

MAY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

April Highlights

April began with our exciting **field trip to the Tall Ships** docked at the Port of Oakland. It really was like going back in time, as our docents, who live on the ship and were dressed in typical period clothing, guided us through the life of a merchant sailor on an 18th century trading vessel, showing us how the ship was navigated and the tools they used to do it, and how world trade was carried out. Capping off our visit was the team experience of hoisting an actual sail!

Our classroom continued to be full of Spring in April. Everyone planted his or her own **living Easter basket**. They were then well-tended by each child on a daily basis. The next week we enjoyed a fun **Easter egg hunt**, and our real grass baskets went home afterwards. We hope they're still growing! Thank you so much to the families who sent treats for our party on that day. They were enjoyed by all.

We completed our **poetry project of William Blake's *The Tyger***. It was a definite challenge to memorize all those stanzas and some challenging word phrases. But what we found was most even more noteworthy about the accomplishment was that it was recited with such deep feeling and expression. We hope you also enjoyed a performance of it, and maybe even more than one!

Earth Day brought a number of activities throughout the week. Each person made an Earth mandala of his or her favorite parts of our planet's land, water, plants, and animals. They also made Earth "collecting" boxes. And everyone enjoyed the wide array of globes that came to stay for the week. 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, and the problems with plastics. We capped off the week by having a lovely "picnic" lunch under our big trees on **Arbor Day**.

In academic areas, the Thirds have completed their **Adverb books** and the Seconds have finished their work on their **Verb books**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In **Cultural Studies** we launched our biggest academic undertaking by far this past month: the study of the evolution of life on our Earth 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 followed later by fish and amphibians, all of which left their fossilized remains during the Paleozoic Era. We will now 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 addition we will see their exhibits of fossils of many of the animals we have been talking about.

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**.

Thirds will also begin their final **Fraction** project dealing with fraction identification and moving into work with fractional equivalents.

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 be happening 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??!")

Please reserve **Friday, May 31st 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 "Weather." 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 1st in the morning**. The **Third Year's Graduation ceremony will be Thursday, June 13th, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Social Hall. There will be a potluck dinner afterwards.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne and Toni

Calendar:

Friday, May 3rd Ice Cream Party for the See's Candies Fundraiser Champions!
free dress

Monday, May 6th celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a special free dress for all Hispanic children

Wednesday, May 8th - Field Trip to Math Science Nucleus, Fremont for
"Dinosaur Magic" Science Lab

Friday, May, 10th - Book Orders due, Sharing Day - Theme: "Something you made with your own hands"

Monday, May 27th - Memorial Day; no school and no daycare

Friday, May 31st - Children's Chorus *Spring Concert*, 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 1st - 3rd Yrs Family Field Trip to the Jelly Belly Factory, Fairfield