

THE PARENT CONNECTION

From Ms. Usha's Desk:

The Wonders of Nature: A Necessary Staple for the Young Child

In our Montessori classrooms, where "respect" for self, others and earth is woven into the very fabric of our curriculum, we believe that young children need physical and psychological immersion in "nature" to develop qualities of reverence and wonder for the Universe.

Sensory experiences lead to sensitivity, awareness and knowledge. In the Preschool classrooms, the Science Curriculum includes various exercises in classification, matching, sorting and labeling various life forms (e.g. leaves, flowers, trees, fish, frogs, etc...) In the Kindergarten and Elementary classrooms, the Science program begins with the "Story of the Universe," a study of planets and ends with the study of "The Coming of Life" and then "Man." All knowledge is thus presented as a vision of the big picture with the study of Nature and Science.

Dr. Maria Montessori realized that with increased urbanization, children were more and more removed from Nature and the resilience, intelligence and stamina that develops when you are immersed in it. Rachel Carson in her beautiful book, "A Sense of Wonder," spoke of how long, slow walks with her nephew allowed her to share things that people ordinarily deny children because they are inconvenient, interfere with bedtime or involve clothing that has to be changed.

In the home; parents may find some of the following tips useful to retain that curiosity and wonder in children which has led to the greatest explorations and discoveries by scientists:


- Plan a trip to a National Park this summer instead of a theme or water park.
- Give children long, uninterrupted (perhaps barefoot) time in farms, gardens or meadows.
- Camp in your backyard on a warm summer night and listen to crickets or watch the stars.
- Go for a walk with your child (without the smart-phone) and stop when he/she wants to. Check out the earthworms, the flowers, the rocks or leaves that he/she wants to.
- Adopt or plant a tree in your yard. Visit it regularly, measure its girth, take pictures of it at different times and seasons. Observe the fruit, seeds, flowers, trunk, insects or birds that call it their home.
- Make a "Nature Table" in your family room with a magnifying glass, a microscope and books on Nature. Encourage your child to bring in specimens to discuss, observe and look up facts.
- Check the temperature and weather and then go outside to actually feel, touch and experience the weather.
- Have your child keep a "Nature Journal" and jot down observations, draw pictures or write notes about it.
- Adopt an animal (cat, dog, fish, or bird) then have your child care for it. It is an invaluable experience for a child to feel competent and be responsible for another being.

Experiences like these will foster deep and joyful impressions in children that create

memories for a lifetime. As Dr. Maria Montessori said, "The gifts of Nature are the most satisfying toys for the child."

The Seasons Are What A Symphony Ought To Be; Four Perfect Movements In Harmony With Each Other

Usha Mangrulkar
Founder/Director

Ms. Usha Recommends:
"I Am" a documentary about how all of life on earth is interdependent and interrelated. 

OFFICE NOTES

- **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM** It is not too late to try our Hot Lunch Program. Each entrée comes with a fruit or vegetable (peaches, oranges, carrots, etc...) and a healthy snack (animal crackers, pudding, pretzels, etc...). The lunch service is conscientious of portion amounts and making sure each entrée is cut into child friendly sizes.
- **NOTES/PAYMENTS:** Please hand important papers to a staff member and check your child's backpack daily for school notes.
- **CHILDREN'S BELONGINGS:** It is very important that you label the child's belongings including the lunchbox, backpack, shoes, coats, mittens, hats, sweaters, and anything else that you would like returned.
- **EXTRA CLOTHING BOX:** With the changing season, parents, please check your child's box to make sure the appropriate clothing is available in case they need it. Please return fresh clothing the next day if clothing is sent home to be cleaned.
- A great **BIG HUG** and **THANK YOU** to... THE BURELLE FAMILY for collecting and organizing the Box Tops donations.

- **OUTSIDE RECESS:** Please dress the children appropriately for the weather. They do go outside everyday if the weather is above 20 degrees.

FOR CURRENT PARENTS ONLY - Enroll by March 31, 2011 and receive a waiver of your registration fee. To receive this waiver ALL forms and fees must be completed and submitted to the office.

PARENT REFERRAL PROGRAM
We continue to offer a 'Parent Referral Program' to our currently registered parents. When a currently registered parent recommends our Montessori school to a new enrollee, which results in registration, he/she will receive a waiver on the registration fee for one child. Please contact the school office for details.

LAMC WEBSITE
Go to our website at www.MiMontessori.com watch for upcoming events, learn what is new in the school, etc...
Stay connected!



- Thank You so Much! **VALENTINE'S DANCE VOLUNTEERS:** The parents who made the dance such a wonderful extra event. It took a true labor of love!



NEWS FROM MS. ROXANNE'S CLASS ELEMENTARY



It's hard to believe that Spring is right around the corner! We are looking forward to the weather and new growth that comes with this season.

The Elementary students learned many new poems from their Poetry in a Jar Power Reading Club assignment. The poems presented were memorized by each student and the "poetry jars" are on display in our classroom.

Our school theme is "Planet Earth". We have had many new lessons that include knowledge about the earth and they include how the sun affects the earth, the composition of the earth, and the beginning of life on earth.



- **Mark Your Calendar:**
SPRING CONCERT AND KG GRADUATION
Tuesday, May 15, 2012 @ 6:30pm
Walled Lake Central High School
(NO PM Daycare on this Day.)
- **KINDERGARTEN RECEPTION**
Friday, June 1, 2012 - 9:00 am

In history, we will begin the study of the Fundamental Needs of Man. **In Science**, the Clock of Eras will be presented and then we will start the study of the Timeline of Life. **Geography** is taught at different levels, some groups will be working on the study of South America; others will be studying Australia or the U.S.A. We are **reading and writing** every day in school and would like to be sure that each student is getting into the habit of reading at home. **In Math**, we are working on place value and money. Please remember to work on memorization of math facts at home.

Ms. Roxanne, Directress
Ms. Leslie & Ms. Elyse



NEWS FROM MS. RAMA'S CLASS PRE-SCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN ROOM 1

Valentine day celebration was a reminder for us to express our love to others around us. Love for family, friends, and nature. We got to talk about children around the world too.

March is a busy month in class. Children are working with the Montessori materials and also reading skills. April brings our study of new beginnings such as sprouting seeds, new buds, and life cycle of birds and flowers. **Planet Earth** is the school theme for this year. We will be working on topics like recycling, saving water etc. Children will also make their own earth puppets.

Character building through responsibility is an on-going topic in our class. Each kindergartner has roles and responsibilities in the class. The junior students watch and learn from what the seniors are doing.

In **Math**, the children have worked on counting money and matching activity. Please allow them to count the money in their piggy bank. It is fun and they are learning! A few children have started skip counting by 5's, 10's and 2's.

In **Language**, the children are working on moveable alphabets and blending. Many are proud that they are reading already. They are now learning to write sentences. Additional reading at home and visiting the library would help. The Kindergartners are busy doing their journals, learning poetry and spelling tests on Monday's.

Celebrating Dr. Suess's Birthday. In the month of March we will be reading a few of his books which will reinforce Rhyming Concepts.



In **Practical Life**, we will be doing more "food preparation". The children enjoyed peeling, cutting and tasting. We baked a heart shaped cake for 'Valentine's Day'. Involve the children to help you at home in cutting and grating activity.

In **Geography**, we will be doing the continents of Europe and Asia, focusing on countries like Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, China, India, Japan and Russia. You are welcome to come and talk about these countries to the class.

In **Science**, we will be focusing on fish, birds and seeds.

The kindergartners need to start planning their chosen project for the Science Fair.

Upcoming Topics and Activities

- Earth Day
- Recycling
- St. Patrick's Day
- Birds

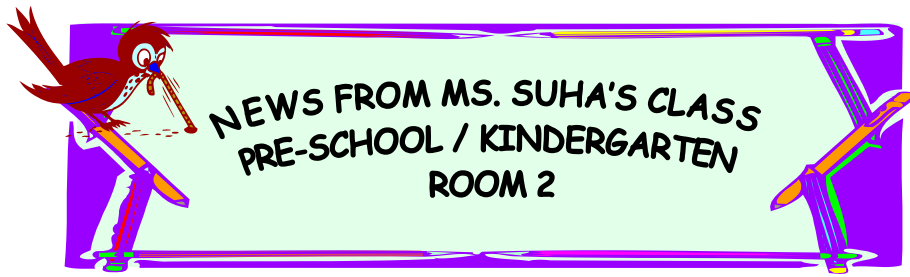
Children enjoyed working with parents during "**Bring your parent to work day.**" Those parents who could not make it are welcome to visit our class by calling the office to set up an appointment.

Happy Earth Day,
Sincerely,

Ms. Rama, Directress

Ms. Tiffanie, Ms. Susan, Ms. Mandy, Ms. Buchi





Spring is just around the corner and we can look forward to warmer days, flowers blooming and hopping bunnies. In the classroom, the children are excited to enjoy more outdoor time and a variety of spring activities.

Practical Life & Sensorial:

In practical life the children will be grating cheese, peeling carrots and using different objects to pour liquids (baster and dropper). In Sensorial we will be experimenting with different extensions using the Montessori material. One all time favorite is using the all the knobbed cylinders and the knobless cylinders to make a pyramid.

Math:

The focus in Math will be on number writing. It is very important that your child practice the correct formation of the numbers on a daily basis. Try to practice one number a week and encourage him/her to write that number on a chalkboard/on paper. For the older children our focus will be working with the long chains counting to 1000.

Language and Writing:

Many of the older children continue to work on their reading and comprehension skills. Some children will be learning more about grammar (-eg. nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.) They will learn to differentiate each one when reading a sentence.

When possible try to visit the Library with your child and share some reading time with them. This



is a great opportunity to listen to your child read and ask them questions about what they are reading-Who are the characters, what is happening in the story, where is the story taking place? How are the characters feeling? This is a special time that your child will always cherish.

Science and Geography:

We will be learning about the continent of Africa and its culture. While studying about the different continents, the children have been using the computer to do extensions relating to that specific continent. Also, our Science fair is coming up soon so make sure you look for more information on it. As part of our Planet Earth theme I encourage children to start thinking of topics that relate to that theme.

Thank you to Parents:

Thank you to all the families for providing us with the nutritious snacks.

I would also like to congratulate all the children for making it through the 100th day of school. All together we read 169 books. We sang songs about the 100th day and counted our items. This has helped the children learn to sequence, as well as count by twos, fives and tens.

Thank you,

Ms. Suha, Directress

Ms. Fran, Ms, Ann, and Ms. Amber

Adopt An Animal

In Keeping with our "Planet Earth" Science theme for the 2011-2012 school year – we would like to adopt an animal at the Detroit Zoo. We have raised \$285 towards our goal of \$1,000!

Thank you to the families that have donated thus far!

We have a long ways to go...





TODDLER NEWS ROOM 3

The children are really getting down to work, they have extended their work cycle to one and half hours on most days. We are introducing the children to one consonant a week and scavenging the room for things that begin with that sound. It's like a treasure hunt and everyone is getting involved. Show and Tell beginning with that sound emphasizes this activity and the children love it. We will be continuing this activity until the end of the year. We have also been learning about animals and their habitats. We've learned about fish, amphibians and reptiles. We are looking forward to learning about birds and mammals. In April we are going to study everyone's favorite dinosaurs.

We really enjoyed our visits from the magician, the dental hygienist and the zoo. On Valentine's Day we made and enjoyed Friendship Fruit Salad. Scooping melon balls was lots of fun.

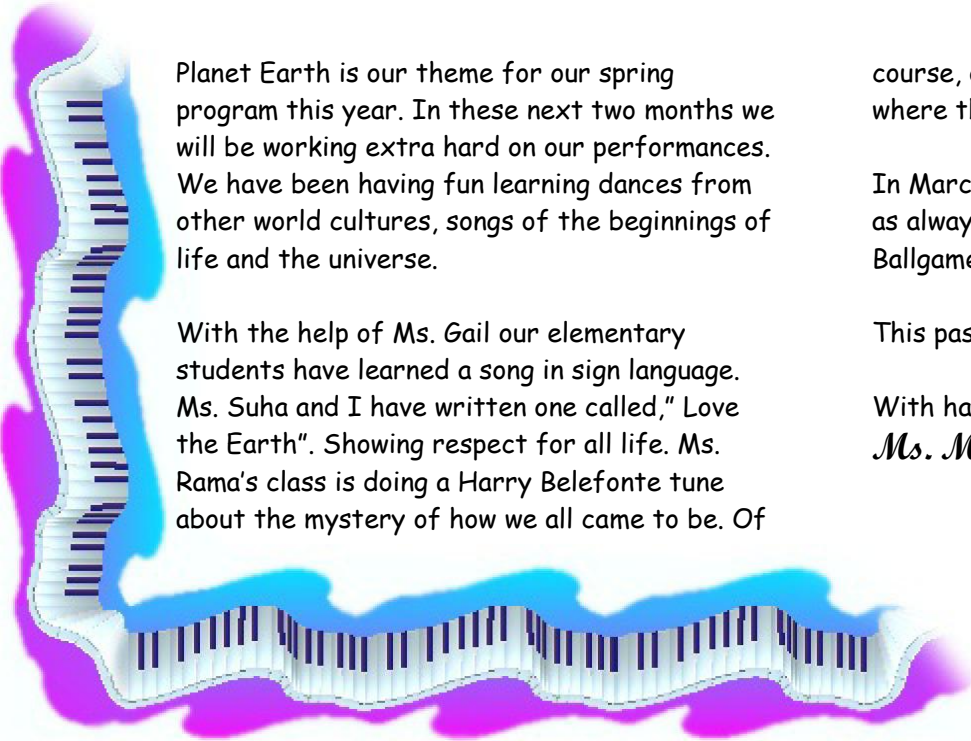
In preparation for next year we will be starting to transition the toddlers by visiting the Pre-K classrooms at various times.

We have totally enjoyed this mild Michigan winter, but still look forward to Spring, budding trees and the return of our swan friends.

The Toddler Staff,
Ms. Gail, Directress and Ms. Michelle
Ms. Sherry and Ms. Buchi



Music News



Planet Earth is our theme for our spring program this year. In these next two months we will be working extra hard on our performances. We have been having fun learning dances from other world cultures, songs of the beginnings of life and the universe.

With the help of Ms. Gail our elementary students have learned a song in sign language. Ms. Suha and I have written one called, "Love the Earth". Showing respect for all life. Ms. Rama's class is doing a Harry Belafonte tune about the mystery of how we all came to be. Of

course, our delightful toddlers love the tunes where they get to wiggle and move!

In March, we cover Irish music and dance, and as always in April, we sing, "Take me Out to The Ballgame," for opening day.

This past school year has really flown by!

With harmony,
Ms. Marianne

SPANISH NEWS

We reviewed all the past vocabulary and daily greetings in each class.

Our vocabulary for the following months are:

LA ROPA (THE CLOTHES)

vestido - dress
pantalon - pants
camiseta - t-shirt
zapatos - shoes
chaqueta - jacket
botas - boots
calcetas - socks
guantes - gloves

EXPRESIONES (EXPRESSIONS)

estoy feliz - I am happy
estoy triste - I am sad
estoy enojado - I am mad
estoy enfermo - I am sick



VOCABULARY

conejo - bunny
huevos - eggs
canasta - basket
flores - flowers

We play a lot with the flashcards, bingo, hot potato!! They love it!!!
I really enjoy teaching your child Spanish !

Songs: " Xuxa show " " La lechuza " " Cho-co-la-te "

FELIZ CUARESMA!

Gracias,
Senora Melba

Physical Education News

With this mild winter almost over, we are enjoying exercising indoors. We are happy with the ground hogs good news.....spring is just around the corner.

Projects: We continue working on the Presidents Physical Fitness Program. The shuttle run is a favorite with the children. It is a competitive race where the children must run 30 feet and pick up one block, return the block to the start and then run and get the second block and return.

We have practiced throwing and catching balls, in addition to our weekly program of sit-ups, push-ups, and numerous stretching exercises.

We review how important proper nutrition is. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Spring is on its way, we are very excited to continue with our outdoor activities which will include soccer, relays race among some of our fun activities!!

Staying Fit,

Mr. Roby



AFTERCARE NEWS

Spring is right around the corner. The children will be going outside as the weather gets warmer. We have spent a lot of time indoors. The children are looking forward to spending some time outside. While having to be indoors the children have enjoyed playing with their friends, doing crafts, and having dance parties.

We have a great group of kids this year in aftercare. They all enjoy playing and spending time together.

Ms. Fran, Ms. Gail, Ms. Ann, Ms. Terrie and Ms. Mandy

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.”



“Bring Your Parent To Work Day”
What a huge success! Thank you to all the parents who were able to spend a day with their child in their classroom. However, if you have not had a chance to join your child for a morning of classroom work and fun, please call the office to schedule a day that is convenient for you. Please note, unfortunately we were not able to picture every parent that participated in “Bring Your Parent To Work Day” in this newsletter.

