

Montessori Pathways Summer Camp 2010

“A World of Possibilities in our Community”

Week 1(June 7th-June 11th):

Mapping our own Community—Child will draw their room using shapes, noting placement of furniture, calling attention to details. They will also draw a picture of their house. We will discuss concepts such as address, phone number, etc. We will also have a field trip around the school neighborhood.

Newsletter from Ms. Christine and Ms. Donna Morning Class

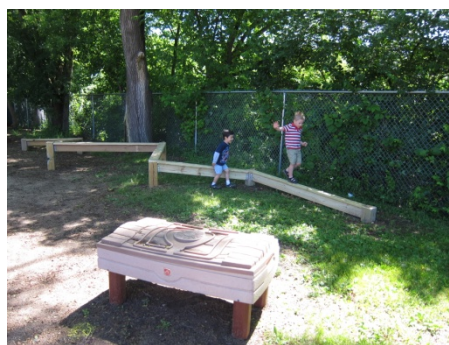
We had a great week with all of our campers! We met some **new friends** and were happy to see returning friends too. We reviewed “the rules” of the classroom and learned some new ones for the playground equipment outside.



A great “Thank You” to Daniel Wagler, the father of our student Aaron, for building a **lot of new, natural activities** where the children can exercise and get nice and strong, as well as a **new gazebo** where we have nice shade during a hot summer day. We can now eat lunch outside



without getting too hot. We even had a **ribbon cutting ceremony** to celebrate our new gazebo, which we then “christened” by eating our first snack.



We talked about being a part of the community and how we treat each other as we like to be treated. We made name tags for our lunch and work using the metal insets. We also created **“facts about me” pages**: our name, age, favorite food, and what makes each of us happiest. Some very creative answers were given and probably “pizza” (of course) was the most popular “favorite food”!

(Please see the next page)

Just a reminder: we are keeping most projects for our end of camp "art show."



We also created **pictures of our homes**; we discussed paying attention to details such as the color of each house, how many windows, what color is the front door, are there stairs to the front door, etc. The children made such wonderful details as the doorknob on the door, curtains and people in a window, flowers, trees and someone even drew those annoying Poplar tree fuzzies that are blowing around now! The children wrote their street number and name on sentence paper and glued it to the bottom—they're great! On Friday, the kids even created summer paper flowers to decorate their homes!



We also talked about our Crystal Lake community and all the different places we've visited with our families here. We made a **chart of "who's been to ..."** The ice cream shop (we counted 5 different ones in Crystal Lake and some children said they've been to all 5!) and Pump It Up were the most frequented.

On Friday, Blue Shirts were everywhere on the playground. Our lunch in the gazebo was especially exciting due to a passing rain shower but we were snug (hot and humid that day!) and dry.

Thanks to everyone for a great start off to camp! It's so helpful to spray and sunscreen your child so we can play outside first thing. As summer heats up, the earlier we get out there, the cooler it is.



Newsletter from Ms. Terri, Ms. Masha and Mr. Aaron Afternoon Class

This week was full of new activities, friends and adventures.



We had a surprise still waiting for us at the playground when we went out there in the afternoon—**the big, new sandbox.** We had a grand opening and went over the rules and proper behavior with the sand toys and other kids. There is



also a bench that stores brushes for the kids to brush off their feet, legs, hands and whatever other part they get sandy before they go on to other parts of the playground or leave to go home.



As soon as the weather cleared up, we also had a chance to **play with the water.** We filled the **pools**, tried out our new **water toys** and some of the **new sprinklers.**

(Please see the next page)

We changed into our suits, put on sunscreen and water shoes and had a blast! When we were finished playing, we watered all the plants outside with the pool water. ***“This is the best water play day!” one of the children commented.***

Our projects also kept us busy in the afternoon. We learned about **mapping, starting with our classroom and school (using a basic floor plan)**. We also started the **floor plans of our bedrooms**, which we will then build in our shoe boxes, using clay to make the dressers, bed, toys, etc.



Our **cooking projects** this week included oatmeal granola and popcorn.

Our **books of the week** were Velveteen Rabbit and the second book of Little House on the Prairie.



On Friday we had our first walking **field trip**. We went 3 blocks to the corner of Illinois Street and Route 176. On our way there, we mapped our trip. We also saw a lot of cars that help our community—UPS car, a mailman’s car, animal control car, construction car and some regular cars of people driving around the neighborhood (we even saw somebody that got lost trying to find a street). We



stopped and waved at all of the passing cars and were greeted with smiles and waves. We had a snack of popcorn and water while we rested at the park. We even took some pictures. It was hot and muggy, so we were very happy to get back to our beautiful, “cool” school. We walked with partners and practiced listening and watching for cars. The kids did great!



Preview for next week (June 14th-June 18th): Mapping our school using blueprints and adding notable areas of interest. We will locate our homes using a large map of Crystal Lake and nearby villages with push pins to identify where we will in relation to our school. We will have a field trip to the Butterfly House in the Nature Centre nearby.