

February 19, 2018

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend and enjoyed playing in the snow with your little ones! We have some wonderful, warm, springtime weather approaching this week so we will be enjoying lots of outdoor time! We are preparing to start some gardening work in the courtyard and in the Toddler garden, so please feel free to send in plugs, seeds, or special plants that are meaningful to your family. The children will have the opportunity to start plants from seeds, prep the earth for transplantation of sprouts, and pull weeds. I was a horticulturist for many years and it is one of my favorite activities to share with the children! Gardening is an excellent way to teach young minds the parts of a plant, names of insects, the roles of the sun and rain, and other rudimentary biology lessons.



This week I introduced a new work called the Mystery Bag. All of the children have received individual lessons and group play with this work and it is a huge success! The idea behind the mystery bag is to have different shaped objects that provide various tactile experiences. After reviewing the names of the objects, such as the metal bell or the fuzzy lion, we put all the objects back in the bag. Without peeking, the children reach in their hand and try to find the object I ask for, simply by feeling the material of the object. This is such joyful work for the child! The shouts of joy were so sweet as your children were able to correctly locate an object simply by using their hands! The purpose behind this work is to

strengthen the students stereognostic sense, or how things "feel", which in return strengthens all of the students senses and cultivates cognitive development.

Your little ones have been very busy working on their individual and group projects for our art gallery this Friday at the Blue Ridge Art Gallery on Main Street. I hope everyone is able to attend this event and see what your little ones have been up to in the classroom. We have explored many new art mediums for our projects such as making water colors out of acrylic paints, and watching colors flow and mix together in our milk-dying experiment. Many of your children had mini lessons during our projects about primary and secondary colors, which they later took to the paint easel for more practice!

Our classroom has been given a very special coin jar that is going to be used to collect coins for our Sister School, the Inkoisuk School in Kenya, Africa. The coins will go to our sister school in order to support their efforts to build a bathroom. If you would like to help, you

can send in a ziplock bag of coins with your child. It is a great opportunity for your child to learn new language related to currency and to strengthen their fine motor skills by dropping coins into the small slot.

We had a wonderful Valentine's Day celebration and enjoyed eating strawberries and almond flour cookies. We hope everyone enjoyed their little ones heart-filled craft. Below is the song we have been singing about love at our circle time. We also enjoyed a special visit from two elementary friends who shared poems compiled and written by Mrs. Nixon's students. Thank you so much to Capone's family for the wonderful groceries last week and to Wyatt's family for our groceries this week. The following families are slated for grocery retrieval for the next few weeks:



Cheers,
Sarah Veitenthal

There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart,
there's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
there's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart.

There's a little frog a leapin' in my heart,
there's a little frog a leapin' in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
there's a little frog a leapin' in my heart.

