



Damariscotta Montessori School

Newsletter

Miss Casey's Primary Class

The field trip on Monday was a success! The children enjoyed feeding a calf, pigs, lambs and sheep. After that we endured the corn maze and finally we rode a trailer pulled by a tractor to the orchard where we took pleasure in an apple snack and apple harvesting.

All week we have enjoyed the apples in different ways. We did some apple prints. These are the paintings that have been coming home. We cut the apple in half to expose the star shape in the middle and used the apple half to make prints.

Miss Sarah's Primary Class

This week we've been enjoying the goings on in the natural world as autumn is newly arrived. At morning circle we've been discussing autumn, and the seasonal changes, sights and sensations. The field trip to the apple orchard was very busy, and lots of fun. We began by petting some farm animals. The calf and sheep were favorites. Then we went to the corn maze, which was quite an event. The final, and most exciting bit, I think, was when we all loaded onto the wagon, had some snack and started off to the orchard, towed by a big, loud tractor. In the orchard, we found some of the last wild raspberries of the season and happily filled our bags with fresh apples. It was quite the morning! Finally, in this time of early fall, we've been thankful to have as guests some monarch butterflies in our classroom. Tahlia brought them in as caterpillars, a few weeks ago, now, and

Lower Elementary Class

The Lower Elementary class worked hard this week. We continued our study of the history of time by discovering the language origins of the names of the days of the week. This presentation is followed up with the children reading and matching the three part cards. Each elder worked with a younger reader to complete this job. In Zoology the first and second years

"A man is not what he is because of the teachers he has had, but because of what he has done."

Dr. Maria Montessori

We also learned about the parts of an apple: stem, skin, meat, core and seeds.

Finally, on Friday, we used the apples to make apple pie. All the children who participated really loved cutting, peeling and mixing the apples. They also enjoyed the final result.

we've watched as they've gone into chrysalis. Tuesday evening one of the butterflies hatched, and the children were so surprised and excited to see it on Wednesday morning. Wednesday evening, the other remaining chrysalis, the last formed, was still green, and we figured it would be days, or even a week until it hatched. This morning the chrysalis was brown, by lunch the detail of the wings could be clearly seen, and after lunch, during story time, it emerged. Its wings are drying as I type, and we are all looking forward to watching our second monarch fly off! Many thanks to the Tahlia and her family for sharing the wonderful caterpillars, now butterflies, the Hinkleys for the fresh flowers, and all the families who brought such wonderful snacks this week.

were introduced to the world of invertebrates through a lesson on the Five Kingdoms. We are looking forward to exploring these strange and varied creatures without backbones. In Geography the Elders tested their knowledge of the world's oceans and continents, while the younger students learned how the first maps came into being. We used an orange to show

how a projection map of the earth is made. On Friday Ms. Proffetti came and helped the children

complete their nature journals. The results were beautiful!

Upper Elementary Class

We had a great week in the Upper Elementary. We continued to study the Native American Cultures through the timeline activity this week, focusing on the tribes from the Plains and Southwest. This was timely, as we are currently reading the novel, *Sing Down the Moon*, by Scott O'Dell. The historical novel takes place in the 18th century, and tells the story of a Navaho girl who is captured by Spanish slave traders. The story outlines many of the hardships and trials the Native Americans were suffering during this period of history and also details the tribes lived during this time, including some of their customs

and rituals. It's been a great read and the children have really enjoyed it.

In Geometry this week we reviewed the area formulas with the older children and focused on equivalence with the younger group. In each of the groups, we reconstructed real figures on paper and calculated the associated math. Geometry in Montessori is a real foundation of the curriculum, as it weaves together math, critical thinking, language and special relations. This is one of the areas of the curriculum where you can really see that the children are learning how to think and learn.

From Chip's Desk

Next Tuesday, October 3rd, we will be holding our first Class and Community meetings. The purpose of the classroom meetings is to provide a place to ask questions, raise concerns, offer ideas and receive information about the happenings of the classroom. If you have something that you would like to bring up at the Classroom meeting, please contact your child's teacher sometime before the meeting to have your topic brought up on the agenda.

school issues. Please let Kim Tolley know (kimt@damariscottamontessori.org) if you have a topic, issue, idea or question that you would like addressed at the Community meeting.

We hope that you can make it. The Class Meeting starts at 5:30 and goes until 6:15, and the Community Meeting runs from 6:30 until 7:30.

During Community Meetings, a board member or two will be present, along with staff members and I, to answer questions, listen to concerns, consider ideas and offer information about whole

Lee Parsons, the Building and Grounds Chairperson, has put together a list of small (and not so small) projects that need to be done around the school. If you would like to volunteer to tackle one of these projects, please contact Lee at 563-5255.

Positive Discipline Corner

Less is More

Have you heard the term "less is more"? If we would talk less, we would help our children so much more because they would feel validated for their thoughts and ideas. Often, they work through problems themselves just because they have had a sounding board. Other times, they feel better because they feel supported even when they can't think of a solution. The next six tools show ways to stop lecturing or trying to solve your child's problems, because less is more.

"What and How Questions" – Too many (adults) tell children what happened, what caused it to happen, how they should feel about it, and what they should do about it. Telling discourages children from developing their wisdom and judgment, figuring out solutions, and seeing mistakes as opportunities to learn. Telling them what, how, and why teaches them what to think, not how to think. This is very dangerous in a society filled with peer pressure, cults and gangs.

We help children develop thinking and judgment skills by asking them these kinds of questions: "What happened? What do you think

caused it to happen? How do you feel about it? How could you use this understanding next time? What ideas do you have to solve the problem now?"

It is important to remember that "what" and "how" questions are appropriate only when you have a genuine interest in wanting to know what the child thinks and feels. Don't ask until you are ready and willing to listen.

Be aware that "why" questions are often inappropriate when exploring personal motives or feelings. Asking "Why did you do that?" or "Why do you feel that way?" or "Why are you angry?" sounds judgmental and threatening. It is difficult for people to respond to these questions, because they invoke defensiveness and feelings of inadequacy.

Consider the following example, which shows a parent asking questions instead of lecturing when her eight-year-old's bicycle is stolen:

Juanita came into the house crying, and her mother comforted her.

Juanita: I can't find my bicycle. Someone must have stolen it.

Mom: I'm so sorry. I can see how upset you are. Tell me what happened.

Juanita: I left my bike on Sally's front lawn, and now it is gone. I hate people who steal bikes. It's so mean.

Mom: Yes, it is. It is too bad we can't control everyone in the world and make them nice.

Juanita: Yeah!

Mom: Since we can't control others, what could you do in the future to protect your possessions?

Juanita: Well, I'd better not leave my things out.

Mom: sounds like you learned a lot from this painful experience. Maybe later you would like to talk about what you will need to do to get another bike and how you will take care of it so this doesn't happen again.

Juanita: Can't we talk about that now.

Mom: I think we are both too upset now. How long do you think it will take for us to feel good enough to talk about it?

Juanita: How about tomorrow.

Mom: Sounds good to me.

Thank You

- Anne Geisler for taking a big chunk out of the priming work on the hand rails.
- Carolina Rushton for teaching Spanish.
- Lee Parsons, Kim Inman and Teresa Hewson for chaperoning on the Coast Day Cleanup.
- Kim Inman for posting announcements on the kiosk
- Teresa Hewson for volunteering as a reading parent in the Elementary Class.
- Barbara Fraser (and Kim), and Mary Dee Grant for helping with the handrail painting.
- To our new PA officers: Casey Beaudoin, President; Janesa Herndon, Vice President; Nancy Jean, Treasurer; Dorothy Sewall, Secretary
- Katie LeBel for publishing the recent press releases.
- Anne Geisler for re-seeding the playground.
- All those who chaperoned on the Apple Picking field trip.

Announcements and Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, October 3** – Classroom Meetings at 5:30 p.m., Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, October 7** – Painting Party (staining day), 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., and Bar-b-queue lunch at 12:00 p.m.
- **Monday, October 9** – Columbus Day – No School
- **Friday, October 13** – Teacher Workshop – No School
- **Tuesday, October 17** – Parent Education Workshop at 6:00 p.m.

TO DO LIST

Miss Casey's Room

- Door stopper for outside door.
- Trim under sink.
- Clean and paint trim on upstairs windows.
- Stain table and chairs. (Check with Doug about Cherry Stain)
- Tape, spackle and prime corner.
- Paint walls final coat over the prime coat (Later?)
- Sand and paint round outside rails, down from Library.
- Fix outside outlet on front side of building.

Outside Grounds

- Staple Typar back onto shed.
- Clapboard shed.
- Grass seed on the front old driveway, burn piles and back lawn.
- Box in with 4 x 4's, swing sets, shed and sand box.
- Fix outside trim by Mr. D's office.
- Clean and repair gutters.

Main Building

- Finish painting and trimming downstairs bathroom.
 - Fill, sand and prime trim throughout buildings.
 - Set up fluorescent lights in Mrs. B's room by sink.
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