

WOODLAND NATURE MONTESSORI SCHOOL



*Woodland Nature
Montessori School*

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2019



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Happy February! We cannot believe how quickly January flew by. However, we are so excited for February because during this month we put a huge focus on love, kindness, and friendship. If you have any books or projects that encourage and teach about love, friendship, kindness, etc. that you would like to donate or allow the school to borrow, we would be so grateful! The children are moving from studying Australia to studying Antarctica. The classroom could always use more books on different topics about any continent that we are studying. If you have anything or see anything related to Antarctica that you would like to donate or share, please speak to one of the teachers.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day, Thursday, February, 14th. We are asking that in lieu of cards and plastic toys you send your children with group snacks or nature-themed gifts. Please see the section on Valentine's Day of the newsletter for more information. If you choose to bring a snack please fill out the information on the sign-up sheet in the classroom, as to avoid duplicate snacks.

Thank you all for everything that you do!

*With gratitude,
Ms. Karen*

Dates to Remember

February 14th - Valentine's Day - We will be celebrating with the children during the day. Please see the Sustainable Valentine's Day & News Updates sections for more details.

February 18th - President's Day - School Closed

Snack Menu

February 4th - 8th - Ze- Quinoa, Tangerine, & Date Salad

February 11th - 15th - Henry - Strawberry Chia Pudding

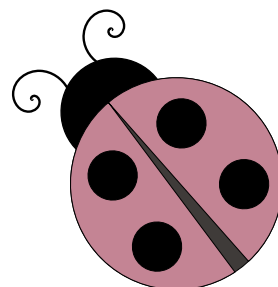
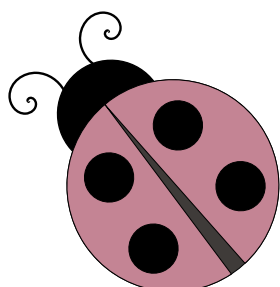
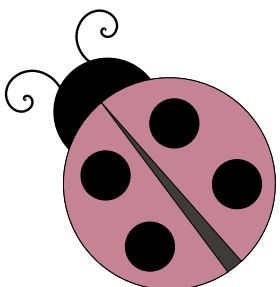
February 19th - 22nd - Scarlett - Roasted Broccoli & Chickpeas

NEWS UPDATES

Valentine's Day Party - We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 14th. We are asking you to help us make this party as sustainable as possible. To do so we are asking that in lieu of cards & small toys that you bring in nature-themed gifts, such as flower arrangements and mini gardening kits. If you would prefer to bring in a healthy group snack for the children to share instead of individual gifts please sign-up on the sheet in the classroom. Feel free to contact Ms. Kayla if you have any additional questions.

President's Day - Reminder that we will be closed Monday, February 18th for President's Day

Substitute Position - We are currently looking for a nature-lover with Montessori experience to add to our substitute list. If you know of anyone that would be a good fit for our school family please have them contact us!



A Look Back

January 2019

New Families! - We have had quite a few new families that have joined us this past month. If you see them during drop off or pick up, please welcome them!

Holiday Party - Thank you to all those who were able to attend our rescheduled Holiday Performance & Cookie Exchange. The children had a magical time and it was wonderful to see you all.

Birthday Celebrations - We had quite a few birthdays in the month of January so we wanted to take the opportunity to talk about our birthday celebrations.

In the Montessori classroom, we celebrate birthdays by doing a celebration of life. The children join together for a circle time. The student whose birthday it is helps to set up the celebration. On a rug, they place a wooden sun with a candle in the center, around the sun they place labels with the month of the year, the globe, and physical manipulatives to count out how old they are. The manipulatives vary based on age and developmental level but generally include the Red & Blue Rods (used for counting), Golden Unit Beads, and Sandpaper Numbers.

The child also brings in a picture from each year of their life. Parents are welcome to join for this celebration and add their stories about each year of the child's life.

The candle in the center of the sun is lit to represent the birth of the child. The child holds the globe and walks once around the sun, to represent a year on the earth. After each year the child does something to symbolize growing another year olds (ie. placing one golden bead unit into a specific bowl). The child and parents then share stories from each age.

This celebration honors the life of the child and gives a lasting, physical impression of what a birthday really signifies.





A Sustainable Valentine's Day



This Valentine's Day we are asking that you bring in gifts that are nature themed and sustainable. Rather than bringing in cards and plastic play toys consider some of the following ideas:

1. A small pot with soil and seeds, "I really dig you."
2. A tray of apple slices (for the children to share) "You are the apple of my eye"
3. A tray of sliced strawberries (for the children to share) "I think you're sweet!"
4. Collect wildflowers with your littles and tie them together with a string or reuse old jars to create arrangements!

Allow your kids to get creative and ask them to come up with fun nature gift ideas. Consider bringing snack trays with fresh fruits and veggies rather than individual gifts.

Kind Words – A Sensory Lesson

February is all about spreading love. Below is a simple lesson you can make at home that helps children to understand how words can make us feel good or bad. It helps them to categorize what words are kind and what words are unkind.

Items Needed:

1. Tray
2. Two matching bowls that will fit on the tray together
3. A scrap of sandpaper
4. Cotton balls

Preparation:

1. Place both bowls on the tray
2. Fill one bowl with cotton balls
3. Place the scrap of sandpaper in the other bowl

Presentation:

1. Place the tray in front of the child.
2. Have the child pick up the cotton balls and feel them. Ask them to describe how the cotton balls feel, "soft, fluffy, smooth."
3. Have the child pick up the sandpaper and feel it. Ask them to describe how it feels, "rough, pokey, harsh."
4. Now, take the opportunity to tell them the sandpaper and the cotton balls are like the words that we use. Some words are soft and fluffy and they make people feel good and some words are rough and harsh and make people feel hurt.
5. Have the child repeat steps 2 and 3 but instead of asking them to describe how the objects feel, have them come up with words that feel like the objects. (Ex. "love, thank you, please, etc." for the cotton balls and "hate, ugly, etc." for the sandpaper.)