

Damariscotta Montessori School

Newsletter

Miss Casey's Primary Class

Miss Sarah's Primary Class

Parents often ask if there are things they can do to support the Montessori philosophy in their home. There are many ways to continue the environment and approach the children are a part of in school in your home.

Here are a few:

- Leave a small pitcher of juice, water or milk in the fridge so that your child can pour his or her own drinks.
- Put low hooks on the wall and create a place for the child's boots. This way the child can get ready for going outside or returning home for themselves.

Lower Elementary Class

We continued our journey of the history of the earth this week using the "Clock of Eras". Instead of measuring the hours of the day, this clock shows us the eras in one revolution of the clock's minute hand, from the birth of our earth, to the present. When we stretched out this time in a linear fashion, using a long illustrated poster, we got our first look at the beginnings of life, from the tiny "bubbles" in the earth's first oceans learning to recreate themselves, to the first recognizable man.. Along the way we saw fish, amphibians, dinosaurs, and strange and familiar plants, as life became more complex and began to move out of the oceans and onto the land. The first and second years will be studying the timeline of life in depth. The third years will begin their studies with the advent of the very first humans.

Upper Elementary Class

This Week: In science this week the children placed their rain collectors outside and collected some of our early week precipitation, measuring the rainfall and pH. Our first results indicate that

"If children are allowed free development and given occupation to correspond with their unfolding minds their natural goodness will shine forth."

- Take away all of your child's toys but their favorite few. This assists the child in looking after the toys and keeping them neat. You can swap in other toys from time to time to keep it interesting. Additionally, store toys on shelves, rather than in a toy bin. This promotes the idea that toys are to be taken care of, and all things have their own place. This way, the child is also able to see exactly what the choices for play are.

In Geography we were introduced to the flag, learning the name of its parts, and how to fly it. We learned that the "Stars and Stripes" is a representation of our country, and how to treat the flag with respect. In Botany we looked at the different types of plant stems, and the children continue their study of the Platyhelminth in Zoology.

In Art this week, the children drew profile portraits of each other, and transformed them into Egyptian paintings, using tempera paint and some gold glitter. Ms. Proffetti showed pictures of the way that the Egyptians drew the profile view of a face, but the front view of the eye. The paintings were great, and will be in our "gallery" for you to see.

the snow from this last snowfall, while acidic (a pH below 7) was not considered "acid rain". We will continue to monitor. Our history studies led us to investigating George Washington and Ben

Franklin in our latest timeline. The children will be doing some research to see if they can stump the class with facts regarding the two founders of our country.

Group math work consisted of the study of divisibility for the younger group (this week divisibility rules of 4), and using the Montessori peg board to study squares, which will eventually lead us into square root.

Our field trip to Portland was a lot of fun. The play, "Freedom Train" was well done, and the

kids had a fine time. The play was about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman. While a bit out of sync with our history study, we took the chance to see it while it was here, and it was well worth it.

Next Week: Next week we will be analyzing our science data further and researching in more detail the causes of acid rain. In history we will be starting our investigation of the Constitution and the formation of the federal government. We will finish up Johnny Tremain and continue on with our research reports.

From Chip's Desk

Next Tuesday, February 6th we will be holding our annual Montessori for Kindergarten and Montessori for Elementary night. Montessori for Kindergarten starts at 5:30 p.m. and is an information and discussion meeting for parents whose children are approaching Kindergarten age. We will talk about the importance of Montessori for the Kindergarten year and what to expect from the Kindergarten year in Montessori. This is a valuable meeting whether you are planning on having your child stay for the Montessori elementary program or transition into public elementary school. On hand will be our Primary staff, other parents of children who are approaching their Kindergarten year, and parents of elementary aged children who have had their children complete the Montessori Primary program (both parents of children in public school and in Montessori).

The Montessori for Elementary meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. that evening, and like the Montessori for Kindergarten, we will address the benefits and elements of our elementary program. On hand will be the staff of the Elementary program as well as parents of children in the program. We hope to see you there!

Valentines Day is quickly approaching. Just a quick note regarding our policy on Valentine's cards/gifts. Please feel free to have your child bring in cards or gifts for everyone in the class. While we don't have a celebration in the classroom we do collect all the cards and gifts and put them in children's bags to bring home. With this in mind, please do not address cards to specific children (i.e. "To John"). Rather, simply address cards with a general greeting like "My friend", "My Valentine", or just "Happy Valentine's Day", and specify who the card is from. This will save your child's teacher hours! Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

We are now at around **60% participation** for the annual fund. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far. Again, our goal is simple: 100% participation. The funds raised help us continue to provide scholarships, keep tuition to a reasonable level, maintain the building and grounds, and plan for future expansion. We are grateful for gifts of any size, and thank everyone in advance for their help with this effort.

Positive Discipline Corner ***Alternatives to Nagging***

Describe what you see. For example, "I notice that the door was left open." This is a great tool, and feels much more respectful and is much

more effective than, "Would you please shut the door, you're letting the heat out!"

Thank You

- Kim Inman for your help with the sign board.
- Bill Hinkley and Teresa Hewson for reading with the children in the elementary classroom.
- Carolina Rushton for teaching Spanish.
- Doug Rushton for publishing the newsletter.
- Katie LeBel for publishing the recent press releases.
- Barb Fraser and Lee Parsons for driving for the field trip.

Announcements and Dates to Remember

- February, 1 – Elementary Re-enrollment begins.
 - Tuesday, February 6 – Montessori for Kindergarten @ 5:30 p.m., Montessori for Elementary @ 7:00 p.m.
 - February 19 – 23 – Winter Vacation (No School)
 - Tuesday, February 27 – Open Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, February 28 – Re-enrollment for Elementary classroom ends, and open enrollment for Elementary begins.
 - Thursday, March 1 – Re-enrollment and enrollment for siblings for the Primary program begins.
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