



Dear Matisse Parents,

We have recently finished our unit on Asia and would like to thank the Hom family for putting together a Chinese New Year Celebration. We are now learning about the fascinating continent of Africa! This continent is always a crowd pleaser due to the awesome animals and different cultures found within it. We will be learning how to count and how to speak certain words in *Swahili*, a native African dialect. Our Kindergarten friend, Gregory, brought beautiful masks crafted in Kenya and Morocco to show the class. Another Matisse friend, Parisa, recently traveled to Africa and visited places such as Tanzania and Egypt and has shared wonderful stories from her journey.

The Matisse class has begun stretching their minds and bodies through fun and relaxing yoga sessions. Ms. Paez brings a group of five children out at a time on the patio area every Wednesday morning to engage them on an inspiring journey. Ms. Paez has based her lessons off the ideas in the book titled, *Fly Like A Butterfly: Yoga for Children*, by Shakta Kaur Khalsa. It is only recently that we have come to understand how helpful yoga can be for children – it increases their self-awareness, builds their self-esteem, and strengthens their bodies. Yoga postures and angles create certain pressures to stimulate the body and brain, making the necessary changes to become a healthy, happy, and whole person. So far, the children have really enjoyed performing the yoga exercises and are happy that it is outside!

Ms. Paez has also begun geography and culture lessons in Spanish. Each week, a Spanish-speaking country will come alive in the Matisse classroom. We will explore the countries of Central America, South America, and Europe. Your children will explore the many different Spanish-speaking cultures found within these places. Feel free to send in any pictures or souvenirs that your family may have from a Spanish-speaking country. Each week, a summary page will be sent home with the children so that they can share what they have learned with their family!

Kindergarten Language POD

In Language: We are teaching the children about compound words. They are having lessons on capital letters and we are learning how to form the letters, when to use the capital and when not to use the capital letter. In our writing, we are teaching the children about punctuation marks. They will learn about a period and question mark, how to use in their writing and how to use their voice inflection when reading.

In Math: We have practiced with clocks and recorded in our time journals. So we will move on from time to counting money. The children will learn currency and its value.

In Handwriting: Book POD is now the handwriting POD. We are focusing on proper pencil grip and the correct way to form words.

In Science: 3..2..1.. Blast Off! We are starting our unit on space. The kindergarteners will be studying the sun, planets, and other objects in the sky. What is your child's favorite planet?

You're Matisse Teachers,

Miss Stiers, Miss Paez, Mrs. Simpson,
Matisse@Imma.net-our - class email
www.imma.net-our - school website