

MAY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

April Highlights

April was full of Spring in our classroom. The children were so motivated to learn Wordsworth's poem, *Daffodils*, in part no doubt from the beautiful blossoms we were enjoying in our classroom. The children did a lovely recitation to the other classes and then surprised them at the end by giving each child a daffodil to take home. They all looked so sweet. We're sure you too enjoyed the very expressive recitation they gave you at home. (And yes, it took them a very loooong time to paint all those daffodils "beside the lake, beneath the trees"!)

We had a fun **Easter egg hunt**, and our real grass baskets went home afterwards. We hope they're still growing! They were well tended while they were here. Thank you so much to all the families who sent treats for our party on that day. They were enjoyed by all.

Earth Day was really more of an Earth week with a number of activities, along with books and discussion. Looking at all the many different globes that were brought in made everyone realize just how much, and varied, the information can be which is placed on the surface of that sphere. *Fascinating*, we all agreed! We also discussed endangered animals, climate change, wrote journals about different aspects of our Earth that we appreciated, made Earth mandalas, and Earth boxes which we used to collect interesting bits of nature we found outside. The **Insect Lab** brought us fascinating (and large!) insects to see and even touch. We all learned a lot. Then we became "Neuroscientists" when the **Engineering Lab** came for a visit. Everyone made projects about the brain which they've since brought home. Earth activities were capped off by a lovely "picnic" lunch under our big trees on **Arbor Day**.

In academic areas, the Thirds have completed their **Adverb books** and the Seconds are finishing their work on their **Verb books**. Thirds are also now taking on their final **Fraction** project dealing with fractional equivalents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In **Cultural Studies** we launched our biggest academic undertaking by far this past month: the study of evolution using our long and detailed **Timeline of Life**. After having learned during these past weeks about the formation of our Earth, we continued the journey. We started from the very first microscopic life in the Earth's seas, then to the development of a multitude of invertebrates, and following later fish and amphibians, all of which left their fossilized remains during the Paleozoic Era. We will then be moving through the subsequent eras, Mesozoic and Cenozoic, to see the unfolding of even more complicated life forms: reptiles, birds, and mammals. In conjunction with this will be our final class field trip of the year which will take us 'up close and personal' with the stars of the Mesozoic Era, the dinosaurs! We will be going to the **Math Science Nucleus** in Fremont for lab activities all about dinosaurs.

In **Language** the Third Years will be moving toward the final chapters in their Montessori Grammar study. First will come the **Pronoun** and then the **Conjunction**. We hope to be able to squeeze in Interjections before the year ends also. The Second Years will be learning **Prepositions**.

We will also have a special **writing and art project** this month - of which we cannot give details...! (Doesn't that sound mysterious?)

The long-awaited, and well deserved, **Ice Cream Party** will happen this month too. This event is to celebrate being the class which sold the most See's Candies for MCH last November/December. (And we have been asked ever since that announcement "When are we having the Ice Cream Party??!")

Speaking of fundraisers, there has been much buzz in the room about getting to go to Panera tomorrow, Tuesday, for our **Spring Panera Night!** We hope to see many MCH folks there. **Please remember to bring your flyers**. If we get to 50 or more flyers presented for meals, Panera will give MCH a donation of 20% of the total spent by our families (less than 50 flyers would be a smaller percentage). If you need another flyer, or more for extended family or friends, please let us know and we will be happy to give you more. You can come any time between 4-8 pm. ...And if you're now concerned that you'll miss some of the Warriors play-off game,

you can always take your meal to go! (and who wants to be in the kitchen cooking when you could be watching the Warriors? It's a win-win.) We do thank you in advance for all your great support!

Please reserve **Friday, June 2nd at 1 p.m.** That's the date for the **Children's Chorus *Spring Concert***. The children have been practicing diligently and are getting quite excited about it. The theme this year is "Americana." It will be about 30 - 40 minutes in length, with refreshments afterwards.

Also to note on your upcoming calendar is the **3rd Year's final field trip** - a field trip for the whole family to the **Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield**. The date will be **Saturday, June 3rd in the morning**. The **Third Year's Graduation ceremony will be Thursday, June 15th, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Social Hall. There will be a potluck dinner afterwards.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne and Toni

Calendar:

Tuesday, May 2nd - MCH Panera Night fundraiser, 4-8 pm, dine in or take-out

Friday, May 5th - observing Cinco de Mayo; a special free dress for all Hispanic Children; Book Orders due; Sharing Day - "Collections"

Thursday, May 11th - Field Trip to Math Science Nucleus, Fremont for "Dinosaur "Dinosaur Magic" Science Lab

Weds, May 17th - Ice Cream Party for the See's Candies Fundraiser Champions!
Free dress

Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day; no school and no daycare

Friday, June 2nd - Children's Chorus *Spring Concert*, 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd - 3rd Yrs Family Field Trip to the Jelly Belly Factory, Fairfield

