



Dear O'Keeffe Families

Thanksgiving is the time of year to give thanks for all that we have. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for giving us the opportunity to spend time with and teach your children!

Culture and Geography:

This month, we are focusing on the continent of Europe. We have been learning about the location of Europe both on the world map and also on the globe. Many of the children have traced the map of Europe and are working on coloring in all of the many countries found there.

In preparation for Thanksgiving, we have been discussing how the Pilgrims came to America from Europe many years ago. The children have learned how difficult life was for the Pilgrims and how the Pilgrims learned many skills from the Native American Indians, including fishing, planting corn, and hunting. We created beautiful dioramas that incorporated what the children have learned about the Pilgrims, Native American Indians and giving thanks for all that we have. The children worked very hard on this project and we are very proud of what they accomplished!

The children made butter last week to see how much work was involved in food preparation for the Native American Indians and the pilgrims hundreds of years ago. They enjoyed shaking the heavy cream until it turned into butter that they spread on slices of bread.

Science:

We learned about fish this month and what distinguishes fish from other animals. The Kindergarten friends have been conducting animal research, studying different types of fish and all of the children are working on a fish collage.

Art

The children learned about Native American Indian cave drawings and created cave drawings of their own that were used as part of the Thanksgiving diorama. They have also been painting different kinds of fish using dot painting and other techniques. We also used pine needles as a paint brush to show the different mediums that can be used to paint and that things in nature can be used to make beautiful creations. Art is such an expression of a child's individual personality. The children continue to amaze us with their artistic abilities!



Spanish

The children have been enjoying the primary Spanish classes. In addition to learning common greetings, they have been learning about body parts, pets, and farm animals this month.

International Day

We would like to say thank you to Lily Mendia and Carmen Beaulieu for their time and effort in preparing for and helping out with International Day. The O'Keeffe classroom celebrated the culture of Mexico and enjoyed delicious

treats, including a sweet bread prepared specifically for the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. The children created Mexican crafts, listened to mariachi music and got to break open a traditional Mexican piñata. It was a great time for everyone!



Orange Juice

The children had the opportunity to make and drink their very own fresh squeezed orange juice this month. They used a hand juicer and worked hard to squeeze the juice from their orange. It was absolutely delicious!

The children are blossoming with their ability to advance through the Montessori material and remain fully engaged during the work cycle. In the practical life area of the classroom, the children have been enjoying using tweezers to pull the kernels from Indian Corn. They also love taking care of the environment around them by washing tables, folding laundry, and dusting the shelves. In the sensorial area, the children continue to practice learning the names of geometric shapes and to identify how everything around them is made up of these many shapes.



It is a joy to watch your children learn and grown in our classroom and we close by again saying thank you for giving us this opportunity.



With Friendship,

Teresa Amoroso and Maureen Martinous

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