

# Montessori Pathways Summer Camp news

*June, 2012*

## *Notes from Ms. Alena*

It's hard to believe that an entire month of summer has already gone by! However, it's been extremely enjoyable and productive for all of us. During this month, our students have "visited" **Australia, China, India, and Belarus.**



At the beginning of camp, the children prepared a world map, where they are now marking these countries, adding the country's flag, as well as a miniature person dressed in the national dress of the country.

A huge thank you to not only the teachers, but also everyone who had come in to share interesting facts or items about various countries throughout this month. A special thank you to *Bob and Sherry Pan*, who talked about the various traditions of China and shared delicious dumplings with the children.



Thank you to *Ms. Laxmi*, who was once a member of the Montessori Pathways family, for bringing various Indian decorations and dress, as well as her Sari. She explained the special ways a Sari can be worn (did you know that each part of India has a different way of wearing a Sari?)

**Continue on next page**

Lastly, my daughter *Masha* and I shared different traditional items and facts about Belarus, which the children found interesting as well.

This month brought many new friends to our school. We are happy to welcome *Alia, Heath, Mark, Alexandra, Quincy and Emily*. It is also great to see friends from previous summer camps and alumni return, as they are always greeted by the many friends they make over the **summer**.



At the end of Australia week, we had yet another special addition to our family—a **beautiful blue parakeet**. Ironically enough, parakeets are native Australia birds! The children have begun voting for a name for the bird, but would like to extend the chance to all of their friends—we will let you know the results in the next newsletter. Our friend is very active, fun, and friendly, and it seems that he is also enjoying our school quite a lot.

During this month, we had our first training field trip, which we discussed in our previous newsletter. The children also visited **Color-Me-Mine**, where they prepared presents for Father's Day (we hope you liked them!)

Unfortunately, our last field trip of the month to the **Gazebo in Downtown Crystal Lake** had to be cancelled due to bad weather. However, we tried to not cancel the picnic and make one in the classroom instead. We spread



out a blanket in the class, ordered pizza, and the children enjoyed the lemonade they had made. Of course, this does not compare to a picnic outside, so we will try once again in July—hopefully the weather will be on our side!

In the coming month, the children can expect to visit **Germany, Italy, France, and Africa**. During Italian week, we **will visit Georgio's pizza** to learn about how a pizza is made and make one ourselves!

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When learning about Africa, our school will be visited by **Helen Bond**, who travels to various countries, and has spent a lot of time in Africa. She will bring various handmade African drums, perform a drumming routine, explain the drums to the kids and, finally, allow the children to try their hand at drumming as well!

Enjoy your summer and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Warmly,

Ms. Alena

### Notes from Ms. Christine and Ms. Ellen

Our summer camp "jet setters" have learned many new facts about interesting and diverse cultures from around the globe this month:

We set out on our journey with **a visit to Australia in week 1**. "G'day, mate!" We learned that although English is spoken in Australia, there is a difference in the vocabulary and their native voice sounds different than ours in the USA. Then...."blimey"...they have a fun toy called a boomerang and very diverse landscapes with animals that we do not see here in Crystal Lake. We also were delighted to explore the Great Barrier Reef with its richness of sea life (especially the sharks!) and coral reef formations and saw that at different sea/ocean levels, there is quite a difference in the life that inhabits each level. We introduced the concept that not only is Australia a continent, but it is also an island - unique! We tasted kiwi fruit that most of the children found delicious. Our plan was to try vegemite but it couldn't be located at any of our local stores.....hmmmmm, wonder why? We created a Great Barrier Reef art project complete with shells, coral and hand print crabs; you will enjoy seeing these at the finale art show!



**From Australia to China.....**A huge thank you to *Sophie Pan's dad* who gave a wonderful presentation about the Chinese zodiac, intricate cutting .print ( which is quite a skill), a lesson in Chinese symbols such as water and sun, use of chopsticks and discussion of Chinese New Year. He was also so very generous to bring Chinese dumplings which we enjoyed. China is so rich with culture - the children enjoyed playing a traditional game called "Catch the Dragon's Tail" as well as reading "Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance". We practiced using chop sticks as well as tasting fortune cookies which we then, in turn, read out loud (it was really fun to associate each child's "fortune" with their own, unique personality!)

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**Then on to India**, which is rich in culture as well as tradition. We learned that monkeys are one inhabitant that prevail every area - from jungles to cities and that people have to be on guard to close their doors and windows to avoid unwanted "visitors". We created "chakris" or pinwheels and made stamped prints of monkeys in various landscapes.

The Bengal tiger is the national animal and the peacock is the national bird. We learned that the Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the world and that it took many years and men to build this tribute. A good friend, Ms. Laxmi who is from India, came to talk and show us the extensive beading and jewels that are part of Indian saris and culture. We learned that children go to school six days a week and that most generations of families live together in one house. Because the art of using dye is prevalent in India, we chose this week to tie dye our white t-shirts.....the children enjoyed choosing their color palette and hopefully will enjoy wearing their creation.



We wrapped up our first month of camp in Belarus; a small but diverse country in Europe which just happens to be where Ms. Alena and Alex's and Ms. Masha are from! We had a beautiful presentation of culture as well as books and crafts from this country. We created the flag which is red, green and white embroidered with red; we also learned how to embroider using a mesh stencil; threading a needle, tying a knot, and working up and down was a challenging, but rewarding experience for some children.



We usually start our day outside playing while it is still cool and having a group snack in the gazebo. We **tasted home grown green peppers** from our own school garden and also **made lemonade**. We all enjoyed refreshing watermelon and huge thanks for your contributions to The Sharing Basket - we appreciate and enjoy every item!

We've been having fun with material extensions in the classroom this summer. Number sequences have become visual patterns on the hundred board as children read clues and place the tiles on the board. Books have come alive as children retell, summarize, categorize, and illustrate the information they have just read. Data is being collected throughout the classroom as bar graphs are introduced and created.



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We are also working diligently with **Grace and Courtesy** at lunchtime. Teachers are modeling the magic words *please, thank you, you're welcome, and may I*. We are encouraging and reminding children to use good manners throughout the day as we walk through the halls, speak to our friends, and ask for assistance. During our rushful lives, we encourage parents to take the time to reinforce these magic words throughout your days and evenings with your children. The rewards are priceless!

Happy Birthday to Abby A., Treyson M., and Shawn J. and thank you for your special birthday snacks! We're looking forward to more travels in the weeks ahead.....

Stay cool and enjoy this magical season with you families! Happy Summer to all!

*Ms. Christine and Ms. Ellen*

## *Working with Montessori Materials*

### **Practical Life**



### **Sensorimotor**



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## Math and Critical thinking



## Language



## Science



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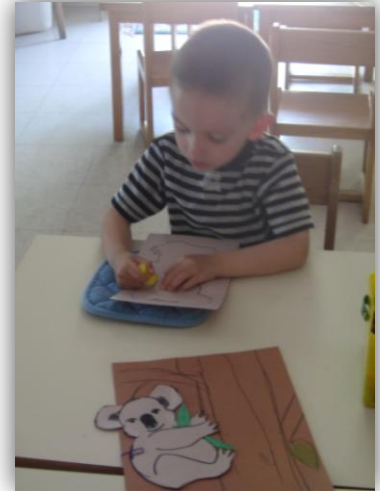
## Notes from Ms. Terri and Ms. Masha

The afternoon class has been a busy place as we make related crafts and art work for each of the countries we are visiting.



Each week we make the flag of that particular country; so far, we have visited Australia, China, India and Belarus. The children also color in the country on the world map and place a small flag of the country along with a paper doll (or person) wearing traditional or symbolic clothing from that country.

The first week we visited **Australia**, so we picked two animals commonly found in that country, the Koala Bear and the Kangaroo. We drew, colored and cut out the animals before gluing them to the appropriate habitat. Our Koala Bears are in a Eucalyptus tree, which has the only leaves they eat, but which most other animals find poisonous. Interesting!



During our week in **China** we chose to make a Chinese kite out of poster board. The children spend several days making designs, cutting out and coloring our “pretend” kites. We chose the Panda from China as our favorite animal to draw, cut out and color; eating bamboo leaves, of course! The Chinese flag we made with a red background and five yellow stars. The only large star represents the government and the four smaller stars represent the people.

We next looked at books on **India** during week three. We saw decorated elephants used in special ceremonies or celebrations. They were painted with beautiful colors patterns, so we made a couple of elephants out of poster board for the children to decorate and color with markers. For the clothing on our paper doll we made a sari which is traditionally worn by the women in India.

To make the flag the children cut strips of orange, white and green paper. The white stripe stands for truth. The orange stripes stand for sacrifice and courage. The green stripe stands for soil and plant life.



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The blue wheel in the center stands for the cycles of life and fate. Several children also chose to make a picture of the Taj Mahal. We traced a pattern on white paper, cut it out and added details like windows, pillars, lattice work, archways and in fine tipped permanent markers. Then we glued pretend jewels on to adorn our building. The Taj Mahal is a huge white marble building, built by Shah Jahan for his favorite wife after she died. She is buried there.

This past week we looked at the country of **Belarus**. Ms. Masha brought in several items from her country which we enjoyed looking at. One item we really liked was a beautiful floral head dress worn during special celebrations. We made our own headdresses by twisting several pipe cleaners together and adding tissue paper flowers of several colors. We finished with yard “ribbons” which some of us chose to braid.



Next, we saw a picture of a stork which is the country bird. Ms. Alena told us that if a stork builds its nest on your house they believe this means good luck for the whole family! So, we drew and cut out our own storks and glued them onto houses which we had colored. We made nests for our birds by cutting pieces of paper into strips and gluing the “pile of branches” onto our rooftops under our storks. The children really loved this project and got lots of practice cutting.

We also made pictures of birch trees commonly found in the Belarus landscape. Each child cut and colored white paper strips to look like birch bark. We colored white clouds in paper with cray-pas before painting the sky blue with water colors. We then glued on our trees to the background and added green grass, branches, leaves, and a sun, etc. Ms. Alena almost cried when she saw our pictures. They were so beautiful and they reminded her of her homeland.



Our newest member of our classroom, as you probably have heard, is our beautiful blue parakeet. We have been learning about handling, watching and feeding our new class member. He has been let out of his cage several times now for a visit with the children. Several children were allowed to touch him and even let him sit on their fingers! Thanks to all of his visitors when he was in the pet store. He is now a very child friendly bird. We are voting on a name for him – some of the suggestions (there are many) are Blue, Sleepy, Flash, Aquwee, Periwinkle and Pangaea.



We'll let you know what the final decision on his name is when all of the votes are in!

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*Stay Cool!*

