



# *Damariscotta Montessori School*

## *Newsletter*

### ***Miss Casey's Primary Class***

### ***Miss Sarah's Primary Class***

The days seem to be flying by as we edge ever-closer to June.

Within the classroom, we have begun to change over our unit of study from space to the sea. At this very busy time of year, slowly, but surely, materials, songs and activities are being introduced into the classroom.

We have been enjoying the birds who visit our window feeder, and the children have learned that stillness and quiet keeps the visitors around for longer. Outside, we've observed a variety of little wildflowers coming up on the lawn, while the lilacs are budding and the peach trees are nearly

### ***Lower Elementary Class***

The lowly onion became the representative of our Earth as we began our study of its makeup this week in Geography. We cut open an onion and dipped the face of one half into blue food coloring (temporarily turning Mrs. B. blue). By slightly pushing out the rings of the onion, we studied the concentric circles representing the spheres within spheres that make up the composition of the earth, and identified the different parts.

We continued our study of seeds this week with a presentation of the three part cards, and opening one of our partially germinated bean seeds to see the tiny embryo plant growing inside. Our experimental bean project is progressing. Some of the beans have already

### ***Upper Elementary Class***

This Week: Well, next week is our big trip! I've sent out an email regarding the details, so please be sure to review it and get me any questions that you have.

This week in History we put our focus on the causes and beginnings of the Civil War. This is an incredibly meaty topic, and we could spend

"The child has other powers than ours, and the creation he achieves is no small one; it is everything."

Dr. Maria Montessori

in full blossom. It has been a full cycle experience, as, since the thaw, we've been finding last year's peach pits from the children's summer snacks and overripe, fallen fruits. Although it has been rainy and gray, warmer, sunny days are on the way, and the black flies are coming around. You may wish to begin to send your child with bug repellent, as well as any sunscreen you'd like them to use.

sprouted. We will continue to monitor and record their growth, and see how the plants compare.

Our class has taken on the responsibility of collecting items for recycling in the school. This coming week we will be learning about composting, and begin to plan and develop a new garden.

The Middles and Youngers learned about the Carboniferous period, and the explosion of plant types during this time. The Elders continue to work on their Timeline of Man research. This coming week we will begin to put it all together. In Math, several children are moving on to the checkerboard. This visually attractive material gives them a geometric view of the operation of 2 and 3 digit multiplication into the billions!

half the year studying it, so we're trying to understand a lot in a short time. The timeline this week discussed such topics as The Fugitive Slave Act, which made it illegal to aid and abet slaves who had escaped from the South (or the North, as there were still some slave owners north of the Mason Dixon line in the mid 1800's).

The children are also doing follow up research on the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska act, which really sparked the eventual conflict. We also discussed the story of the Amistad, which is a great movie.

We continued our research on the uses of solar energy and how solar collectors actually work. In math, the oldest children continued their work on square roots (next fall – cube roots – what fun!),

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### **Parent/Toddler Program**

Our next session will start in the fall. Have a wonderful summer!

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### **From Chip's Desk**

We had a great Spring Cleanup, and got a lot done. As you will notice, the back yard is seeded again. This year I purchased some good grass seed, which will hopefully take hold and give us our lawn back! Thank you for your patience on that. We got the old shed floor ripped out, and it now is ready for a new one. We had intended to rip it down, but found that it was in better shape than we thought. Hopefully, we can turn it into a chicken coup! We also got the gravel replaced in the parking lot, the vinyl siding back up on the

while the younger groups were studying fractions with different denominators and an introduction to decimals.

Next Week: Jamestown and Williamsburg! On Monday through Wednesday, our focus will be on further research of the two colonial cities, and we leave for our trip bright and early (well, not so bright at 4 a.m.) on Thursday.

workshop and the sign put back together! Thank you to all who pitched in!!!

This week, on Thursday, we had an unplanned fire drill, as one of the younger children accidentally pulled the fire alarm. So, we got an unexpected but pleasant visit from the Nobleboro Volunteer Fire Department. All was well, however, and we were able to resume school fairly quickly!

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### **Positive Discipline Corner**

#### **Routines (con't)**

Another tip for setting up routines is to have a deadline. When planning the routine, work backward from the deadline to figure out how much time is needed to accomplish the task. For instance, if you want to have housecleaning done by 2 P.M. on Sunday so the family can have time for an outing, think through what the tasks are, how long they will take, and when everyone needs to start.

Notice that most routines involve the whole family. Children cooperate better when everyone works together instead of parents handing kids lists of chores to complete. Establishing routines is key to eliminating all those hassles about bedtime, mornings, mealtime, homework, shopping, and chores.

By Jane Nelson, *Positive Discipline A-Z*, Three Rivers Press, 1999, page 15-16.

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### **Thank You**

- To everyone who helped with the Spring Cleanup – Brian Cookson (donated and delivered wood chips), Bill Fraser (donating and delivering gravel), Mic Lebel, Rory Malloy, Rebekah Smith, Rob Nelson, Mark Andrews, Erin Mitchell, Jon Pinkham, Cory Redonnett, Willie and Susan Wilson.
- Joe Sewall for fixing our hot water heater.
- Kim Inman for your help with the sign board.
- Carolina Rushton for teaching Spanish.
- Lee Parsons for your help with the bottle returns.

### ***Announcements and Dates to Remember***

- Tuesday, May 22nd – Classroom Meeting @ 3:45 p.m. and Community Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
  - Thursday, May 24th – Sunday, May 27th – Upper Elementary Jamestown Trip
  - Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day (No School)
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