

Children's Montessori Center Newsletter

December 2009

Thank you all for the wonderful contributions to our Thanksgiving Feast!
Happy Holidays, Miss Camille

Upcoming Events:

December 2	Moorhead High School Carolers visit the school
Mid-December	Classrooms will make gingerbread houses
December 10	Bell Ringing for Salvation Army (E1) 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
December 11	Hanukkah Art Projects
December 14	Book donations to children at White Earth due
December 15	Children's Program at Carlson Library 6:30 p.m.
December 18	non-uniform day & Christmas Carols with Mr. Jason

Miss Elise and Miss Yuki's Class, Toddlers

We began, in November, by learning about the concept of the layers of the Earth by exploring a play dough model cut in half. We also discovered how we are able to share in many different ways. The children took ownership of and decorated their own box for the Thanksgiving food drive. We set up a restaurant table where the children are able to use many Practical Life skills including table setting, manners, and cleaning up after they are finished. We also introduced a "talking stick" in group time, decorated with beads and feathers, to show the importance of talking turns to talk.

In their Language development, the children are absorbing language every day. One fun word they have enjoyed using is "cornucopia" and learning about it's significance. Also, in Language, Miss Yuki has begun to have specific Japanese lessons once a week with the children. In the month of December, we will focus on the introduction of the continents through song, puzzles, and matching activities. A major focus will also be the joy of the season, including making gingerbread houses, practicing for our program, and exploring how children celebrate throughout the world during this time. Thank-you, always,

parents, for your support!

"We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry."

-Dr. Maria Montessori

Miss AnneMarie and Miss Gena's Class

November's focus was on language enrichment: writing in journals, tracing metal insets and stencils, drawing and storytelling. Beginning reading books and picture storybooks have been of interest with all the children. We see the emergence of "book clubs" with the children spontaneously gathering in the book corner to "tell" stories in their own words. December is a month of natural curiosity and wonder which will be encouraged by creating winter scenes of snowmen, stars, trees and presents with the metal insets. We will also be decorating the classroom, designing a snow village, wrapping presents and making and decorating gingerbread houses. We will introduce some celebrations that occur around the world; Hanukkah, Christmas, Santa Lucia (Sweden) St. Nicks Day, (Italy, Germany) and learning some of their traditions, food and crafts . We be exploring the continents through songs, tracing works and designing animal habitats in a winter landscape. The light table will be used for writing and tracing works and other sensorial explorations with light and color. A special thank you to Joey's dad, Joel, for making a beautiful light table for our classroom!

"The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences." Dr. Maria Montessori

Miss Brittany's Class, Preschool

November went by so fast, we blinked our eyes and it was already break for Thanksgiving! We have started having a word of the day, or every other day, which we then incorporate into short stories during group. Older friends spell them out every day with the Moveable Alphabet and the younger friends are being introduced to the idea, too. With Sensorial, we are starting to catch on to the zipper dressing frame and some of us are now able to zipper our own coats!

Every day we are also learning a new Geometric Solid. We enjoyed making batter for pumpkin bars. We all had a chance to participate by adding ingredients and stirring. The children watched me make frosting. What a mess! They each spread frosting on the bars. The bars were our special snack the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you to all the parents who attended conferences, even though we are usually able to talk every day, it was so nice to be able to sit down and talk one on one with each of you. In December we will be studying space, making holiday ornaments, making gingerbread houses, learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and talking about Christmas. We are preparing for our program on December 15th, and are getting very excited!!

"My home is a sphere that turns around the sun. It is called Earth." Maria
Montessori

Miss Mary's Class, E-1

Through the month of November we looked at the parts of plants and the continent of South America. We continued to look at numbers and letters individualized to the student's needs. Last month we ordered a metal inset set for our classroom. The children have been creating wonderful works and exploring many shapes. The metal insets can be traced and turned into patterns and designs. They also can be traced onto construction paper and pin punched out, all these activities help with the children's prehensile grip. In

December we will continue to work on number knowledge whether learning numbers 11-19, 10-90, adding, or subtracting. We also will conclude our study of the parts of plants in Kindergarten and first grade this month. With December being a short month and as the weather is beginning to get cold we will study the continent of Antarctica. We will include a study of different holidays celebrated during the month of December with a Hanukkah celebration on the 13th and a Christmas celebration on the 18th. The children have enjoyed going to the Senior Center and learned a new game from the Seniors called Mexican Train. Many of the children have enjoyed playing this game of thinking and matching on Mondays. We look forward to performing our program songs for the Seniors on the 4th. Thank you parents for your help and support especially driving to our field trips.