

CULTURAL NEWSLETTER May 2018

Dear Parents,

If it is true that time flies when you are having fun, then I would say that our 1st Years are elated! We are well into the study of vertebrates, having completed our fish unit, and we have nearly completed our study of Amphibians.

Last year we enjoyed the company of an MCH Graduate and recent college grad, Melissa L'Heureux. This was made even more exciting because she brought us a number of tadpoles from the pond in her backyard. It is great to witness metamorphosis once again in yet another phylum. Thanks to Melissa's mother, this year we have another group of tadpoles to observe the complete cycle of metamorphosis.

Although our vertebrates study began with fish, we are gradually finding our way out of the water and onto land. We are nearly finished with Amphibians and this week we will begin our study of reptiles. There are so many to choose from! We have models of crocodiles, turtles, lizards, geckos and snakes. They all have dry scaly skin and are cold-blooded. They also reproduce via soft shelled eggs. The children will make paper snake models complete with LOTS of scales and actual patterns of their favorite snake.

Although it may not be obvious, the next phylum on the Vertebrate Family Tree is Birds. We will see how the reptiles' dry scales evolved into feathers. We will learn about what birds bodies do to stay alive. Specifically, it all has to do with flying. (Even though you may cringe when you see bird droppings on your car, you will soon learn that while creating this mess may be an annoyance to people, it is essential to flight!)

Enjoy all the new life of Spring!

"Our method encourages children to be both devout and free in their intellectual operations. Growing up in this fashion, they are neither timid nor fearful; but pleasantly self-possessed, courageous and alert."

~ Maria Montessori