



Happy New Year to our O'Keeffe Families!

January 28, 2010

In December we learned about traditional holiday celebrations in North America. The children worked on Kwanzaa by making paper chains and coloring pictures of the kinara (candleholder). The Rothbaum family visited our class and we made mkekas, which are the traditional placemat and ate a delicious treat. Next we learned about Hanau. We learned about the menorah, the dradle song, and push pinned a dradle. The Jacobson family visited our class and brought delicious latkes and treats. Finally, we talked about Christmas in countries such as Mexico, and how we celebrate the New Year.

In Culture we finished studying about North America and introduced Asia. We have learned so much about Asia. We have colored the China, Russia, and India flags. We have learned about the different animals and the kindergarten friends have made beautiful biome maps. In Practical Life, we have new work, such as eating with chop sticks and sorting tea cups. Our younger friends have been learning lessons in grace and courtesy by folding and sorting laundry for our lower elementary classes. We even delivered it to their classrooms!

In Music, we have been introducing songs from our Musikgarten collection such as "Everybody do this" and "Go Around the Mountain". The children have really enjoyed dancing to "Looby Loo" and "O Belinda." They are learning how to dance with a partner and are really good at it.

In Language our pre-K friends have all started reading the beginning phonic series, such Max the Cat and Sam and Al. We are so proud of them. We also have new matching card work which shows the different clothes that we wear during the seasons, and we introduced a new food pyramid work.

In Math, the children continue to practice their sandpaper numbers, addition and subtraction and the 45 layout. We are looking forward to our Chinese New Year and Valentine Celebrations. We will see you there.

Kindergarten Pod Focus

Science Pod

In science pod we are finishing our unit on zoology. We have worked on life cycles and food chains and webs. Our next unit starting at the end of this month will be botany, the study of plants.

Language Pod

During December our Kindergarten friends made sight word key chains. Each key chain had 100 sight words for them to practice at home and at school. They also learned sight words in the Montessori environment and played a street sign sight word map game.

Book Pod

The kindergartners still meet every Friday to gather for a relaxing book pod. We are currently reading The Magic School Bus series, a favorite of all the children! We are strengthening recognition of characters and of plot. The Magic School Bus series provides interesting facts that the children can write down and illustrate. Remember, reading truly enhances your child's world and imagination!

With Kindness,

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