



Center Montessori School

PRIMARY PRESS

February 2, 2018

Cultural area in the Montessori classroom

If you go back to your first ever tour of a Montessori classroom, you may remember that the materials are organized in five different areas. We have talked about four of them, the language, sensorial, mathematical and practical life areas. This week we want to share information with you on the last area, cultural.

In the cultural area, the children study geography, botany, history, foreign languages and much more. You may ask or wonder why Montessori introduces these topics at such a young age. The reason is that at this age children can actually quite joyfully absorb many difficult concepts if they meet them in a concrete form.

Like all of the materials in the Montessori Primary classroom, the cultural lessons are manipulative, sequential and specific, adhering to the Montessori theory. The children enjoy manipulating maps, tracing and feeling the outline of leaf shapes and handling actual historical artifacts from different countries. These experiences give the child the chance to absorb the information through tactile manipulation. The indirect purposes of the lessons are to give the child exposure to the concepts, develop their concentration and independence as well as grant the child the responsibility of a large task. All of these things assist the child in their development, emotionally and academically. Exposure to these concepts will also give the child something tangible to serve as a touchstone in their memory for many years to come.

One of Maria Montessori's goals for children was to empower and educate them to their fullest potential. Through the above lessons as well as researching the cultural aspects of different countries' holiday celebrations, traditions, food and habitat, we help develop our children's sense of global diversity. By learning about other cultures we are educating for the future; our goal is to have our children acknowledge that we are all different as well as the same. We are honored to continue this work here at Center Montessori where for the past 41 years we have done just that. If you have any questions regarding the cultural curricula please do not hesitate to contact Mara directly.

Quotes for Thought:

Travel stories teach geography; insect stories lead the child into natural science; and so on. The teacher, in short, can use reading to introduce her pupils to the most varied subjects; and the moment they have been thus started, they can go on to any limit guided by the single passion for reading.

Please remember to always
check your child's Friday
folder for important
information and notices
from the teachers.



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This month of February comes with many special events and celebrations and the children are so excited. Because a number of them will require your planning and attention, we would like to share these with you ahead of time.

As you know, we have been counting the days until the 100th day of school. A fun activity will be awaiting the children each day next week. Please mark your calendars to help your child with the following:

Monday, February 5 – **Come in your Pajamas Day!** We are expecting a VERY easy morning transition to school as the children are invited to wear their pajamas that day. Just make sure they have proper footwear on and we will be set for a very comfortable day!

Tuesday, February 6 – **Bring a Favorite Stuffed Animal Day!** On Tuesday your child is free to pick 1 (one) stuffed animal to share at school. We will have name stickers available for each stuffed animal to make sure it returns home with its owner. (Check out the darling children's book, *Knuffle Bunny*.)

Wednesday, February 7 – **100 Items in a Bag Day!** We ask that your child's items be labeled in a clear Ziploc bag or small box for easy reference. Here are a few ideas of things your child can bring: 100 small jigsaw puzzle pieces, lima beans, plastic spoons, stickers, hair ties, marbles, Lego pieces etc.

Thursday, February 8 – **Fun Activity Day!** A little surprise will await the children in class to make it an extra fun day.

Friday, February 9 – **South Florida Museum Field Trip!** Our morning will begin when we meet as a group at 9:45a.m. at the South Florida Museum for a guided exploration of the museum and planetarium. Our tour will end at 11:30am and we will then take a walk on the Riverwalk over to the playground area for play time and a picnic style lunch. Please check the field trip information details and permission slip in this week's communication.

On **Valentine's Day** (Wednesday, February 14), the children will be exchanging cards with each other. We ask that your child bring 21 cards in a Ziploc bag. To allow easy distribution, there is no need for your child to write the recipients' names on the cards. We do encourage your child to sign her/ his name on each card (another opportunity for practicing name writing!!). Although it is optional, many parents and children enjoy sending in a little something attached to the Valentines; if you wish to do so we would like you to please choose **non-edible items** to be distributed.

On Friday, February 16, our kindergarten students will be joining the other Primary class kindergarteners on a special field trip to the Selby Preschool to deliver the shoes our school families are kindly donating. This is the 17th anniversary of this community project for Center Montessori. The kindergarteners will have an opportunity to spend time, play and have lunch with the children from the Selby Preschool community before returning to our school. Please look for the field trip permission slip in your child's envelope.



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The 100th day of school is fast approaching and we can't wait to celebrate! We have many great activities planned throughout the week. Please keep this schedule so that you can help your child remember the following.

Monday, February 5

We are going on a crayon hunt!

Tammy and I will hide 100 crayons in the classroom for the children to find!



Tuesday, February 6

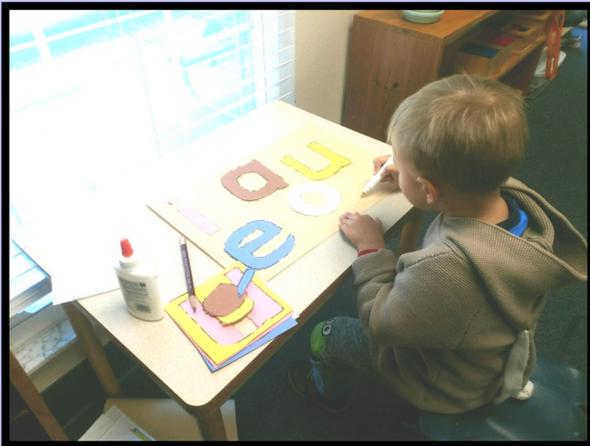
Building collaboratively using 100 red solo cups!

The children will break up into small groups and have fun creating structures with these cups.

Wednesday, February 7

Everyone brings in 100 items in a bag!

We ask that your child's chosen items be labeled in a clear ziploc bag. Here are a few ideas of things your child can bring: 100 small jigsaw pieces, beans, stickers, hair ties, marbles, Lego pieces, etc. Have fun!



Thursday, February 8

100 Love Hearts!

We will collect 6 hearts from each child and 100 altogether! Please help your child think about what love means to her/him. Then s/he or you can write single words on the hearts. You could also try 'yellow writing' as we call it in P2. This is where the adult writes the word with a highlighter then the child can trace over it. Once we have all 100 hearts we will share them during circle time. Finally we will create a large heart with the hearts for display in the classroom!

Friday, February 9

South Florida Museum Field Trip!!

On our 100th day we are taking a field trip! You will bring your child directly to the South Florida Museum and we ask that everyone arrive at 9:45am and gather in front of the entrance to the museum. Each child will stay with his or her chaperone for the duration of the field trip. We will have a guided tour in the museum and planetarium that will start at 10am and last until 11:30am. Then you are invited to join the group as we head down to the Riverwalk for a stroll to the playground and picnic area where the children can play and enjoy a picnic lunch.





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As January comes to a close, we have continued with science projects and science activities in our classroom. This week we studied the microscope and the important role that it has played in the progress of science. We named the parts of the microscope, looked at some of the tools that can be used with the microscope, and took the opportunity to use this activity to enrich the students' vocabulary. Each child had the opportunity to collect tiny specimens around the classroom or on the playground using tweezers and a magnifying glass to later observe under our microscope. They shared their observations and allowed one another to see what they found. I placed this activity on the science shelf for the students to use independently and I continue to motivate the children to discover things in our environment to study under the microscope.

The science shelf has been so busy, I also added a color mixing activity. This is a satisfying hands on experience where the children use the three primary colors to create secondary colors. In this activity the children exercise their fine motor skills and develop eye and hand coordination using the eye dropper to precisely determine the quantity of color drops they wish to use.

We introduced the subject of vertebrates and invertebrates this week. After the students received this lesson, they proceeded to classify the animals into these two categories. Our older students created a list of the vertebrates and invertebrates using the movable alphabet to write the name of each animal in the corresponding category. This was a great exercise for the students to practice their spelling skills.

Next Friday, February 9, we will be celebrating our 100th day of school with a field trip to the South Florida Museum & Bishop Planetarium located at [201 10th St. West, in downtown Bradenton](#). We encourage parents and students to arrive no later than 9:45a.m. The cost for this field trip is \$5.00 per child and \$9.00 per adult. Please check your child's Friday envelope for the permission slip. After our visit to the museum and planetarium, we will continue our field trip with a stroll on the Riverwalk to a picnic area where the children can run around and have a fun time on the playground.