

Damariscotta Montessori School

Newsletter

Miss Casey's Primary Class

"Real freedom is a consequence of development."

Dr. Maria Montessori

Miss Sarah's Primary Class

In the classroom, I find homemade play dough to be a fun, and easy alternative to store bought "play-doh." It is quick to make and easy to vary.

I change the color week to week, with endless shades to choose from. Sometimes I also use a few drops of a fragrance oil, providing a pleasant scent as well as further variation.

Homemade Play Dough

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup salt
- 2 T cream of tartar
- 2 Tsp food coloring
- 1 T vegetable oil
- 1 cup water

Directions

1) Mix the flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a medium pot

2) Add water, food coloring and oil

3) Stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes. Don't worry if the mixture looks like a lumpy mess; it's turn into dough

4) When the mixture forms a ball in the center of the pot, turn off the stove and let it cool. Then take it out of the pot and put it onto a floured surface. Knead it several times.

5) Store in the Ziploc bag or airtight container in the fridge.

*Special Note: Due to the high salt level of this playdough recipe, it is potentially toxic to domestic animals and should be handled with care. Make sure your dog doesn't eat it.

Lower Elementary Class

It's been a whirlwind couple of weeks, from the arrival of Nicholas John, to our first full blown snow storm. We enjoyed hosting parents on our 'Bring Your Parents to School' night. It was fun to see the children showing their parents the various materials. Thank you all for coming. Ms. Proffetti had a great art event for us last week. To complement our curriculum, Ms. Proffetti is basing her art lessons on the History of Art Timeline. She brought examples of cave paintings and set the mood for us to experience what it was like back in those early days, when the cavemen produced their beautiful art. With crumpled brown paper, willow stick charcoal, chalk and conte crayons, we recreated those paintings and drawings. This week a large cardboard box, painted to look like a cave, was set up in the corner of the classroom. Children

took turns sitting in the cave and drawing by the light of an (electric) torch.

On Thursday we traveled to Lincoln Academy for the Hartwood production of 'The Snow Maiden'. They did a wonderful job. Especially striking was the richness of the scenery and the costumes, which really evoked the feelings of winter and spring.

In Science this week, the elders completed their booklets of cloud types. The rest of the Lower Elementary were introduced to the phylum of Cnidaria, which includes jellyfish and sea anemones. In Botany, we continue to work on Tree Journals, and to study the leaves of trees. In History we finished the year and its parts in preparation for the Creation Story and Timelines of Life and Man.

Upper Elementary Class

Although a short week with our snow day yesterday, the Upper Elementary had a busy week. We started our new unit in Science this week, "Is our Rain Acid?" The children investigated the pH scale, and experimented with different substances, testing them for acidity with pH paper. In History, we are now studying the colonies of England and France. The timeline this last week focused on the 13 colonies, with particular emphasis on Jamestown, the first colony to survive in the New World. The children are finishing up research on the colony of their choice.

Our Geometry groups have been steadily progressing this year. Of particular interest this week was the study of the Pythagorean Theorem (the formula of "a, squared" plus "b, squared" equals "c, squared" – finding the length of the hypotenuse of a right triangle). This investigation

is done with metal inset material that allows the children to manipulate the squares, built on each side of the triangle, in order to prove the equation. It's another great reminder that the children can comprehend advanced concepts easily when they are broken down into concrete form.

On Thursday, the class visited Lincoln Academy to see the Heartwood Theatre performance of The Snow Maiden. This is a Russian folk tale, and the performance was very well done.

Next week we will be studying the French colonization of North America and the effect of the French and Indian war on the development of the New World. We will continue our study of acids through research in Science, and will start a new novel, Johnny Tremain, in literature.

From Chip's Desk

As you are probably aware, we have begun our Annual Appeal. Each year we make a request for donations to the school to help us continue to provide scholarships, keep tuition to a reasonable level, maintain the building and grounds, and plan for future expansion. Our goal is simple: 100% participation. We are grateful for gifts of all sizes, and thank everyone in advance for their help with this effort.

In January, I will be conducting a two day workshop on Positive Discipline for Parents. The workshop will focus on some theory, but mostly it

is a time to examine practical and time tested tools to help parents help their children to develop inner discipline, cooperation and a healthy sense of self. The workshop will be held on Friday, January 5th and Saturday, January 6th from 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. The cost of the workshop will be \$50 for DMS families (normally a \$250 per participant workshop). Attendees will receive two Positive Discipline books.

Positive Discipline Corner

Listening with our lips closed.

Because it is so difficult for many adults to avoid lecturing or talking too much, it may be helpful to listen with your lips closed. You can let your child know you are listening closely by

saying, "Hmmm. Uh-huh." You may be surprised how much your children will talk more when you talk less.

Thank You

- Kim Inman for your help with the sign board.
- Joey Avantaggio, Liz Profetty and Mary Dee Grant for chaperoning on the Elementary field trip.
- Barbara Fraser and Kim Tolley for helping with the Ruth Monsell silhouettes.
- Yvonne McLean for making our thermometer board for the Annual Fund.

- Vicki Black and Jean Moon for your donation of the “diggers” for the Primary children.
- Jon Villeneuve for putting the “diggers” together.
- Natalie Norris for painting the mural in the bathroom of the Main Building. It’s wonderful!
- Sarah Gorden for organizing the book orders.
- Lee Parsons for fixing the door in the elementary classroom and for the shelf in Sarah’s classroom.
- Teresa Hewson for reading with the children in the elementary classroom.
- Carolina Rushton for teaching Spanish.
- Katie LeBel for publishing the recent press releases.

Announcements and Dates to Remember

- Monday, December 25 – Monday, January 1 – Holiday Break (No School)
- Tuesday, January 2 – Parent’s Association Meeting at 6:00 p.m. (Pizza at 5:30 p.m.)
- Friday, January 5 and Saturday, January 6 – Positive Discipline Workshop from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 per family.

The YMCA has something for everyone!

In January, the Y will offer great new and recurring programs. We have wall climbing for children as young as 5, all the way up to adult classes! The Y also has sport specific clinics all winter long. Check out the brochure for all the details and specific sports (i.e. wrestling, floor hockey, baseball, and more). The fitness department offers an assortment of classes for both parents and children! Gymnastics has a variety of classes for all ages and all levels. Lastly the YMCA has an outstanding Tennis program for ages,3 years old to high school. Please look though the YMCA’s Winter Program Brochure for all the details. All programs can also be viewed at our website, www.clcymca.org.
