

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

I enjoyed our Virtual Conferences on Zoom. It was good to see and hear you as we discussed your child's progress. The children seem to be enjoying our distance learning and continue to make progress in the many subjects we have been working on. Some of you asked about the cultural subjects (Zoology, Botany and Geography). What we have been doing this semester is concentrating on getting the children caught up in the language and addition areas of the curriculum which they missed during the Spring lockdown. We look forward to the time we will be able to get back to our important Montessori Cultural studies.

I hope you also enjoyed your first virtual/safely-distanced Halloween. Many of our students dressed in interesting costumes that highlighted the lives of important people who make a difference in our own lives today. (We had 3 beautiful Frida Kahlos in our class, including a Birthday Girl - Happy Birthday, Valerie!). Though it was not our usual way of celebrating Halloween, everyone did seem to enjoy seeing their friends as these historical people.

In November we are continuing to expand classwork to include Time & Money lessons as well as dynamic addition. Dynamic addition is the term we use in Montessori for the action of taking 10 of one place value and "exchanging" it for 1 of the next place value. For example, in counting the golden beads in an addition problem, when the child reaches 10 units, those beads are "taken to the bank" and exchanged for 1 ten bar. You may be more familiar with calling it "carrying," and with that, simply putting a "1" at the top of the next column. In Montessori, however, the child gets a very clear hands-on experience of what this action truly means, as he or she physically makes the exchange. (part of the genius of Maria Montessori!)

Journals have improved now that the children know how to indent the first paragraph, start every sentence with a capital, and end it with a period. Most of us are coming to understand that these important dots do not appear at random. For example, "The costumes were scary we ate candy and cake too. we had fun", but they give a clear meaning to the thought: "The costumes were scary. We ate candy and cake too. We had fun." It is a long process for mastery of punctuation, but they are off to a good start.

On Wednesday, November 11th, Veteran's Day, we will honor the many men and women who have served our country in the military. We will not have class on that day. Perhaps you will have an opportunity to tell stories or show pictures of a special veteran you might have in your family.

I also want to be the first to wish you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and delicious Thanksgiving! There will be no class on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27.

With best regards,

Toni