

Preschool Class
November 2007

Cold Weather and the Outdoors Please make sure your child is dressed for the outdoors. Gloves and hats are a definite help. Children want and deserve independence. Please make sure all clothing is labeled with a name! Children do not always recognize their clothing.

Indoors clothing with long sleeves that partially cover the hands can impede scissor cutting, pencil work, and easel painting to name just a few works. We are helping children roll their sleeves up inside the class so that they have freedom to completely explore their world. Thanks for your help with this also.

Grace and Courtesy It is a thrill to hear our children practice those words that are so helpful in life. The apple serving work has children asking “Would you like a slice of apple?” with the other child replying “Yes, please.” or “No, thank you.” We are also hearing “Excuse me.” as children navigate the classroom..

What is new to our Class From November until Winter Break the practical life area will have a focus of South America. There will be “emeralds” to pour, small red “peppers”, “turnips” and “potatoes” to tweeze. Real potatoes may be peeled along with mashing and eating cooked potatoes. Cracking nuts and eating them and grating nutmeg will also be on the shelf along with cutting bananas and serving them with a toothpick. Because the South America puzzle piece on the continents map is pink, pink water will fill the pouring works.

The Preschooler and Their World In the preschool, friends become important. Who a child works with, who they have snack with, and learning to share this friend is a big challenge. Being patient and waiting for a work matures into letting a friend work with someone else and understanding s/he is still a friend. In a Montessori class, having mixed ages is important in this process. As the younger children see the older children share each other, along with works on the shelf, they begin to understand and

model that behavior. The younger children love to help and watch the older children at work. Learning to ask a child if you may watch the work and then sitting without disturbing is quite an accomplishment. When a child is watching, I think of it as “intellectual eavesdropping”.

Time The concept of time is something we will focus more on during circle time. From the sharing of what day today is, to a song about the days of the week, to what time it is, are things we are starting to explore. The Earth going around our Sun is a topic of conversation and how long it takes to circle our Sun. We have had some birthday celebrations where the birthday child gets to circle around our felt sun carrying our globe for each year of life. This really brings home the concept of our Earth going around our Sun. Time is a very difficult and grown up concept as any parent knows who has tried to explain how many days it is until something happens. Even when a child acts as if s/he understands, suddenly s/he asks a question that exposes a lack of true understanding.

The naming of the continents using the globes and the puzzle map are important works in the 3-6 class. We are singing the continents song and have begun work on the puzzle maps.

Spanish At circle time, we are learning to identify some of the parts of the body, to count in Spanish to 20, and colors.

