

## May Newsletter - Primary Classroom

### Quote of the Month

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

— Gaylord Nelson

Former governor of Wisconsin and co-founder of Earth Day

The children got to experience some fun things in the month of April. They got to do couple of Earth-related activities for 'Earth day' - 22<sup>nd</sup> April: We had set up a work in the Science/Geography shelf which taught them about 'recycling' and also about the things that can be recycled like plastic, cardboard/paper, aluminum and glass by sorting different recyclable materials. We also read a book on how to save our planet.

### Practical Life

- Hammering golf tees on play dough and balancing marbles on the tees.
- Sorting colored shells
- Spooning big buttons
- Tonging earth erasers
- Lot more work which enforces fine motor skills

### Sensorial

- Some friends are working on Large hexagon box and Small hexagon box in which they join triangles to get different four-sided figures like parallelogram, rhombus and trapezoid
- Big and small eggs color matching work
- Smelling jars - To make our friends aware of the ingredients used in the kitchen and to work on the Olfactory sense (Coffee, Cinnamon, Cloves, Cocoa, Vanilla and Rosemary)

### Science

- Parts of a flower
- Types of flowers (Sunflower, Lily, Daisy, Daffodil, Tulips and Marigold)
- Life cycle of a plant - We did an experiment by germinating seeds and got to learn how roots and stem grow from the seed. Some even had leaves growing in them.
- Spring is in the air and so we gave lesson on 'Life cycle of a butterfly' and we do have LIVE caterpillars in our classroom. The children are enjoying each stage of the life cycle of the butterflies. The colorful butterflies will be evolving out of their chrysalis, which will be released in couple of weeks.
- Parts of a plant and how to take care of a plant

- Recycling

### Math

- Some friends are doing a lot of fetching work - they fetch big numbers like 3742 and the quantity associated with the number. Some have started with subtraction.
- Some of my younger friends are working on numbers and counting using different materials

### Language

- Younger friends are being introduced to beginning sounds
- 3 letter CVC words
- 4/5 letter words
- Sight words
- Blends - words which begin with tr, cr, gr, dr, gl, bl, etc.
- Sentences - reading and writing
- Sh, ch words like shoes, ship, church, chalk

### Geography

- **Water cycle** - evaporation, condensation, precipitation, collection (We sing a song associated with this. Please ask your child to sing it for you)

#### Water cycle song

Water travels in a cycle, yes it does (2)  
It goes up as evaporation,  
Forms clouds as condensation and  
Comes down as precipitation, yes it does.

### Art

- Parts of plant
- Solar system - planets artwork
- Mother's day art - will be given on Friday at Mother's day party.

Please remember that in a Montessori classroom, the children do not bring home lots of paper work. Most of what they do is with hands-on manipulative materials. Artwork is also for friends who would like to do, there are some who choose not to do artwork.

April was a month with an unpredictable weather when there were bright sunny warm days and also chilly and cold days. Hope fully the month of May will bring in more sunshine ☺ We will be taking them out everyday except on rainy days.

## May happenings

- 1) Mammals - Parts of a horse
- 2) Greater than, less than work in Math
- 3) Dinosaurs
- 4) Unique way of learning colors and shapes
- 5) Types of penguins

## Dates to remember:

May 11<sup>th</sup> Friday - Mother's day celebration from 10 am to 11am

May 28<sup>th</sup> Monday - School closed (Memorial day)

## Friendly reminders:

1. Outside shoes - preferably sneakers because they run and play in the playground. We do not want anyone to trip and fall with other open toe sandals. If you like to send your child in sandals, please do get ONLY closed toe sandals.
2. I see some friends do not have inside shoes. Please send inside shoes or they will not be able to play outside (it gets dirty when they use same pair of shoes inside and outside)

## There are so many things that you and your child can do together during springtime:

- Take a walk and observe nature - what is the effect of the changing weather or seasons?
- Observe the parts of a leaf found in your yard
- Leave a small bucket of water outside - does it freeze or evaporate?
- Place a ruler in an empty plastic cup outside and measure rainfall together
- Grow a simple herb garden (inside or outside)
- Study animal tracks in the mud
- Visit the library together
- Hang a birdfeeder with birdfeed in your backyard
- The Home Depot offers free workshops for do-it-yourselfers of all ages on the first Saturday of every month. They usually have interesting crafts for your little ones.

Please call the school or email me if you have any questions or concerns. It is never an inconvenience and is always a pleasure to talk to parents. By working together, we can provide the best atmosphere in which our children learn.

Have a wonderful week ahead!!

Sincerely,  
Lakshmi Thiru