

# Children's Montessori Center Newsletter

March 2010

Thank you for attending the February pot-luck! All of the dishes and desserts were delicious. Thank you, Brooke, for bringing in this Chicken, Rice, and Broccoli hot dish recipe! If anyone else would like to share a recipe from the pot-luck, please send it to school with your child and I will either create a blog of recipes or will copy and paste to other families.

## **Chicken Rice Broccoli**

Recipe Ingredients: 2 cups cooked rice, 1 (package) frozen chopped broccoli (or fresh), 1 stewed (or rotisserie) chicken, 1 can of water chestnuts chopped, 1 can cream of chicken or celery soup, 1/3 cup chopped celery, 1/3 cup onion, 3 Tablespoons butter, 1-2 chopped carrots, 1/2 cup of milk, 1 15oz Cheese Whiz

Sauté onion, celery, butter, add broccoli and carrots, Add rice, chicken, soup, milk, cheese whiz, and water chestnuts. Mix well and heat thoroughly, put into greased 9x13 pan. Cover and bake at 350\* for 45min.

## **Miss Elise and Miss Yuki's Class, Toddlers**

*“Education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment.”*

*-Dr. Maria Montessori*

In February, the toddlers tried an array of activities which challenged their fine motor skills, including hole-punching, peg work with beads, and using our light table for tracing shapes, letters, numbers, and images. They have also been practicing gripping a pencil and drawing a straight line from one point to the next.

North America was a focus as they discovered the interesting animals who live in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The children were

able to match animal figures to their individual habitats on a poster, whether it was the plains, mountains and rocky places, or rivers and lakes. In a collaborative effort, they painted a flag of the United States and colored a bison together, learning some parts of the buffalo – the cape, bonnet, and beard. We focused on bears as well, reading stories such as “Bear Snores On” and singing “The Bears Go Marching”.

The children enjoyed some celebrations in the month of February. For our Valentine’s Day Friendship party, they took great pride in placing a valentine in each box, knowing it would make their friends feel happy. Making hearts from the metal inset shapes and seeing how the shapes fit together was a highlight as well. They especially enjoy exploring different celebrations around the world. They learned about Chinese New Year and that this is The Year of the Tiger. The Olympics were a very special celebration and themes such as peace and competitions were discussed in group times. They found out which games are played on the snow and ice. They discovered the colors of the Olympic rings and made them from pipe cleaners. We were also excited to celebrate some friends in our class turning three years old!

Self-regulating skills are being developed each and every day. The children are learning to put a hand on the teacher’s shoulder and wait for a turn to speak if she is speaking with another child, instead of interrupting. “May I please have.....?” is a sentence that is music to our ears as they learn to use good words to ask for something. Many friends voluntarily use this phrase already!

We welcome the coming of Spring in March with anticipation. The toddlers have already painted special pictures of spring flowers with a sweetened condensed milk mixture. We look forward to identifying the parts of a plant, especially through songs and puzzles. We will plant seeds as well. Mid-March we will focus on the continent of Europe and explore countries such as Italy, France, and Ireland.

## **Miss AnneMarie and Miss Gena's Class, Preschool**

This coming month of March our focus will be on Spring and the wonder and growth and emergence of new things. The joy of our school comes from the children's sense of wonderment and awe as they explore, touch, smell, write, read, build, paint, etc. We, as educators, observe and listen to the children to know where to lead the classroom. In truth, the children teach us.

Science and nature will involve various activities with planting and watching the growth of roots, stems, and leaves. Practical life and sensorial activities will naturally incorporate explorations into the senses and skills of digging, filling pots, smelling dirt, watching the snow melt and earth thaw, watering, labeling the seed plants, etc. Geography and culture will extend into the animals and their different habitats, including the geographical study of islands, lakes, oceans, mountains, deserts, etc. Flaps and multicultural stories will continue, along with our continent journey into Africa using the above lessons.

Reading and writing activities by the children amaze us every day. The older children are creating their own beginning reading books, writing words phonetically, and illustrating their stories. The younger children are working with beginning sounds. The use of sandpaper letters and numbers are being used with tracing letters and numbers in shaving cream and cornmeal as a sensorial extension. The metal insets will be used in upcoming art projects involving painting with different medium.

The children love Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the gym! If only we could harness all that energy!

Happy Spring!

**"The ancient saying, 'There is nothing in the intellect which was not first in some way in the senses', and senses being explorers of the world, opens the way to knowledge." Maria Montessori.**

## **Miss Brittany's Class, Preschool**

At the beginning of February, we continued to study our continent of North America by painting a large map together and locating where all the animals on the continent live, puzzles, making sand continents, talking about the different people that live on our continent and their flags, and reading lots of books! After a fun week of celebrating Valentine's Day, we started studying the continent of Antarctica, talking about how cold it is outside but how Antarctica is the coldest place on earth, what kind of animals live there, making animal books, painting pictures of the continent and ending by watching a DVD about penguins! For Sign Language, besides the 8 letters and 24 words we know, we have also learned the letters I, J and K and the words I, ice cream, I love you, jacket, jump, kid, kite and kitchen! We have changed our lesson a little bit, we all sing the alphabet a little different, (we like to see how fast Miss Brittany can sign all the letters!), and we all sit in our own chair, which we think is pretty neat! We are all looking forward to March and spring coming! We will be doing lots of works with science, studying dinosaurs and their habitats, sorting magnets to see what they are attracted to and what they are not, we will continue to study the plants in our classroom by learning how to clean them, water them and learn the different parts of a plant with nomenclature cards. Later in the month, we will be studying the continent of South America as well as learning about birds at our bird watching area, filling our bird feeder and learning different parts of a bird! Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the Potluck! Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and the children like to see each other in a different school setting! Thank you also to Brady's Grandma and Grandpa for bringing the whole class bracelets with our names back from Jamaica! We all like them very much!!

**“Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them.” --- Maria Montessori**

## **Miss Mary's Class, E-1**

The children are looking forward to spring and the snow melting. We will continue our Friday field trips to the Senior Center every other Friday. I love watching the children interact with the seniors while they eat lunch together. March will also be our last month bowling for the school year. On the 12<sup>th</sup> we will not need drivers but parents are more than welcome to come and explore the big snow mountain next to the school. Thank you parents for all your help as we go on our weekly field trips, the students look forward to them and we wouldn't be able to go without you.

Math and the month of March means introduction to addition for the kindergarteners, multiplication for the first graders and division for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. All the students are excelling in their number knowledge. The kindergarteners have been looking at digital and analog clocks for the last two weeks, telling time to the hour.

During the month of March we will study the continent of Africa. In science the children will look at the amphibian (frog), the reptile (turtle), and the bird. The second graders will start animal reports on each of the different classes of animals.

If you have a beginning reader at home have fun sounding out all the words they see every day in their environment. There are words all around them in the kitchen, bathroom, etc. Encourage them, let them sound out words and help them when they ask for a sound but let them do most of the work because they can!

“Education is not something which the teacher does. It is a natural process which develops spontaneously.” ~Maria Montessori