



Southampton Montessori School February 9, 2018

Preprimary News

As the saying goes our ship has sailed. We have ventured out from Antarctica all the way to Australia. We are finding that the weather is much warmer and the landscape more interesting than just ice and snow. We have learned that Australia is the smallest continent. It has deserts, mountains, grasslands, beautiful beaches and also the outback. The children are enjoying learning about all the animals that are unique to Australia. There are two mammals that lay eggs and many that are marsupials. The kindergarten children are using books and materials in the classroom to write their research papers about Australia. Do you know what a didgeridoo is? The children listened to the sounds of this strange instrument made by the Aboriginal people. Many of the children thought it sounded like things we hear in nature.

We introduced the geometric solids this week, learning new words like sphere, cube, cone and cylinder. This is just one of many sensorial materials in the Montessori classroom. The children enjoy looking around the environment for objects in these forms. This might be fun to play at home too.

Many activities in the classroom now include hearts in anticipation of Valentine's Day. My greatest joy is being in the midst of children. Their love is pure, given freely with no agenda. Enjoy this very special time in your child's growth

Karen Neubauer

Message from the Assistant Director

As I was working in the office last week, I was struck by how quiet the building was. As I peeked into the classroom to see that all was well, I recognized that I was observing a fully normalized classroom. Normalization is the somewhat awkward term that Montessori used to describe the process wherein the child learns to focus their attention for longer periods of time and gets intrinsic satisfaction from their work. The children increasingly are self-directed and independent and need to rely less and less upon others to help them or structure their activities.

Many parents express surprise when they contrast their child's behavior in the Montessori classroom with their behavior in other settings. This is largely due to the prepared environment. Everything from the physical setting to the teacher's voice and demeanor lend themselves to this normalization process. The students I observed this week were exhibiting spontaneous concentration, an innate love of order and work, and, most importantly, joy in their tasks. I would urge you to make an appointment to observe and see for yourself the tremendous growth that has taken place both individually, and as a group, since the September. Donna Hopping

Spanish News

We continued learning about farm animals in the past week. Older students drew pictures of animales de granja and labelled them with the Spanish word. We learned a Spanish song incorporating each animal and the sound it makes. Finally, we all enjoyed reading about Los Tres Cabras Gruff, those famous goats that outsmart un monstruo (a troll) under un puente. (a bridge)

For Valentine's Day, the children will make tarjetas de San Valentin and play a bean bag toss game with corazones. (hearts)

Donna Hopping, Spanish Teacher

Music News

Hello! My name is Mary Sabo and while it has only been two sessions so far, we have had a wonderful time in music class learning about dynamics in music with our friends Piano the Pig and Forte the Frog. We put this concept into action with the "conductor game!" and as we learned some new songs together. We will also be including instruments into our lessons and move and dance our way as we learn about rhythm and beat this upcoming month! It's been a pleasure meeting all of your children and look forward to being a part of their weekly routine in music!

Art News

Our last two weeks in Art Class have been very busy! We read the book "Patterns" and discussed the many different places we see checks, stripes, dots etc. and how artists use lines, shapes and colors to create them. We then created our own patterns with scented markers and crayon rubbings.

This past Monday, as the children began their unit on Australia, Aboriginal symbols were introduced in Art and inspired the creation of etchings and dot paintings on pretend "tree bark" and "animal skins" made from crumpled paper.

Christina Sahr, Art Teacher



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Important Upcoming Dates!

Thursday, February 15th 2018-
2019 school contracts due

Friday, February 16th 12:00
dismissal all students

Monday, February 19-23 No school

What the hand does, the mind remembers.

Maria Montessori



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