Science in the Montessori Environment

Science instruction and exposure in a Montessori school is approached by introducing children to advanced topics in the early years, with the belief that this prepares them for a lifetime of discovery and also removes the anxiety and formality often associated with challenging subjects. Children are naturally curious and inspired to learn about everything around them. They will happily spend their days exploring and experimenting with lots of different things in their environment, including weather conditions and plants and animals. Children are natural explorers, and they have a tremendous ability to observe and analyze even the smallest of details. When presented with the opportunity, even five and six-year-old children enjoy making predictions before doing an experiment and testing their hypotheses.

In our Montessori classrooms, science topics can range from how the world began to the basic principles of astronomy, botany, chemistry, physics, and zoology. Early lessons in science are presented through basic hands on activities such as sink and float, magnetic/non-magnetic and by visual cards illustrating life cycles. As the child progresses, more advanced lessons are presented to satisfy the child’s interest.

Maria Montessori believed that experience with real objects should always proceed learning the names or looking at pictures of things. Once that exposure occurred, to help children identify and classify the natural world she created 3-part nomenclature cards for many science activities. These cards also have the dual function of presenting a language activity that the Montessori environment uses from the early years through high school. Maria Montessori believed that it was very important to give children the proper names in lessons and they appear on the nomenclature cards as well.

Another important aspect of the Montessori science curriculum is that it grows with the child and addresses their needs and concerns at the place where they are. From the youngest children making observations and identifying and naming objects, to serving the adolescent community in their interest in the environment with lessons on environmental ethics, conservation and renewable energy, the lessons meet the children where they are developmentally.

Reminder:
On October 31, 2019, we will be having our annual school-wide costume parade and class party. Please send your child to school dressed in his/her costume and remember to send in a change of clothes in a labeled bag for the rest of the day. Please note that wearing masks or carrying violent props such as guns or swords is not allowed. All costumes will be returned with the children after school.

The school costume parade will take place on the playground at 9a.m., right after circle time. Parents are welcome to enjoy coffee first with Mara at 8:30 a.m. on the E-1/E-2 deck. While waiting for the parade to begin, be sure to stand by the playground gate to get a good spot for pictures of your child.
We would like to thank Lewis’ and Dina’s families for offering a generous snack and flower bouquets for the classroom these past two weeks.

Thank you to Emmit’s family for volunteering their time to work on some sewing projects for the class.

We also appreciate Sarah’s, Bradley’s and Lewis’ families for taking the time to make materials for our upcoming Halloween themed crafts.

Thank you to all Primary 1 parents who joined our Fall Parent/Teacher conference last week, I enjoyed our meeting and sharing with you your child’s progress at school so far. Please remember to contact me if you have any further questions.

Note:

We still have 4 volunteer spots waiting to be filled for our upcoming Art Festival on Saturday, November 9. Please let me know if you are available to help!
Primary 2

Thank you to Ehan for this week’s snack contribution and for the lovely sunflowers!

Lily, Aarya, Elle and Skyler out on the court yard.

Suri working on a numbers lesson.

Zoe concentrating on transferring small beads using tweezers onto a peg board.

Milan working with the brown stairs.

Zoe and Vihan collaboratively working with the triangular box.
Aurora working with circles drawer from the geometric cabinet as part of a sensorial activity.

Max is using the gold beads to form teen numbers.

Christos is using the sound cylinders which are part of our sensorial section.

Jayden was happy to help his friends by mixing the dry ingredients of our apple sauce muffins.

Ian and Isabella helping Miss Giannina by mixing the ingredients to make apple sauce muffins.

Reminders:
* Thursday, October 31st, Parent Coffee with Mara at the E-1 Deck at 8:30 am, followed by the School-Wide Halloween Parade at 9am
* Friday, November 22nd, Grandparents and Special Friends Day - more information to come

Thank you to the Carraway and Wicks families for providing the Community snacks these past two weeks.
Thank you Brenda Clark for sewing beautiful language materials for the Primary classrooms.