

Happy Saturday Sea Turtle Families!

This week flew by so quickly - yet in class, our young friends were engaged with their work, bonded together during creative activities, listened to lesson-stories, and enjoyed their enrichment classes: Yoga & Music. Thank you to our very own Sea Turtle parent, Ms. Brielle, for teaching Yoga to our entire school-family! *A gentle reminder: please have your child bring their own personal Yoga mat if you have not yet done so - they are welcome to stay at school in their lockers.

Another weekly highlight was our *Second Great Lesson*. It is a tale about the *Timeline of Life* and the various theories around how life began on our very special Earth. This is an absolute icebreaker with your child! Ask them facts about what they learned, what they imagined the first invertebrates looked like, or what the great megafauna creatures were like (giant mammals 😊)? Oh, and don't forget to ask them what our closest relatives are to dinosaurs?!

Classroom Pet

As you may already know, we welcomed, *Shifu Moogway*, a Russian or Afghan Tortoise (goes by many names), to our class this week. Many of our young friends have been inspired to do research and will be sharing facts as they go with the rest of the class. We had a great talk about the importance of Turtles/Tortoises and cultural myths about them in places like Japan and China - where they are sacred creatures representing longevity, power, and tenacity. The name *Shifu* - is traditional Chinese for "Teacher" or "Master" and *Moogway*, simply means "female tortoise."

I would like to generate funds for food and additional supplies (if needed) for our adorable class pet and I am thinking of ideas for a small fundraiser. If you are interested in helping me out with this project, please reach out to me (school service hours will be applied). Also, if you are interested in hosting Moogway during long breaks, please contact me privately as well.

Snack Attack!

We have a generous amount of community snacks in our classroom. If your week is coming up, please look out for my request form in the *Communication Folder* that goes home every Friday because there may be a chance that instead of purchasing food items, I may ask you to bring in a bouquet of flowers. One lovely Montessori tradition that I would like to practice this year is to have mini practical life lessons on sorting and arranging flowers. I appreciate your attention to this detail 😊

Academics

Each child was assigned their very own, brand new, Chrome book computer this week. I am happy to say that the children handled them very responsibly and most remembered their log-in and password information from last year. Chrome books are a useful tool and will be used mainly for independent research; STAR assessments; IXL (a great program to practice skills across all subject areas); EPIC (a fantastic reading program); and typing practice. There will be designated and limited times to use the computers, as I would like to preserve our 3-hour work cycle to hands-on learning and less screen time.

Spell-O-Mania! Starting next week, I would like to have our students begin to practice their spelling and on Fridays, have a spelling *practice (quiz)*. It is not something that I would like for them to be nervous about, in fact, it is for their own benefit! Our first years will be choosing 6-8 words, second years up to 8 words, and third years 10 words. The words they choose to study for the week will be from the set of colorful drawers in the classroom, or from any reading material they like.

School Events

Family Movie Night set for **Friday, September, 17th**. It is a fun outdoor event where we will be showing the movie *Luca*. Admission is free with a \$5/person suggested donation at the door. A Large Cheese Pizza can be pre-ordered for \$12 and popcorn/drinks can be purchased as well.

Campus Tidy Up will be hosted on our campus **Saturday, September 18th 8:00am - Noon**. This is a great opportunity to complete double service hours. Carpets in the Sea Turtle classroom still need to be power washed. 😊

We invite all our families to join us for a *Montessori Peace Day Parade* together with our Sister School, The Montessori Children's School, to honor International Day of Peace. We will begin our march at **9:00am, Tuesday, September 21st**, and walk together to Bayview Park. Once there, the two schools will share their intentions for peace and exchange symbols of peace. **To support everyone's health and safety, both schools will implement physical distancing and masking at this event.** We plan to return to school by 10:00am.

Thank you everyone and have a fantastic weekend!

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