Meet on Wednesday. We got to leave school early to travel with the rest of the Hurricanes. The race results are not in yet.

This week, we also got new sporting equipment, thanks to Miss Debbie, including a kickball set, Spike ball, and Frisbee golf.
We discovered a new path behind the school and started building a fort there. We also cleared out the other path after a tree fell on it from the recent storm.

Bye bye, Peeps!

Middle School
- Miss Ty

There was a great deal of excitement on the Greenwood Campus on Monday morning when we arrived to find a huge oak tree toppled onto our back patio. It had missed the building by inches and left a jagged stump and another leaning tree behind. Students got to watch as a tree-removal crew took out the major pieces of branches and cut down the other tree, which was threatening to fall, too. We all talked about the wonders of machinery, and we marveled at how much effort would have been necessary to accomplish the same job before the invention of the winch and the wood chipper.

The next day, students happily went to work clearing the path of limbs and debris and moving one of the large logs onto our patio to create a bench. There are still a lot of limbs down at this writing (Wednesday), which will provide more benches and opportunities for purposeful work!

Botany studies continued this week. One lesson was the dissection of seeds: a bean and a corn. Matthew carefully removed the protective coat of the bean seed and popped open the two cotyledons, discovering the embryonic plant inside. He found the embryonic corn plant, too, only there was only one cotyledon. The learning was about monocots and dicots, the two main divisions of seed-bearing plants.
The Late Day Program
- Ms. Weezie

Our Late Day students are a busy, happy, and socially well-connected group. Some of their favorite outdoor activities involve collecting, sorting, and creating with nature’s "loose parts" (rocks, sticks, pine cones, leaves, seed pods). These natural materials can be used in many play areas restricted only by a child’s imagination. These types of activities lead to adaptability, empathy, and creative thinking.

Afternoon and Late Day students had a chance to make spider webs by using a round pie plate lined with construction paper. We then held the pie plate and rolled it back and forth and side to side, watching a marble dipped in white paint create the magical web.

Art class with Pam Benjamin starts on Monday. Please see that students are prepared for the walk to the studio with appropriate clothing and footwear. See you Saturday for Family Yard Day!

Recommended Reading
"There's No Such Thing as the Real World" by Peter Piche in MontessoriParent
Read article here.
Book Corner for Parents
"Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14" by Chip Wood
"The Six Stages of Parenthood" by Ellen Galinsky

Book Corner for Children
"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada

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