

MAY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

April Highlights

April seemed to run right by us, mostly because a week of it became Spring Break. Many children came back still talking about their "Living Easter Basket" and how it was doing. If it's kept near a window with some sunlight, and every few days given a little water and trimmed with scissors, it can last quite a long time!

Since that Spring Break time, everyone has been busy refining areas they began earlier, and have worked with new areas as well. In **Grammar** work, the 2nds have been learning a new way that an "s" comes into use, other than making something a "plural" - as in "one dog" and "many dogs". This new way is called the Possessive "s" and is an apostrophe joining an "s" to show that one noun belongs to another - like the "dog's tail." The 3rds have now mastered Pronouns and also completed their work with Suffixes and how they can be attached to nouns to make new words.

In **Supplementary Math**, the 3rds have spent the last several weeks working with Fractions. They have just completed their first fraction project, "Fraction Families," and will now go on to more advanced ways of looking at how fractions can work with completely different fractions, and not just within their own "family." **Geometry** lessons have also been a part of both the 2nds and 3rds Math work. 2nds did a big project with all the "families" of Quadrilaterals, and the 3rds have now completed their work on everything about Lines. Yes, Lines can tell us a lot, and hopefully all the various booklets they made about them have been getting home for you to see...and for them to explain to you!

This past week we had an excellent "**Earth Week**." We read and discussed as a group many important aspects about our Earth, its land and water, plants, animals, and people, and about Climate Change. We had a number Earth Week projects, and everyone will now be putting them together for their Earth Week "book". That should be coming home soon. Everyone enjoyed the various globes of our Earth which came to "visit" us during the week too. Thank you for helping them

get here. On Arbor Day we also did an extensive "tour" of all the various trees on our MCH campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In **Language** the 2nds will have their final Grammar lesson, learning about the Preposition and how it connects one noun phrase to another like a bridge. Being able to know how this works and then using it will greatly help their writing, as they can then compose sentences that are much longer and complex, moving away from only short, simple sentences. The 3rds have just begun their final step in grammar and the parts of speech. It is Conjunctions and how to use them. Understanding all the ways words work will make their sentences and paragraphs even richer. It is like seeing how pieces of a puzzle can bring you to a beautiful picture when all the pieces are in their right places. The 3rds are very excited knowing that these are the final pieces of the "puzzles"! After learning all there is to know about Conjunctions, they will also discover their ability to write even longer and more complex sentences. Great steps for both groups to take!

In **Supplementary Math**, the 3rds will be spending more time with Fractions as they take on Fractional Equivalents. Geometry lessons for 2nds will move to multi-sided figures and also work with curved-line figures. 3rds have just begun their final subject in Geometry - Angles: their types and how to measure them. They are most anxious to know when they are going to get their own protractor to do this! (soon) "Tools" can be so fun!

This past month we also have been moving through the **Timeline of the Evolution of Life on Earth**. The children seem to really be enjoying it and often ask, "Are we doing Evolution today?" Fossils, especially real ones, are indeed fascinating! They seem in awe of the fact they are able to hold something in their hand that is 400 million years old, and actually who wouldn't be?! We have now moved through about 200 million years of life, it being only in the water, and have just gotten to a few animals and simple plants beginning to live on the land. Big developments to come! (and of course they are anxious to know "when do we get to the dinosaurs?!" - which is still a ways away.)

Also to note on your upcoming calendar is **The Third Year's Graduation ceremony which will be Thursday, June 15th**. Look for more details about that in the June newsletter.

May it be a productive month for everyone in May.

Our Best Regards to you all,

Mary Anne and Amira

Calendar:

Thursday, May 4th - Sharing Day (theme: "Something You Have Made")

Friday, May 5th - Celebrating Cinco de Mayo - Students who are Hispanic may wear any Mexican-type clothes they may have. In addition other students may have free dress if they wear green, white, and red to honor the flag of Mexico.

Sunday, May 14th - Happy Mother's Day to all moms!

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