

CMA NEWSLETTER

April 2005

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Sherie de Mel

When we decided that Montessori would be our life we did not realize that the greatest benefit is always to witness the progress that children make from day to day and the enjoyment in achieving what they set out to do for themselves. Our reward today is realizing that the decisions we made 25 years ago were the right decisions for us. Our satisfaction in teaching teachers who then continue to care for and help children always gladdens our hearts.

We are participating in the American Montessori Society's Annual Conference. It feels good to learn and contribute to the future of Montessori. As well as getting new ideas and materials for our classrooms.

HEADLINES

Founders Day 29th April

We are proud to be celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Come and celebrate with us and track our history through our photo gallery.

Last year our school participated in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart event. We successfully raised money for the Foundation and received vouchers for new sports equipment.

On Founders Day, Leslie Giddings and the Elementary students will host the HOOPS for HEART event. This event focuses on activities with balls in order to develop skills for basketball. The opportunity to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation will be available for every

family. Students in the Primary and Elementary divisions will participate in the event itself.

Parents are asked to keep their eyes open for extra basketball nets as they cruise the spring garage sales. If you have one to donate please speak to your classroom teacher. Also we will be asking for parent volunteers on the event day so be on the lookout for notices.

Uniform Clothing Sale

Order Uniforms for September NOW and SAVE.

On the 29th of April – Founders Day – All in stock uniform will be available at **5% off the Current Prices**. Uniform fitting facilities will be provided along with samples of all available in stock styles and sizes.

In order to have uniform orders delivered by the start of school in September the manufacturer needs orders in by the 20th of May.

On the 20th of May – Family Day – **New Pricing takes Effect!** Uniform Fitting facilities will be provided. Orders will be delivered by late August in time for the start of the new school year.

A note on sizing – if uniform ordered in May is too large or small in September it can be exchanged for the correct size at no charge – as long as the item has not been used or washed.

Parent Workshop 30th April

Why parents should come?

Many parents want to know how to support their child's learning at home. Telling the time is an

important skill that parents help their children learn. Leslie Giddings will present strategies for teaching how to tell time with an analog clock as part of the Elementary workshop.

Bake Sale

Bake sale is going great. We have met and surpassed our goal of \$300! Thanks to all participants we are able to order our animal specimens and now are trying to choose some different materials to order. I know some of you will be sad to see us stop our baking enterprise, but not to worry, we are thinking of other great ways to brighten up your day and raise some money at the same time.

Thanks again!

March Break

Infant Camp

We had 7 children for our March Break week this year. Our March break theme was 'Gymnastics and Science'. To keep with the theme we did a lot of gross motor activities such as rolling around, running, doing kicking exercises, crawling through the tunnel and so on--- the little gymnasts were very busy and active. We also did a lot of art activities such as finger-painting, gluing and sponge painting. In addition, we sang songs and marched around the classroom to music! The week was a blast! And everyone who participated had loads of fun!

Toddler Camp

Eleven children registered for our Toddler's Science camp at Pinecrest. We were very pleased to welcome 3 toddlers from Fieldrow. The children enjoyed many science experiments, some of the favorites were static electricity, sink and float and discovering how air in a balloon can propel a straw along a piece of string! Our camp included gymnastics with lots of emphasis on balance. The children also produced some interesting string art; each one a beautiful and individual design.

Primary Camp

We had 10 children for the March Break week this year. Throughout the week, we did a lot of activities that involved cooking and learning how to measure ingredients. We made a few healthy snacks and by the end of the week we made some yummy bread and homemade macaroni. We also spent some of our time doing gross motor activities like different dances and tight rope walking (using

the lines on the floor in the gym.), the children enjoyed this activity. The children also had some fun making a mosaic picture and a Japanese fan. The week was a busy one but a fun one. March Break 2005 was a great success and those who participated had a great time!

Peace CD

On the 21st of March the elementary students went to the studio and recorded "The Power of Peace". Their role as back-up singers for this song composed by our Principal Sherie de Mel was definitely a learning experience. Seeing a recording studio and being part of a professional recording session is not something they will soon forget. We may even have a future star in our midst.

As part of a global community it is important for children to be active members of the planet. By being part of this project they have learned that they can make a difference in the world.

Sherie did a pre-launch sale of the CD at the American Montessori Society Annual Conference in Chicago where it was warmly received. She presented the CD as part of a Peace Education seminar and the CD was sold through AMS's Peace foundation. Montessori schools across the United States were excited to become part of this project by selling the CD to their communities as well.

The money raised from the CD sale will go towards building a Montessori School and Orphanage for child victims of the Tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka.

"The Power of Peace" will be officially launched on Founders' Day – the 29th of April. CD sells for \$20.00.

Yearbook

We would like to thank those parents and staff who handed in their pictures. That was very helpful, but we could always use more. Please keep them coming!


We could also use testimonials from parents about anything you would like to mention. All input is greatly appreciated.

Assessment

Parent teacher interviews are a great time to sit and chat about your children. This term has been a great success. This was a good time to see in what areas the children excel in, as well as those areas in need of more work.

Students in Junior Elementary successfully completed their conferences before March Break. Each child presented their portfolio which helped the parents to understand how much their child has grown. The conferences were an opportunity for the parents and Leslie to identify how they could support their child through the spring term.

Research in the Montessori Classroom

Studies in education, beyond  pre-service teacher training, focus on using research methods to explore practical classroom issues. Graduate students in Education explore relevant topics through written reflections and focused action research strategies. It is essential that this work is shared and reviewed by peers in a collaborative setting.

The Montessori classroom is an exciting place to pilot research projects and conduct observation based research. The diversity of learners in the classroom is a major benefit to the researcher; especially when studying topics such as learning styles, multiple intelligences, and other practical applications of learning theory.

The American Montessori Society currently funds research in partnership with public and private institutions. Current topics of interest include: an evaluation of Montessori as a viable educational model, an evaluation of Montessori education as it pertains to current brain research studies and findings and **Montessori in the information age** (www.amshq.org).

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Aikido

Dates: 6 Wednesdays – April 6, 13th, 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th

Time:

4pm-4:45pm (Ages 6 to 10)

5pm-6pm (Ages 11 & up)

for both children & adults

Fee: \$60.00

Dance Classes

Ballet Jazz Hip Hop

Dates: 6 Tuesdays – April 5th, 12, 19th, 26th, May 3rd and 10th

Time:

4pm to 4:45pm (Ages 3 to 6)

Fee: \$60.00

Yoga Asanas

Yoga, a great gem of eastern wisdom helps us to attain a total harmony in mind, body and spirit.

Yoga Asana is defined as "posture" following the rules of Yoga; its literal meaning is "seat." More than just stretching, asanas with controlled and rhythmic breathing technique open the energy channels, chakras and psychic centers of the body. Asanas purify and strengthen the body and control and focus the mind.

Instructor Mabhin Ghosh Datta has trained in India. She has been practicing and teaching Yoga for several years.

Dates: 6 Fridays: April 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, May 6th and 13th

Kids (Ages 5 and up) from 4pm to 4:45pm

Adults from 5.45 to 6.30 pm

25th March, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd of April

Fee: \$60.00

Mad Science

Following our Mad Science visit, your children will be bringing home a flyer to attend the Mad Science after school program. The program will run for 6 weeks on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:00, starting April 26th. The children will work on a project that they will be able to take home and they will also receive a Mad Science T-shirt.

Fee: \$56.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2005

6th Visit from Mad Science

- They will be teaching the students of the primary and elementary classes about fire and ice.

21st P.A.T.T.I.E. 6:00 – 7:30 PM

- Information evening for prospective parents. Invite someone you know and join us to give prospective parents a chance to speak to parents of the school. Parent participation hours apply.

29th Founder's Day

- our school anniversary
- we are 25 years old this year!
- HOOPS for HEART event hosted by the Elementary class.
- Launching of "The Power of Peace" CD and sale.

30th Parent Workshop 8:00 – 1:00 PM

- The second of two workshops that teachers put on for parents.
- Teachers take their Saturday to come in and teach you about what your child is doing.
- Please take the time to be an active part of your child's education.

May 2005

6th - P.D. Day - School Closed

18th - P.A.T.T.I.E. 6:00 – 7:30 PM

20th - Family Day

- come celebrate with us before going to work.

20th – New and Used Uniform Sale

- Used uniform can be purchased for \$5 a piece. New in stock items will be sold at a 5% discount.
- A wonderful time to get clothing for next year.

23rd - Victoria Day – School Closed

27th - Registration for Summer Camp is due

June 2005

6th – 17th Parent/Teacher Interviews

9th P.A.T.T.I.E. 6:00 – 7:30 PM

17th Concert

24th Last Day of School

CLASSROOM EVENTS

The Infant class would like to extend a very warm welcome to Grace, Wyatt, Morgan and Omar! It's great to have you all in our classroom!

The primary classes welcome into our classrooms Shannon and James from the Pinecrest toddler room.

BIRTHDAYS

Morgan Black – April 9th

Tara Rida turns 4 on April 29th

Linda Yuan turns 5 on April 14th

Mackenzie Maxwell turns 7 on April 13th.

CLASSROOM NEWS

PRACTICAL LIFE

Infant

For our practical life activity this month we will be folding items of fabric that we use around the classroom. The items such as face clothes will be presented to the children on a mat and they will see how the teachers fold the fabrics and will have a chance to repeat the procedure. This will be a fun and simple activity.

Toddler

Since our theme this month is about spring, we will pay great attention to our growing plants and classroom flowers. The children will have an opportunity to re-pot our hanging plants and give them some vitamins for healthy growth. Our parents provide us with fresh cut flowers every month and the children enjoy arranging them. This is a practical life exercise that provides the child with an opportunity of measuring the flower to fit the vase, using scissors to cut the stem. The children also collect and pour the water.

Primary

Our children enjoy working with the dressing frames. These materials are very important exercises for a child to become independent in dressing him/herself. We have different types of frames, buttons, snaps, zipper, buckles, laces and hooks in the classroom. The child gets opportunity to master these skills by repeating the exercises. Please encourage your child to dress him/herself at home.

Elementary

Junior Elementary will be learning how to care for plants from seed to maturity. They will be monitoring water and light levels as well as measuring the growth of their plant over time.

SENSORIAL

Infant Class

Matching cards will be one of our sensorial activities this month. The children will be presented with pairs of three flowers printed on cards and they will try to match the cards as shown by the teachers. The printed flowers will be a poppy flower, a lily flower and a sunflower. These flowers are very distinct which will help the infants distinguish between them better.

Toddler

In the sensorial area, we are going to introduce the stacking cups. We have 10 cups of different sizes, and they are kept in a basket. The child brings the work to the work mat and starts stacking the cups starting from the biggest to the smallest one on top of the other. The child also sets the cups according to size horizontally on the mat. This helps the child to learn about gradation and also helps develop hand eye co-ordination.

Primary

In the upcoming months, we will be working on all the different shapes. We will be working with the Geometric Solids and the Geometric Cabinet. This is a big favourite for the children since it is something new but on the other hand something familiar. The children will be learning all the names of the shapes in both French and English.

Junior Elementary

In our Geometry curriculum, we continue to explore the fundamental concepts. Our March display board showed samples of work from the Geometry lessons. Topics included the study of the line, angles, plane figures and the study of the triangle.

Senior Elementary

Our Geometry continues with the study of measurement. This extends towards the study of the perimeter, and will eventually lead us into area and volume. Conversions from one form of measurement to another are currently on our

timetable. This also includes the baking activities we have been working on.

LANGUAGE

Infant Class

To develop language that relates to our class theme this month, we will be looking at pictures of flowers and naming them. The use of the pictures and the sound of the flower names will help the infants associate a name to a flower.

Toddler

The children will work with matching cards of five different fruits (e.g. pineapple, peach, mango, pear, apple etc.) In this activity there will be five sets of cards with pictures of five different fruits which they have to match. The children will set five cards on the mat or on the table and then find it's pair to match. This activity helps children to learn the names of different fruits and this helps to develop their hand and eye coordination and concentration.

Primary English

The younger children will be learning about the letter association with the Large Moveable Alphabet.

The older children will be learning about the Sand Paper Phonograms: ph, wh, ey, ay, and then make a Phonogram Word List.

Primary French

This month we will continue to look at parts of the home. The students will see every room in the home as well as objects used in everyday life such as utensils, dishes, sheets etc.

Junior Elementary

Our language study has focused on word families. Students are studying words which have a common root word such as 'cycle'. They then use prefixes and suffixes to find other words in the family (bicycle, tricycle, recycle, cycled, cycling, etc.) The younger children have developed word families using phonograms. They record and build words with oo, ee, er, etc. As a result their reading vocabulary is increasing and they are able to use a greater variety of words in their writing.

Junior Elementary French

Pour le mois d'avril, dans la section des plus jeunes (Lower elementary) nous aurons a travailler sur un thème: "Le printemps" autour duquel s'articuleront

les autres leçons. Pour le vocabulaire formel, nous étudierons dix mots par semaine. En musique nous prévoyons deux jolies chansons: J'aime papa, Sur le pont d'Avignon. En conjugaison, nous reverrons les verbes du premier groupe, aux temps simples, aux formes affirmative et négative, tout cela selon la méthode Montessori. La phraséologie sera articulée autour du thème du mois (le printemps). En grammaire, nous verrons les noms communs et les noms propres. Comme lecture nous aurons un texte: Le printemps. Le texte du mois suivi de questions c'est : Le Canada. Les cours sont individualisés et adaptés à chaque enfant selon sa capacité d'apprentissage.

Senior Elementary

The younger children will be commencing their study of the verb, which includes the verb itself as well as the Adverb, Preposition, Conjunctions, and Pronouns. The older children will finish studying the Second Level of Sentence Study, which included Verbals, Moods, Infinitives, Participles, and Gerunds, and begin the study of Logical Analysis.

Senior Elementary French

Pour le mois d'avril, dans la section des grands (Upper Elementary) nous aurons a travailler sur le thème: "La vie quotidienne" autour duquel s'articuleront les autres leçons. Celles-ci sont très variées et les enfants éprouvent beaucoup de plaisir en apprenant. Le cours de français est divisé en divers sujets. Pour le vocabulaire formel, nous étudierons l'heure et nous reverrons les jours de la semaine, les mois de l'année, les saisons, la nuit et le jour. Pour le vocabulaire usuel, nous reverrons les homonymes avec quelques exercices. En conjugaison, nous reverrons les temps: passé, présent, futur et les formes: affirmative, négative, interrogative, interro-négative. A partir des verbes vus, les enfants apprennent à construire des phrases, à parler, à expliquer selon la méthode Montessori. La phraséologie sera articulée autour du thème du mois. En grammaire, nous verrons l'adjectif possessif, démonstratif, qualificatif et les degrés de comparaison. Comme lecture nous aurons un texte: Cendrillon, suivi de questions. Comme chaque mois nous aurons quarante mots de vocabulaire à raison de 10 par semaine. Les cours sont particularisés, nous les adaptons à chaque enfant dépendant de son rythme.

Infant Class

For our mathematics activity we will be counting the number of petals on a flower. The flowers will be handmade (which makes for easier counting) and the children will count, along with the teachers. This activity combines our theme to a fun counting activity.

Toddler

Since our theme this month is about spring flowers, we will have a math activity to go with it. In a basket we have numbers from 1-5. In the second basket we have wooden shaped flowers with a lady bug on each. The child brings the basket to the work mat and places number 1 on the mat, below the number he places one flower. He/she continues to number 5. This exercise helps the child to understand numeration and quantity.

Primary

In math this month the children will practice rote counting at all levels in both French and English. Younger children will count by one's while older children will work on counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. As an extra challenge, some children may start counting by 3's, 4's and so on. This is an early exercise in learning multiples and the start of memorizing multiplication facts.

Junior Elementary

Memorization of basic facts is the key that will allow the child to develop speed and accuracy in math. In order for memorization to be achieved, the child must be provided with ways to make memorization attractive and interesting. Our class has begun using Mad Minute math quizzes on the computer. These basic math fact questions are continually challenging because they help the child identify what he or she doesn't know yet. Then the Montessori material is used to reaffirm the patterns and concepts related to the memorization of the facts.

Senior Elementary

In Mathematics we will continue the study of Square Root. This in-depth study allows the student to really understand what square root means. Along with the material we are showing the children how the operation works on paper. Doubling up this activity shows the children the two processes. The younger children are still working on Trinomials also using materials as well as pen and paper.

CULTURE

Toddler

On our culture shelf this month we have presented a memory game with a basket of animals. The basket contains five medium sized farm animals and a small sheet. The teacher places the basket on a work mat and removes the animals one at a time, standing them up on the mat. She then covers the animals with the sheet and removes one animal with the sheet, revealing the remaining four animals. The children are asked which animal is missing. Once they have guessed the animal it is returned to the mat and the process continues until each animal has been removed and identified. The children enjoy taking the part of a teacher and work with their friends hiding each animal in turn. This game helps promote observation and memory skills. It can be used with many different objects.

Primary

All children will be learning about the stages in development of the chicken (from egg to hatched chicken), and also examining few other birds' eggs. We will continue studying the costumes from different countries in the continent of Europe.

Junior Elementary

Our Geography study turns to the study of flags, country anthems and national costumes. Children will be using puzzle maps, globes, paper maps, and research tools such as encyclopaedias and the internet to find information about their chosen country.

Senior Elementary

History

We are still working on our Medieval Times Study. Our project will involve a castle we are building, as well as other aspects of Medieval Life, including food, clothing, art, pastimes, and customs. The children are working on projects of their own, but we are also working on one big project together.

Geography

In Geography we are finishing up the study of the Hydrosphere and its phenomena and that will bring us into the study of the Imaginary Island. This study allows the child to consolidate all cultural knowledge by applying it to the creation of the Imaginary Island. These Islands are wholly created by the children based on their previous knowledge. They have to choose its place on earth, which will

affect its climate. They have to choose its landforms, both horizontal and vertical. This study is a very large unit, and brings all of the cultural subjects together. The children may choose to also create their own culture as well as animal, based on all of the knowledge about the island as well as based on their knowledge of the social and biological world.

ART

Infant Class

Our Art activity this month is going to be our big project and promises to be a very enjoyable activity. The plans are to make a flowerbed as a collage! The children will be given green coloured paper to tear! The torn pieces of green paper will be used as the 'grasses of the collage, which they will then paste on to the collage. For our flowers we will use different coloured sponges cut into small pieces and will paste them on to the collage to make a beautiful flowerbed. The children get to work as a group and produce something together that will be a lovely work of art!

Toddler

This month the children will be creating a collage of flowers, in celebration of Spring! They will use sponges cut into flower shapes and paint. They will first dip a flower sponge into the paint and then stamp it on the construction paper creating a beautiful impression of flowers. To add dimension the children will also glue various types of flowers to the collage.

Primary

In the month of April, we will be learning the art of water color. This is a fun but more advanced type of activity. There is a whole process and there are steps to complete a beautiful water color master piece.

Elementary

Art will commence this term with the end of Skating on Friday afternoons. We will begin this study with the creation of different collages. Collages teach the child to discriminate between colour, shape, texture etc. and it teaches the child to create things out of something else. It is a wonderful creative and visual discriminatory exercise which trains the eye as well as the hand.

MUSIC

Infant Class

For music we will be singing a song called 'five spring flowers' along with props that suit the song. For other activities we will also make use of the flower puppet to make a visual representation of the song being sung.

Toddler

In music this month we will introduce the children to the xylophone. Following a demonstration on how to strike the graduated metal bars with a small hammer, the children will have many opportunities to practice, and learn to discriminate between the various tones.

Primary

In music, the children will play more on the recorder. Also, the children will learn to recognize the sounds of up to 50 different instruments. We will start with the more common instruments, such as piano, guitar, violin.... Then we will move on to others, such as mandolin and oboe.

Junior Elementary

On the last day of school before the March Break the students were introduced to a 'campfire sing along'. We learned action songs, silly songs, call back songs, and shared poems and stories. This was a positive experience for the children. We will repeat this activity again involving children to share their songs, poems and drama for the group.

Senior Elementary

Senior Elementary will commence their music study with the end of Typing class this term. We will learn about the history of music, with the earliest instruments (the drum, the flute) to the newest types of electric guitars and synthesizers. If you have any auditory materials on the history of music at home, please share them with us this month.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Toddler

Toddlers are learning how to throw and catch a ball. The older children will learn to throw a ball to a friend and the friend will try to catch it. The younger ones will learn to roll a ball to a friend and the friend will roll it back to him/her. We will also exercise with a music CD which the toddlers enjoy

following. The CD has songs that give instructions for each exercise.

Primary

We will practice movement with a skipping rope. We will start with simple jumps with the group during this month.

Elementary

The month of April is an opportunity to introduce a new sports skill: badminton. Through a variety of games and activities the children develop the skill and control to complete a badminton rally. More experienced students will be setting challenge goals for themselves in order to expand their skill and shot accuracy.

SCIENCE

Infant

For our Science activity we will be watching a bean grow! A few beans will be planted in a transparent jar and the children will be able to witness its growth daily as it develops roots and grows into a plant! This activity has been very popular in the past and is sure to grab the attention of everyone in the classroom as they learn how a plant grows.

Toddler

We are going to make our own Ocean bottle. We will clean out an empty plastic pop bottle, and add water. We will then add blue food colouring and glitter and a few pebbles. The teacher will seal the bottle using hot glue, and allow it to dry completely. The bottle will be kept on the culture shelf for the Toddlers to take and use. When the bottle is tipped back and forth or rolled on the floor the contents are easily seen and can be identified.

Primary

Last month's Volcano experiment was a success and children had a great time during the demonstration.

This month all of the children will be learning the Elements of the Periodic Table and how some of these Elements will react when combined, and what will be the final product.

For the baking part of our Science Lessons, the children will bake "Chewy Apple Squares".

Junior Elementary

As our science study focuses on plants the children will be introduced to a variety of experiments that communicate the structure and function of plants.

Along with lessons and research, each child will have the opportunity to complete experiments on topics such as: the needs of a plant, respiration of plants, formation of roots, transpiration, plants need light, action of lights on plants, and the movement of seeds.

Senior Elementary

This month we continue the study of the Tree of Life. We have now covered the Prokaryote, Protocista, Fungus and Plant Kingdoms and are looking forward to learning about the Animal Kingdom. With the study of the Tree of Life, the children decided that we should make our own Tree of Life. Getting some wonderful pictures from the internet, we have begun construction. The Tree of Life will have as many pictures of the different Phyla as well as brief descriptions of each. If possible (sizewise) we will share this project with you in our hall display.

PROJECTS

Infant Class

Our theme this month is Flowers and Planting, which coincides with the lovely Spring season that will be upon us! A wide range of activities are planned throughout April to compliment the theme and we will also be decorating our class room with colourful pictures of flowers and will also have actually flowers hung in our classroom. It's going to be a beautiful month!

Toddler (Fieldrow & Pinecrest)

We have a big tree cut out of paper on our classroom wall which has cotton balls glued on its branches thus giving it an effect of winter. Since our theme is spring we will replace the winter scene with leaves and budding flowers. The children will paint some sheets of paper with green paint and use pastel colours on other sheets. Shapes of leaves and buds will be cut out and glued onto the bare branches, by the children.

Primary

With the celebration of Earth Day coming up on the 22nd, the primary children will be learning more about the importance of recycling and how we can keep our Earth clean and healthy. We will also be making our own recycled paper out of the bits of paper we find in our classroom recycling bins.

Junior Elementary

With our plant study students will be encouraged to

pursue research and report writing related to plants. A variety of options will be available for presentation of the information beyond factual writing. Students will learn how to communicate their ideas using a variety of media- visually, orally, and physically demonstrating what they have learned.

Senior Elementary

Our "giant" project this time is all about the Medieval Times study. We are currently building a castle, and will build other structures such as a Mote and Attack Tower. Our project will also include the food, clothing, pastimes, art etc. Look forward to the display in the hallway.

MATERIAL FOCUS

Toddler

Knobbed Cylinders

This is a sensorial exercise, and is appropriate for ages 2 1/2 to 4 years. There are four sets of knobbed cylinders. We will focus on the first set, which decreases in diameter and height. The child carries the block to the table by grasping it at both ends, placing the largest to the left. The teacher shows the child how to remove each cylinder from its hole in the block, starting at the left side and grasping the knob with thumb, index and middle fingers. Each cylinder is removed and placed in front of the corresponding socket. The teacher then traces the first socket with index and middle finger. She then traces the corresponding knob and places it in the socket, continuing from left to right until each cylinder is replaced in the block. The child is invited to try the exercise. He will learn discrimination of size by sight, touch and weight. He will also strengthen writing fingers and develop the concept of one to one correspondence.

Primary

Geometric Cabinet

This material is found in the sensorial area of the classroom. In the cabinet are several drawers, each with all the shapes found in geometry. The children starts out with the three basic shapes; square, circle and triangle. From there, they continue their exploration of different polygons and different kinds of triangles. This material is used to learn such complicated shapes as curvilinear triangles and quatrefoils as well as the categorization of triangles such as acute, obtuse, scalene, and isosceles. From as early as 3 years old the children are laying the foundation for higher mathematical

operations by learning to distinguish more than 30 geometric shapes.

Junior Elementary

Leaf Cabinet- Botany Curriculum

This material is carried over from the 3 to 6 class. It is important especially for those students who did not experience this material in the Primary program. The leaf shaped pieces provide the child with a framework for understanding the differences they observe in the natural world. This material supports the child's sensorial experience with a variety of real leaf shapes. By collecting leaves and sorting the leaves according to their shapes using the botany cabinet as a guide they are learning to relate their learning to the world around them. They are encouraged to make a booklet of these shapes and label them to use in their own environmental exploration.

Senior Elementary

In Geography we are finishing up the study of the Hydrosphere and its phenomena and that will bring us into the study of the Imaginary Island. This study allows the child to consolidate all cultural knowledge by applying it to the creation of the Imaginary Island. These Islands are wholly created by the children based on their previous knowledge. They have to choose its place on earth, which will affect its climate. They have to choose its landforms, both horizontal and vertical. This study is a very large unit, and brings all of the cultural subjects together. The children may choose to also create their own culture as well as animal, based on all of the knowledge about the island as well as based on their knowledge of the social and biological world.

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

INFANTS NOURRISSON

The Happy Bee

By Ian Beck

This lovely book with large and colourful pictures follows a bee as it travels from flower to flower, greeting them by name. The bee then also encounters some weather conditions but finds a colourful rainbow at the end! The flowers that the bee visits are beautifully depicted and will help the

children get a visual image. The book helps us stay on theme while providing a nice and refreshing story which will both educate and entertain the children. There's sure to be some Happy Children after reading the Happy Bee!

TODDLERS ENFANT

Ten Little Ladybugs

By Melanie Gerth (Author), Laura Huliska-Beith (Illustrator)
In Ten Little Ladybugs, one by one, ten tactile bugs disappear. Where did they all go? Young ones will love finding this out as they feel their way through the sturdy, colorful pages of this innovative book. The cute critters provide a hands-on learning experience and the rhyming text reinforces the counting concept. Interactive, educational, adorable - this magical countdown book adds up to a whole lot of fun.

PRIMARY PRIMAIRE

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus By Mo Willems

The bus driver has to leave for a while, and he makes one request of readers: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus." The reader is given the task of keeping pigeon from driving a bus. "Hey, can I drive the bus?" asks the bird, at first all sweet reason, and then, having clearly been told no by readers many times, he begins. The pigeon pleads, begs, lies, offers bribes, and makes up stories all in the attempt to drive the bus. Each time the pigeon asks to drive the bus the reader must tell the pigeon, No! The driver then returns, and the pigeon leaves in a funk-until he spies a huge tractor trailer??

Kids love the opportunity to participate in this story, and they seem to like it better each time they read the story. Kids will actually recognize themselves in this story. Mo Willems pictures are very simple, but highly entertaining.

ELEMENTARY ELEMENTAIRE

The Giving Tree By Shel Silverstein

Shel Silverstein is a Junior Elementary class

favorite author. His poems and books are read aloud by both the teacher and the students. Even though the illustrations simply black and white sketches, they stir the children's interest. The story is about a kind tree and a selfish boy. In the end, the boy learns that when you are given something, it is important to be grateful.

Students from the Spaghetti Book club reviewed this book. They had the following comments:

"I think this book is good for children who like to eat apples and climb trees. I like this book because it looks like everything is moving if I turn the page very slowly."

"I think that the book is great because it reminds me of my apple trees in my backyard and every day apples would fall down from it. Then the tree reminds me of the story of The Giving Tree."

<http://www.spaghettibookclub.org>

ADULT BOOK REVIEW

Modern Montessori at Home

By: Heidi Anne Spietz

Modern Montessori at Home: A creative teaching guide for parents of children six through nine years of age, will help the modern Montessori teacher as well as parents in providing a setting and an environment in which every child can reach his or her best potential. The book follows Maria Montessori's method of designating areas for reading, art, science and so forth, and creating a learning environment where the child feels no pressure to move on until he is ready to do so. Creative lesson planning in this book provides stimulating lessons for the children for e.g. The Three Period Lesson that is used in Montessori schools to assist children in being able to recognize shapes, colours, the alphabet and numbers. This book also shows how with careful planning this environment can be created in a home as well as school setting. Complete instructions for helping your child along, as well as illustrations and charts are included in this book.

POEMS AND SONGS

INFANTS

NOURRISSON

Planting Flowers (to the tune of 'Are You Sleeping')

Planting flowers
Planting flowers
In the ground
In the ground
Water them and they grow
Water them and they grow
All around
All around!

TODDLERS
ENFANT

Spring Song (Tune: Are You Sleeping)

It is spring time,
It is spring time,
Winter's gone,
Winter's gone,
Summer time is coming,
Summer time is coming,
It won't be long,
It won't be long.

PRIMARY
PRIMAIRE

English song

I had a little nut tree; nothing would it bear
But a silver nutmeg and a golden pear.
The King of Spain's daughter came to visit me,
And all was because of my little nut tree.
I skipped over water, I danced over sea,
And all the birds in the air couldn't catch me.

French song

J'ai perdu le do de ma clarinette

J'ai perdu le do de ma clarinette
J'ai perdu le do de ma clarinette
Ah! Si papa savait ca tra la la
Ah! Si papa savait ca tra la la
Au pakamarade Au pakamarade
Au pa au pa au pa
Au pakamarade au pakamarade
Au pa au pa au pa
Tra la la

(continue singing and change underlined with re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti)

French Poem

C'est le Printemps!

Les arbres bourgeonnent,
Les oiseaux chantonent,
C'est le Printemps!

Le ruisseau s'écoule,
Les pigeons roucoulent,
C'est le printemps!

Les papillons volent,
Les chapeaux s'envolent,

C'est le Printemps,
Et tout l'monde est content!

ELEMENTARY ELEMENTAIRE

The following song was presented at our class
'campfire' sing along on the last day before March
Break.

Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river, in my soul (in my soul!)
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river, in my soul (in my soul!)

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
fountain
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul (in my soul!)
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
fountain
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul (in my soul!)

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
ocean
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul (in my soul!)
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
ocean
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul (in my soul!)

So, I've got peace like a river, I've got joy like a
fountain
I've got love like an ocean in my soul (in my soul!)
So, I've got peace like a river, I've got joy like a
fountain
I've got love like an ocean in my soul (in my soul!)

Actions:

Peace: make a peace sign with your hand

River: wave motion with hands

Joy: trace a smile on your face

Fountain: two hands together in front of body, push
upward and outward (tracing water in the fountain)

Love: cross hands across chest

Ocean: gesture broadly, indicating something large

Sur le pont d'Avignon

Sur le pont d'Avignon,

On y danse, on y danse

On y danse tous en rond (bis , 3 lignes)

Les Messieurs font comme ceci

Les belles dames font comme cela (bis)