

CULTURAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

Dear Parents,

We said goodbye to 2018 with the end of our study of **the Annelid (segmented worm)**. We had a hands-on look at one of the most common Annelids, **the earthworm**. As you know, Montessori curriculum is designed to spark the imagination by providing materials using all the senses. We celebrated the conclusion of our annelid studies by sharing a bowl of "Worms and Dirt." Yum! You know what picky eaters kids can be, so some children were hesitant to dig into a bowl of dirt only to find something squirmy inside. However, many were soon asking for seconds! The recipe follows at the end of the newsletter.

This week we'll start our final study of invertebrates by exploring the many members of the Arthropod family/phyla 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 an 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 the other main characteristics of arthropods, we will take a closer look at some members of this phylum. Then everyone will be able to make their own 3-D model of one of the nearly infinite number of arthropods. Who knew what opportunities would open up for invertebrates whose bodies evolved into three parts and jointed legs?

No arthropod study would be complete without butterflies! We will be taking a close look at the process of metamorphosis as well as admiring these beauties for the fascinating arthropods that they are. The caterpillars will be arriving soon. The children will then begin observing and recording the 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

A Tasty Treat for the New Year!

Worms in Dirt

Ingredients:

- 1 - 16 oz. package of Oreos
- 2 cups cold Milk
- 1 small package instant chocolate pudding
- 1 tub (8 oz.) whipped topping (slightly thawed)
- Gummi Worms

1. CRUSH cookies in zipper-style plastic bag with a rolling pin or food processor.
2. POUR cold milk into large bowl. Add pudding mix. Beat with a wire whisk 2 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes.
3. STIR in whipped topping and half of the crushed cookies
4. STIR in gummi worms and pour into a glass serving bowl.
5. SPREAD the remaining crushed cookies over the top of the mixture.
6. REFRIGERATE until ready to serve (at least 2 hours)