

CULTURAL NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Dear Parents,

This week we'll start our final study of invertebrates by exploring the many members of the arthropod family/phylum in and on land, sea, and sky. **Arthropods have joints. Their bodies are divided into three parts: head, thorax and abdomen and they have a hard exoskeleton.** The children will gain appreciation for having joints when they (temporarily) lose the ability to use them. (Be sure to ask them about this experience!)

As the children become familiar with these and other main characteristics of arthropods, we will take a closer look at some members of this phylum and make 3-D models of everyone's favorite arthropod, the butterfly. Who knew what opportunities would open up for invertebrates whose bodies evolved into three parts with jointed legs and a hard exoskeleton??

To extend our butterfly study, we will be taking a close look at the process of **metamorphosis** as well as admiring these beauties LIVE for the fascinating arthropods that they are. The caterpillars will be arriving soon. The children will then begin observing and recording this miracle of metamorphosis ... always an exciting proposition!

I wish you and all your family a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Toni Tomacci

"Today, while the world is in conflict, and many plans are afoot for its future reconstruction, education is widely regarded as one of the best means for bringing this about."

~ Maria Montessori