

FEBRUARY 2018 CULTURAL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

During the past month our caterpillars have continued to grow... into big fat caterpillars... We are not finished with them, though. "Metamorphosis", the process of growth when the animal changes form as it grows, will continue until we are rewarded with Painted Lady butterflies. This a very different process of growth compared to our own. We just become bigger versions of our baby pictures.

The children have started making arthropod models and will complete them soon, so you can look forward to enjoying a detailed scientific model of one of the millions of arthropods on our earth. When the time comes, your child will also complete and compile the "Painted Lady Butterfly" book. Until then, we will continue to observe the miracle of metamorphosis.

By the time we set our butterflies free, we will no doubt see what they are searching for: FLOWERS! Towards the end of the month we will investigate what - exactly - is going on with these beautiful Gifts of Spring. We will learn the names and functions of the parts of the flower as well as create books and artwork to celebrate this gorgeous life form.

When enjoying the flowers all around us, it's hard to believe that the flower's sole purpose in life isn't simply to bring beauty into the world! The flower's beautiful corolla, strong calyx and (usually) prominent pistil and stamens exist for one purpose only: to create seeds that will produce more flowers. **This study forms the basis of your child's continuing botany studies in 2nd and 3rd Year where they will learn in more detail about the internal parts of the flower and the development of fruits and vegetables. Until then we will continue to explore the important relationship between insects and the fruits and vegetables we enjoy throughout the year.**

With Best Regards,

Toni Tomacci

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

— *Proverbs, 22:6*