

Seahorse News

MAY SANDS



MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Parent Conferences

Progress reports were sent home on the 18th of January. Meetings with parents have been taking place each Friday since the 25th. I appreciate this time to discuss your child's progress, not only in academic areas, but also in the more intangible areas of growth – social/emotional and work habits. Dr. Montessori observed that fostering concentration, decision making and independence in the young child is education of the whole child and leads to success for the individual and his/her community.

You are invited:

- 3:30 to 4:00 Every Thursday . The Seahorse classroom is open to you and your child. Please plan on coming in with your child if he/she would like to show you around or share a work with you.
- To email me any time at Suzanne.renouf@keysschools.com for an update or to ask a question about your child or any May Sands Montessori related topic.

May Sands Montessori School is a School of Choice.

The Seahorse class celebrated School Choice week by reading *Our Peaceful Classroom*. This beautiful book by Aline Wolf is illustrated by children who attended Montessori schools around the world. We used it to discuss just what it means to be a Montessori school...choice, peaceful community, sharing etc. We introduced the fact that each of our families has made a very specific choice to have them attend May Sands. As an art project, the children then illustrated their favorite aspect of our community. Please stop by the front office and check out their original art which is hanging in the hallway.

THANK YOU,

To all the families who helped out during our classroom clean up day over the winter break:
Noah, Julius, Sienna, Jerry, Zolina.

**Please remember to log
service hours in the
front office.**

Shelves and windows were washed, materials meticulously dusted, carpets cleaned, and the outdoor environment beautified.

We appreciate you!

Snack Reminders:

Week of
February 11:
Lili

Week of
February 19:
Roland

Week of
February 26:
Tyler

Week of
March 4:
Sienna

- ◇ The Seahorse Class is a NUT FREE environment.
- ◇ Please No NUTS in lunches or snacks.
- ◇ Suggestions □ Whole fruits, vegetables, hummus, sun butter, cheese, Greek yogurt, whole grain crackers or breads.

Science

We are finishing up our unit on vertebrate animals. We have covered:

- Mammals
- Birds
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish

Children enjoyed learning characteristics of each classification, types of each animal group, making booklets of the parts of a sample from each group. Children are especially enjoying choosing animal facts from books and writing science their own reports complete with illustrations.

We will start invertebrate classification next week.

Geography

We read a book about Chinese New Year this week and are making paper lanterns to celebrate the Year of the Pig. This closes out our Celebration of Light unit.

The countries of North America were introduced with the puzzle map.

We continue to work on:

- Creating pin-punched or traced maps of each continent individually.
- Using our United States map to show distance whenever friends travel or family visits.
- Work with the seasons, months, calendar, personal addresses etc.
- Introduced our new clock and its parts.

Great Reads:

- <https://marenschmidt.com/2009/08/in-a-twitter/> is an article by Maren Schmidt on why it is important to build concentration and independence in young children.
- http://ageofmontessori.org/montessori-stages-of-development-for-early-learning/?fbclid=IwAR0kfqwZD-96mbBRkDTckruk_AobD4Z_Q8PDaV8shF5GM-TJ0Yvs86bn2mk is an article, quite lengthy actually, on Montessori Stages of Development for Early Learning.

New Schedule

We have added new components to our afternoons, including:

- Buddy reading with the Middle School on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 2:30
- Community Service on campus once a week, so far, we've been pulling weeds and cleaning up.

Farewell and Good Luck

It sometimes happens that families in our small community make life changes and transitions during the school year. Over the winter break Ruby made a move across country and Jerry transferred to another school. This was a good opportunity for us to take a moment as a class and let each know how important he/she has been as a friend and classmate. The children made cards wishing them well and letting them know they will be missed. We are sure that we will see Ruby and Jerry again soon.