



Dear Pollock Parents,

A brand new school year has started and the children are already enjoying new learning adventures. It is a new journey not only for the children, but also for the teachers and parents as well. It is a pleasure for us to share this new journey with you and your wonderful children.

We want your children to feel at home even when they are at school. "Casa dei Bambini" (Children's House) was the name of the first school founded by Maria Montessori in Rome, Italy, more than a hundred years ago. Many years have passed, and the Montessori philosophy of education has travelled around the world and adapted to many different cultures. However, its original principle remains the same: the school is a house for your child. We strongly believe in the importance of establishing a sense of community in our classroom and this is what we have been working on during these first few weeks of school. Among the many finger plays that we have been learning, we would like to share one in particular with you; it's called "**Houses**".

Here is a nest for the robin (*clasp your hands together*)

Here is a hive for the bee (*clasp your hand over a fist*)

Here is a hole for a bunny (*make a letter "o"*)

Here is a house for me (*make a roof with your fingers*)

In order to build an atmosphere of kindness and helpfulness among the children, we have introduced a new activity called "the kindness basket". It contains 22 favor bags, one for each child. Whenever a child does something kind, the teacher allows him/her to put a kindness bead in his/her bag. Eventually, when the child has collected enough beads, they can make a kindness bracelet or necklace to bring home. We would love to hear from you as well. Let us know when your child does something particularly kind at home and we will share your child's **act of kindness** with the entire class.

There is also a Peace Stone in our classroom. We use it to solve conflicts that the children have among themselves. We have been practicing what to say when you feel upset about something and the children are learning how to take turns in holding the stone as they talk to each other. It is very important at their age to learn how to express in words their feelings or to apologize in case they hurt someone else's feelings. The children are using the Peace Stone at the playground as well. It is amazing to see them solving the conflict by themselves and hugging each other.

Academically, the children are exploring the beautiful Montessori materials and progressing at their own pace. **We are looking forward to you coming and sharing some individual work time with your child every Tuesday morning, starting October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8 to 8:45am.** This is a great time for you to gain a better grasp of what your child is working on and express any thoughts with the teachers.

During the first week of school, the children have been exposed to the *globe* and learned about *planet Earth* and its continents. We have been working on the four elements on Earth: land, water, air, and fire. We are learning about landforms, with particular emphasis on the island and the lake. The *animal vertebrate classification* has also been introduced. The children are learning about these concepts based on their level of interest and teacher's expectations.

The children are also experiencing Musikgarten weekly. Musikgarten is an educational music program for children that the primary LMMA teachers are certified in and have been studying for the last two years. Its curriculum is a musical celebration of the seasons of the year. We sing, listen, move, and play musical instruments to the rhythm of the year. We are looking forward to exposing the children to the musical beauty of Fall.

Music and movement address all facets of human development. It is for this reason that we have started the *My Gym Program* this year. The children have My Gym every Wednesday. We recommend letting the children wear shorts and a t-shirt with short sleeves and tennis shoes. For the girls, shorts under the skirts are compulsory. Also, make sure your child brings a bottle of water to school.

Thank you so much to all the kind families who took part in the Book Fair thus making our classroom library even richer with beautiful books.

Thank you very much, parents, for being so supportive and understanding with our Trash Free Lunch Program. As has been said at the opening, this new year is going to be a learning journey for all of us.

With Kindness,

Ms. Liuzzi and Ms. Simpson

[Pollock@lmma.net](mailto:Pollock@lmma.net) class email  
[www.lmma.net](http://www.lmma.net) school website