



Dear O'Keeffe Families,

Fall is in the air! It is refreshing to feel the cool breezes blowing and have some crisp mornings after a long hot summer. Now that the weather has turned cooler, sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts will be coming to school. Make sure you put your child's name or initials in their outerwear as many look alike and can easily get mixed up.

It has been wonderful seeing many of you sharing work time with your children on Tuesday mornings. If you have not had an opportunity to come and work with your child, we would like to invite you to come each Tuesday morning from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

The primary Spanish classes have begun. Each Friday, the children have a 30 minute group lesson that incorporates music, learning, and fun. The children are currently working on learning colors and numbers in Spanish. Last week, the children created a fun project learning the colors associated with fall.

Culture and Geography:

This month, we are focusing on the continent of North America. We have been learning about the location of North America on the world map and also the various biomes we find on this continent. The children are also learning about the animals found in a temperate forest biome and a wetland biome.

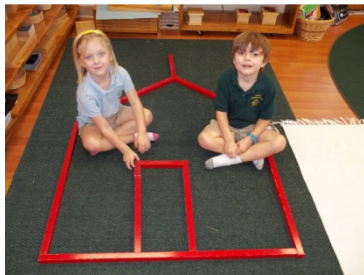
Science:

We are learning about mammals this month and what distinguishes mammals from other animals. We have also introduced arachnids and will be learning

more about them throughout this month. We have also been exploring and learning about the importance of the soil/land around us. We went on an expedition looking for all of the things that make up our soil. We learned about the important nutrients that need to be present in the soil for plants to grow and crushed egg shells to sprinkle on the soil outside to provide additional nutrients.

Art

We have been talking about Georgia O'Keeffe and looking at examples of her artwork. Georgia O'Keeffe was known for her beautiful oversized flowers. The children made beautiful O'Keeffe-inspired flowers of their own. They also enjoyed making tie-dye pumpkins using coffee filters, an eyedropper, and colored water. Their creations are beautiful!



Pet Month

We would like to say thank you to all of the parents who brought in their pets during pet month. The children love seeing the animals and learning about them during the visits. We were also fortunate to have a visitor from the Seminole County SPCA come to the classroom to talk to us about pets and pet care.

Police Visit

We had a visit from the Lake Mary Police Department. The police officer talked to the children about safety, following rules, and not talking to strangers. They especially enjoyed seeing the police baton and listening to the police radio.



Applesauce

The children really enjoyed making applesauce. The first day, they learned how to peel and core the apple with a special apparatus. They experienced the delicious aroma of the apples cooking throughout the day and were able to add a little sugar and cinnamon to the crock pot. The second day, they measured out a portion of the cooked apples and learned how to blend it into delicious applesauce, which they ate for snack.

Snack

Just a reminder: **When your child is assigned to bring snack, he/she may also bring some item to share and talk about with the class during circle time.** It should be something that has special meaning to him/her.

The children are really engaged during the work cycle working with the Montessori material with tremendous concentration. The practical life area is always popular and it is incredible to watch them grow with increased focus and concentration. In the sensorial area, they have been enjoying learning the names of the shapes from the geometric cabinet and the geometric solids. It is incredible to see them all working with the material with such enjoyment and developing a true love of learning.



In closing, we would like to share the tradition that we have established this year in the O'Keeffe classroom. We recite **Mahatma Gandhi's International Thought for Peace** at the end of the day. It is a wonderful way for all of us to come together before we go home each day. The words are, as follows:

I offer you peace.

I offer you love.

I offer you friendship.

I see your beauty.

I hear your needs.

I acknowledge your feelings.

My wisdom comes from a higher source.

I salute that source in you.

Let us work together.

For unity and peace.

With Friendship,

Teresa Amoroso and Maureen Martinous

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