

# Montessori Arts and Sciences School



Fall, 2010

## Welcome Back! Falling into Place

Curiosity and enthusiasm for engagement in learning are found in all areas of the classroom and outdoor environment, as students purposefully work at skills to gain integrated information.



Elementary 11 students have the opportunity to validate geography studied previously, while developing a comprehensive project of a chosen

continent. Miss Jillian Buccola is leading her students to use Montessori puzzle maps; read in atlases; research and label physical features; focus on the flora, fauna, and mineral resources of one continent; and study the cultures that have developed through history. Following are the “experts” on each of the continents: Madeline Welch-South America; Gabriel Sorbi-Africa; Vicky DeVito-Europe; Reece Chow- Western Asia; Tennessee Cothran-Bray-Eastern Asia; Rhiana Becker-Australia and April Vanaria- North America with focus on the United States.

To incorporate technology in the experience, students are creating a power point presentation based on their findings.

Botany for Elementary One begins with brainstorming on the uses of plants. Students have created collages showing building, food, medicines, musical instruments and more. Creating Garden Journals is coordinating writing, drawing and scientific observations to identify parts of plants, the history of certain species, and the uses of beneficial plants like aloe, yarrow, laurel bay and echinacea.



Outside, the terms like veins, apex, margin and petiole are used to reinforce the concepts learned from Montessori nomenclature

Jonathan has asked, “Can we use aloe vera rather than antiseptic the next time someone falls?” He retains the knowledge and likes to collect samples for a garden at home with chocolate mint, cinnamon basil, scented geranium and yarrow. All children do!



## Introductions in Spanish

Immersion into vocabulary, culture and personal expression has been the program this fall while practicing greetings and introductions of family. Playing games describing the pictures and guessing who is the character by asking questions is fun. Montessori and

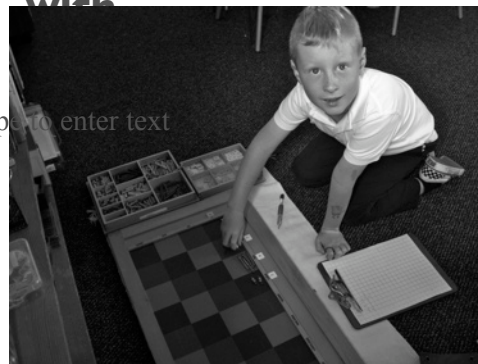
modern neuroscience research would concur that having small challenges and the a sense of winning reinforces the learning. For Dia de los Muertos, each created a papier mache and collaged figure about a family member to honor. The classes enjoyed “Pan de Muertos” and shared and respected the heritage.



## History of English

As Fourth-Fifth Year students tackle their Spelling Connections, the question arose, “Why are there so many ways to make the same vowel sound of ‘i’ or ‘o’”. This was the perfect question. We look to the Montessori charts for where our language originated. Reece, Rhiana and Tennessee have just begun to realize what a rich and interesting language we have. The roots go back to the Western Branch of the Proto-Indo European which began more than five thousand years ago. Examining the saying “opening Pandora’s box” came from a Greek myth led Reece to the school library where he found the myth, appreciating its relevance.

## Mathematics



## Montessori Hands-On

The beauty and patterns of numbers and shapes are present for all the students engaging in the array of manipulatives readily available to them. Children teach themselves by using these didactic tools. They also develop good friendships and interpersonal skills. Organization of work space is another important aspect.



# A View of the Classes

Our students participate whole-heartedly in all areas of the arts and sciences. The presentation, materials, encouragement and expectation of creating and expressing lead our students to develop holistically. Here is a glimpse of what goes on.

## The Love of Stories



Junior Great Books groups are designed to reach the child's natural stages of development, socially and emotionally. Here, Mrs. Doran reads *Squirrel Nutkin* aloud to First Year students while others follow along. This allows the child to be immersed in rich literature and absorb the essence of the story. The children are inspired to ask very important questions about life. They are encouraged to give their ideas and support these opinions with quotes from the story. Using illustrations to convey their understanding of big concepts reveals great insight of the child's spirit and individuality.

## Rhythms of Fall and Harvest



The pleasures of autumn are embraced with all students participating in music classes with Orff instruments and involved in movement, voice, percussion and music theory under the direction of Tiffany Spencer. Classes have performed coordinated "shows" for our staff with falling leaves, flying bats, skeletons and spiders! We look forward to **December 17** at 9:15 am where parents and friends will be inspired by the beauty of the ocean, mountains and natural resources. Older students will also perform with the recorders and music of peace and joy. This will coordinate with the unveiling of the mosaic wall which is a *Tribute to the Pacific Marine Habitat of California*.

## Ocean Study



Exploring the Pacific Marine Habitat has been our focus in September and October. Elementary One has read books and animal stories from teacher-made materials. Elementary Two students have worked on internal parts of the fish and other invertebrates. Both classes enjoyed the Stephen Birch Aquarium visit. Here is a journal from Tennessee Cothran-Bray. "The lobby branched into fifty different tanks. In one there were garden eels which stick about half their bodies out of the sand. When danger approaches, they withdraw into the ground. In another tank, we saw a wolf eel that was at least 3 1/2 feet long." In the classrooms, everyone learned about invertebrates and enjoyed hands-on experience with sea slugs, cucumbers, turban shells, sea stars, sea horses.

## Our Outdoor Environment

Watching the migration and life cycle of the monarchs has been a common interest for students, staff and visitors. The Butterfly Garden has attracted many species, but the monarchs thrive here with the butterfly weed for food for caterpillars and many places "to hang" for the pupas while morphing to adults.



## Parents Association

*Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Recycle Project!* Each month you have raised \$100 for the school! The students have enjoyed the activity to conserve natural resources and care for Earth. Definitely awareness is raised and the children have an enhanced community spirit. Many thanks to Jodi Marvel and Kim Shea for taking the cans, plastics and glass each week.

*Proceeds from the October Bake Sale was also \$100!*

## Presentation from the Flower Fields

Phil Okun brought a slide show about the science of ranunculus, the history of the Flower Fields and taught us about how to plant and care for bulbs. We discussed that they are classified as tubers and all colors except blue and black exist. Each child's bulb is thriving and will go home in March when they mature. We look forward to our trip to the fields learning more about vermiculture and composting.



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Montessori Arts and Sciences School was pleased to participate at ArtSplash held September 25-26, a fun and important community event with the goal of sharing all of the arts and giving back to schools and other North County organizations providing art to youth. We are thankful to the Carlsbad Arts Education Grant which supported our Pacific Marine Habitat of California mosaic. The completion and installation