To the Montero-Findley Family for providing healthy snack the week of November 13.

To the Outerbridge Family for their donation of gently loved books to our classroom.

To the Salina Robbins for making the beautiful moveable alphabet for our reading lessons.

Center Montessori School

Nest Notes

December 1, 2017

We were all very excited to be back after our Thanksgiving Break! We began many seasonal lessons which have brightened up the classroom. We have several fine motor lessons such as hanging ornaments on our small, lighted tree and taking them off and placing holiday clothes pins on the miniature tree and taking them off, all working on our finger strength and fine motor control. We have also added more practical life lessons to the shelves with a variety of crystal and glass containers. The crystal and glass add weight and also require careful attention while carrying them on a tray, fostering coordination. One of our new water works is transferring with a sponge. The child uses the sponge to transfer water from one bowl to the next, then back again with repetition. This repetition requires and builds concentration.

We made smoothies this week! The children prepared the strawberries by washing them, cutting off the tops and chopping them. When we were ready, we added them to our yogurt in the blender. We all shared in our strawberries smoothies. On Friday we made our own play dough. While we used the microwave this time as a variation on the recipe, the best way is to make it on the stove top. Food preparation builds concentration, refinement of fine motor, and also introduces real life experiences which the children love. Below is our recipe:

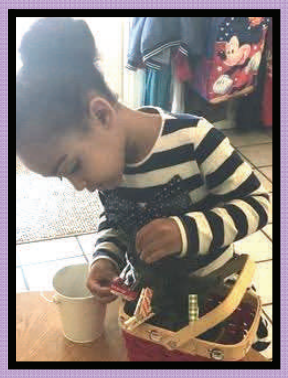
<u>Play Dough</u>

1 Cup Flour	1 Cup of Water
1/2 Cup Salt	1 Tbsp of Oil
2 Tsp. Cream of Tarter	Food Coloring (to suit your color)

Place the dry ingredients in a saucepan and whisk. Add the water, oil, and food coloring to a measuring cup and mix. Then add to the dry ingredients and whisk until smooth. Cook on medium heat mixing continuously until the dough looks dry and only slightly wet. The dough should also be looking dry as it pulls away from the sides of your pan as you stir. Turn the heat off and dump the play dough onto a surface to knead. Kneed dough until you have a nice consistency for the dough. Place the dough into an airtight container such as a Ziploc bag for storage.

December 20 will be our last day of school before the holiday break and will be a half day dismissal for full day students. We will be in need of volunteers for our annual tradition of creating beautiful chocolate dipped pretzels on this day. We will use the main kitchen and children will be invited two or three at a time to dip and decorate pretzels. We will need volunteers to come help from 8:40-11am. There will be coffee and goodies provided for parents. Please let me know if you can help. This is a great opportunity for volunteer hours.

In January we will be hosting a workshop of Mind in the Making. This is a free workshop which is being funded by the Patterson Foundation. After hearing about the workshop myself, I have decided to attend as a teacher and parent. I am reaching out to all of you as this workshop presents and utilizes the latest scientific research on the child's brain development. Flyers will be coming home and you sign up online. I know it can be tough to make it to all four Saturday morning meetings so please know if you can make at least two. It would be very beneficial for everyone. Childcare is provided for children three years of age and up who are independently using the toilet and enrolled at our school. Lunch will also be provided for the adults each day. I hear this will be very much worth our time and I am excited to be attending.



A PEEK INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Anika H (top) and Margaux H. (bottom) concentrating on lessons in the classroom.

<u>Just a reminder</u>

Transition to Primary meeting will be held Tuesday, December 5 from 9am to 10am, for our parents who have children moving up to the Primary classroom in August. Please call the office to RSVP. This will very informational and we ask that you please plan to attend. While we are preparing your children to move up to the next level, as parents you will also need to prepare as it is also a transition for you. We as parents always focus on our children, as we are so involved with them, and we often forget about ourselves. This is a meeting to also nurture you.