



Newsletter - September 2022

Hello Families,

We will be sending out a monthly newsletter to let you know what we have been doing in the classrooms. It will mostly be a recap on the previous month, with a few details about the upcoming month. We hope this will give you more insight into what we are doing in our classrooms. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's classroom teacher and we will be happy to help!

Please remember there will be no school on Fri October 7th for professional development day and no school on Monday October 10th in honor of Columbus Day.

As the weather starts to turn colder, please remember to pack hats and gloves for your children. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sabrina Beaulieu
Director

Upcoming Events:

- October 5th: Calendar Prizes Due - please bring all raffle prizes to the office.
- October 7th & 10th: NO SCHOOL
- October 6-28th: Sell Calendar Raffle Tickets
- October 22nd: Halloween Party - more details to come

Miss Sabrina's Primary Class

Hi Everyone,

We made it through all the first month jitters and tears and now we can focus on fun things to work on in the classroom. Phew, what a month!!

This past month we learned about Johnny Appleseed and how he traveled all over the country trying to plant trees everywhere. We talked about the life cycle of apples and how there are many different types. We looked at apple orchards and learned how they have nurseries and how the new trees grow from the old trees. We did some apple tasting on yellow green and red apples and every apple tied for winners in the "best tasting apple ever!" We made apple cider with Rebecca Duguay and her family with their apple cider press and we are planning to make applesauce too!

Every morning we begin our day with a Morning Circle. One student is chosen each day to be the Log Leader. They lead the circle with calendar, weather, the Moon Phase and other activities that are part

of the circle time. They love being the Log Leader as this gives them the responsibility of being a class leader throughout the whole morning.

This coming month we will be learning some fun things about pumpkins and leaves. We also will be starting our Show and Tell month. Your child can bring in something from home that they want to show their friends and talk about where they got it and what they do with it etc. If you have not received your calendar for October please let me know and I will email it to you.

I am very excited about our class this year and I am looking forward to October as we continue to learn and grow and adjust to our new environment.

Cheers,

Miss Sabrina
and
Miss Lisa

Miss Shannon's Primary Class

Hi everyone,

We have had a great first month of school! It has been really nice to get to know our new students and see familiar faces back at school.

We started off our first week getting to know each other's names, became familiar with the classroom materials, using a work mat, classroom rules, and our daily circle routine. I am very impressed with how well they all picked up on these things.

The month of September is all about apples, leaves and everything fall. Our sensory bin was set up for the children to make apple crisp, then switched to beans and corn. We learned about the apple life cycle, Johnny Appleseed, made apple play dough, apple stamping, made some fun apple predictions, and made apple cider and apple sauce! We picked out some leaves to trace, matched leaf shapes, talked about different kinds of leaves and glued leaves to a printout tree. Wednesdays are all about music and Ms. Sabrina comes into our classroom. The kids really look forward to this.

We started learning about our 5 senses and some of the children made a book to bring home.

I really enjoy working with each child. I try to present a new material to the class at circle time every morning. Then I let them know they are free to work with this material off of the shelf. I have been able to present a lot of new material which is great!

Next month will be all about pumpkins, scarecrows, and Halloween!

I am looking forward to all of the months to come!

Shannon and Haylee

Miss Sam's Lower Elementary Class

The Elementary room has been a busy place the last few weeks. We have a 2-hour work period every morning when students can learn and work with Montessori activities from the shelves. We have language block every day after lunch, math is in the afternoons Monday and Wednesdays, Science on Tuesdays, Social Studies on Thursdays and Fridays switch every week between health sciences, advanced practical life, music and art. Show and tell starts this month. Please check the calendar that

was sent home to see when your child is able to bring in something from home to share with the class. If you need another copy, please let me know. This month we will also continue to work on daily assessments and observations to prepare for parent/teacher meetings and to make sure every child is using activities and doing work that fit their needs.

The first week we discussed classroom rules and routines. The student's organized their binder into sections of language, math, science, social studies and H.A.M (health, art and music.) All of their work they do in class goes into their binders. Every student meets with me once a month to make sure binders are organized and their work is completed. They were given classroom jobs that include sweeper, vacuumer, gardener, log leader, banker etc. They write down three of their top choices at the beginning of the day on Friday every other week and they are given one of their choices by the end of the day. They begin their new jobs the following Monday. They are paid a dollar for the job they complete every day that they put in an envelope in their storage boxes. At the end of their two-week job cycle they are able to shop at the classroom store, which the banker manages, to buy items with the money they earned.

The second week we focused on learning some of the Montessori materials in the classroom. In a Montessori classroom, all materials need to be presented to the child first, so they are able to use them correctly as well as learn the new skills the material is meant to teach. We have focused primarily with the language and math shelves and starting from the simpler activities and working our way through the more complex in the coming months.

Our third week of school focused on "The Five Great Lessons" that are generally presented in the first eight weeks of school and are very important in Montessori education. The first great lesson is "The Beginning of the Universe and Earth." The students learned through a story and experiments the different theories of how the Universe and Earth came to be. They will be given research topics after every great lesson to learn more about a concept that interests them. The topics they were given are gravity, condensation, evaporation, three states of matter and volcanoes. Volcanoes seemed to be the popular topic of choice while a couple of students chose condensation. All research will be done in class, but the choice is theirs if they want to continue their research at home. We created a title page for our research book and wrote four questions that we would like to learn about our topics. They are using two resources, books and the internet to answer the questions they came up with. We talked about how to search questions online and look for appropriate and informational websites. They are also learning how to create a works cited page to add to their report.

During language block they have been working on spelling words that they bring home on Tuesday and are given a test for on Monday. We use these spelling words to aid in our Montessori curriculum of language development. The words are designed to teach different phonographic sounds and sight words that will aid in reading as well as writing. Spelling words are practiced every day during language block but can be done at home as well. Tia and I have been reading with the students using the leveled readers from reading a-z. They all know what levels they are on and choose books from the correct box to bring home to read. Books go home Monday-Thursday, and the goal is for them to read 15-20 mins a night and to fill out their reading log, so they know where they left off but also practice writing skills and learn parts of a book. Other parts of our language block include a writing workshop, silent reading, class story and doing work from the language shelf (Montessori activities.)

During math block the students are divided into groups. The first group has been learning about quantities and identifying numbers using symbols. They learned how to read a ten frame and a die to quickly see quantities and match them to the correct number. The second group is working on place values. They learned how to create three-digit numbers in pictorial form, standard form and word form. The third group is working on rounding whole numbers to the nearest tens and hundreds place. Some of the Montessori materials we have worked with so far are the knobless cylinders to learn discrimination of size, geometric solids to learn the names of geometric shapes, the addition board to understand addition and complete an addition book for numbers 1-9. We have worked with the stamp game to add and subtract 4-digit numbers as well as learn place value. Some of the older students have been working with the bead cabinet to learn the value of numbers that are squared and cubed.

During our science block we do a mix of Mystery Science videos and Montessori experiments. We have watched videos about how scientists study animals and "All About Apples." Each video that they watch has follow up work for each grade. We had a class discussion about different ways to study animals and worked on a STEM project to develop our own apple pickers using only paper and tape.

During our Social Studies block we worked on a book to show what planet, continent, country, state and town we live in. We learned about cardinal directions by identifying what states were to the north, east, south and west of us. We identified where the borders were to the north and south of the United States and what countries are on the other side of the border.

During our health sciences block we created an "All About Me" book that incorporated a self-portrait, their favorite things, interests and hobbies.

I just want to say that all parents have been very supportive of me and the classroom as well as all the work the students bring home. I appreciate all of the positive feedback and parent involvement as it is so important for the students to have parents and teachers working together to help them learn and grow.

Miss Sam & Tia