

Mrs. Veitenthal's February Class Notes

Dear Families,

Many of you have given me feedback that your little ones are beginning to recite poems and sing songs from our circle time at home and are sharing these fun rhymes with siblings, stuffed friends, and even pets! I love how our circle time reinforces language development and brings music and rhythm into your child's heart. Our circle times are becoming more intricate and we can move freely between using scarves, shakers, bells, rhythm sticks, and clapping our hands to the beat. Your children are becoming quite talented musicians and dancers :)

For the past few weeks we have enjoyed various bird work in our classroom. Many children have received a lesson on scooping bird seed into a wooden bucket, carrying it to the garden and sprinkling it on the ground to help the birds during this winter freeze. We have learned the names of a few local birds such as the Eastern Bluebird, Baltimore Oriole, Pileated Woodpecker, Black-Capped Chickadee, and Robin. The older children are learning the parts of the bird with an anatomy puzzle such as breast, wing, tail, head and beak. Breaking a whole object into its parts develops the mathematical mind as your child begins to understand there are many facets to objects.

You may have noticed a yellow extension cord plugged in near our door. We will have a heater set up in our sprinkler room for an unforeseeable amount of time. Please help your child navigate around this cord during arrival :)

I hope everyone has a lovely evening,
Sarah Veitenthal

Circle time poem:

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill.
One name Jack and the other named Jill.
Fly away Jack! Fly away Jill!
Come back Jack and come back Jill.

Dear Families,

We will be observing Valentine's Day this upcoming Monday, February 14th. Your little ones have really enjoyed decorating a festive bag that will hold any cards they receive. If you would like to participate, please send in 14 cards on Monday addressed to "My Friend" and then *from* your child's name. Homemade cards are wonderful but store bought cards are great too, we just ask that you do not send in any candy! All of the cards will be sent home on Monday afternoon so you and your little one can look through them together :) Please let me know if you have any questions!

Have a great weekend,
Sarah

Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you well. I know most of you are at home today with your little ones, so I thought an update of your child's beautiful school experience would warm your heart.

The past few weeks have truly been magical. We are seeing a transformation take place in the classroom and your children are becoming different kids than they were at the beginning of the year. At our parent orientation night, I explained that it could take up to 8 weeks for everyone to be transitioned. With more children in the classroom this year, it absolutely took those 8 weeks for everyone to find their groove and really feel like part of the community. Now that we have become a strong classroom community, I am seeing friendships develop and strengthen, language blossoming, helping hands, and joyful working children. There have been times that I have been able to step back and observe the intricacy of our Montessori work cycle and I have been in absolute awe of the children's capabilities.

Last week, Luke's mom (Stephanie) visited for an outdoor lesson on bees. The children were able to explore a bee box, practice taking out a frame

with a brick, use the bee brush, smell a beeswax candle, and taste honey. We were then able to observe live bees in their colony, which absolutely fascinated the children. It was such a fun, interactive experience.

If you do find yourself at home with a child not feeling well, I wanted to share some lowkey ideas you could do at home to encourage work and develop their awareness of self-care. Part of your child's physical work right now is to construct the building blocks of a healthy immune system that will carry them through adulthood, and to help them recognize when it's time to rest.

Self-care/ Practical Life Ideas:

- * Slice potatoes and carrots into thin strips so your child can cut them into bite sized pieces for homemade vegetable soup.
- * Find a manual orange juicer and have your child twist and squeeze oranges for homemade juice.
- * Make an infused water with lemons, limes, or squashed berries.
- * Read, read, read! Take the opportunity to strengthen your love of books. I love finding seasonal books that correlate with what the child is seeing outside or is experiencing at home.
- * Taste new fruits and vegetables as a fun tasting experience, which will expand your child's palate, and encourage their acquisition of various vitamins and minerals.
- * This is a wonderful time to encourage your child to brush his/her own hair, help with brushing teeth, wash their own hands, and enjoy a relaxing bath.

If anyone would like any additional ideas or guidance for home environment preparation or guidance, please feel free to reach out!

Have a wonderful afternoon,
Sarah