



Dear O'Keeffe Families,

We are so excited to be back for a wonderful 2011-2012 school year in our beautiful "new" classroom! The O'Keeffe room has been enlarged and has beautiful new wood floors. The environment is very peaceful and inviting and we cannot wait for you to see it when the parent visits begin in October.

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.

This year, the O'Keeffe classroom has a job chart that changes weekly. Each week, your child will have a different very important job in the classroom. Make sure you ask your child what his/her job is for the week. It is very important for the children to do meaningful work, both in and out of the classroom, and having a job to do each week helps them realize how important their contributions are to the classroom.

**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.

Music:

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.

### My Gym:

The children are really enjoying Tuesday afternoons with My Gym. The activities that they are doing help with their coordination and gross motor skills.

### Culture and Geography:

We are studying our entire Earth. We are talking about the continents and the names of the oceans. This week, the children learned about the difference between fresh water and the salt water found in the oceans. They got to taste the difference. We are also working on the introduction to the biomes. The children are learning the parts of a biome: energy from the sun, air, water, soil, flora, and fauna. They had a wonderful time making an art project illustrating the sun giving energy to the Earth.

### Science:

We are introducing/reviewing the animal classifications: mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and fish. We have been talking about apples and the children were able to taste different apples and investigate what the seeds look like and how they grow in beautiful apple trees. They also had a lesson on how to spread apple butter. They really enjoyed eating the apple butter! They have been polishing apples in the Practical Life area of the classroom. Later this month, we will be learning about Johnny Appleseed and the children will be making their very own applesauce.

The children have been working with the Montessori material with great focus and attention. It is incredible to see the level of concentration and interest they have during the work cycle.

With Friendship,

Teresa Amoroso and Maureen Martinous

Class E-mail: [O'Keeffe@lmma.net](mailto:O'Keeffe@lmma.net)

School Website: [www.LMMA.net](http://www.LMMA.net)