

Montessori Pathways Summer Camp 2010

"A World of Possibilities in our Community" Week 5 (July 6th – July 9th):

Restaurants in our community, grocery stores: look into nutrition, make the food pyramid, and discuss how the food comes to our table.

Field Trip: *Walk to "Georgio's Pizza", a place to make our own pizza.*

Newsletter from Ms. Alena, Ms. Christine, and Ms. Masha

Morning Class

We had a lot to discuss Tuesday morning after our long weekend. A lot of our friends watched the fireworks and visited the 4th of July parade. We also came back a lot tanner from the nice weekend, as it was a perfect chance to go swimming!

Our students didn't forget how to work over the long weekend; they quickly took to working with the *Montessori Materials*.

In the **practical life area**, our students have been busy with helping to prepare lunch by *cutting up various fruits and veggies*, while others have been *baking* their very own cookies to take home.



The **sensorimotor area** was visited by children working with *Constructive Triangles*, which develop visual discrimination of form, as well as construction of new forms, and also serves as a preparation for geometry.



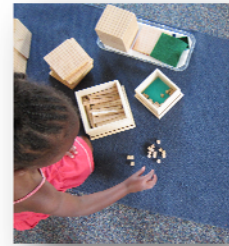
Others tried their hand with *Color Box #2*, which enhances the child's visual discrimination of colors. We also saw some of our students working with the *Baric Cylinders*, which direct the child's attention to weight, leading him to concentrate on coordination of the bodily senses and the mind, while others *matched* various *objects* to their shadows.



In the **math area**, some of our students worked with *Cards and Counters*, which reinforce the child's knowledge



of the sequence of numbers. Another child showed interest in the wooden hundred square, so we introduced her to the *Bank Game*, which explains the relationships between the units, tens, hundreds and thousands. Eventually, many of the children will use the thousand cubes, hundred squares, ten bars and units of the bank game to solve simple and long math problems.



The **language area** was frequented by children working with the *Three Part Cards*, which develops the vocabulary (the name of the pictures), the ability to match cards, and the ability to obstruct and symbolize (labeling the picture with words). Others worked with *Phonetic Objects*, where they built words with the moveable alphabet to match common objects.

The older students took some time to *read* some *books* aloud to our younger kids.



Our theme this week led us to some interesting discussions. First off, we talked about what exactly are a restaurant and a grocery store. How do we know that we've walked into a restaurant and not a grocery store? What kind of food can we find in each? Questions like these led to interesting answers that some of students hadn't even thought about before.

From there, we discussed about the kind of food we should buy at these places: what food is good for us and what food is good but not good for us. Of course, vegetables and fruits were the first to come to mind as the "*healthy foods*." One of our students shared with us that her doctor says to eat a rainbow, meaning to eat food of different colors. So, we looked at some of the various vegetables out there and discovered that different veggies are different parts of the plant: lettuce is the leaves of a plant, potato is the root of a plant,

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and broccoli is the flower! Also, we talked about the heated debate of “What is a tomato: fruit or vegetable?” The kids learned that even though we eat it as a vegetable, from the scientific point of view, it is a fruit since it is the fruit of a plant (it has seeds).



Our project for the week was a *fruit mobile* to remind us of all the different fruits out there—apples are not the only healthy fruit! The kids had a fun time coloring the fruit and took on the challenge of tying them into a mobile.



A special “Thank You” to Kellen’s family for a delicious Summerberry Apple pie! It was a wonderful dessert after lunch, and went very well with our discussion of fruits this week!

We also looked at the *food pyramid*, at the base of which we can now find 8 glasses of water, followed by grains, fruits/veggies, dairy/protein and oils/sweets at the very top. Some of the children then took to making their own food pyramid, which featured their favorite food in each category.

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

Afternoon Class



Water play this week cooled us down during the extremely hot weather. We even had a chance to swim on Friday, after our field trip.

When we return into our school, we take a nice rest and then get busy *preparing a snack*. Our specialty this week was chocolate chip cookies. The kids worked together cracking eggs, pouring the ingredients and mixing them together with our speedy mixer. While they were baking, the entire school was filled with a very yummy scent.



We had a very special art project this week—a *wooden T-Rex model*! The kids took turns sanding some of the pieces (the bones) and fitting them together by the instructions. It ended up being very big: even taller than some of our students!



We also saw a lot of our children take an interest in *painting with watercolors*—some painted summer scenes and abstract pictures while others painted portraits of themselves and their family members!

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Another project that kept us busy was a “Thank you” card to *Georgio’s Pizza* for an amazing day. The kids dictated what they wanted the note to say and then decorated it with some delicious pizzas.



Newsletter from Ms. Alena

Field Trip



To go with our theme of restaurants, grocery stores and healthy eating, we visited **Georgio’s Pizza** in Downtown Crystal Lake. Our trip there was similar to a previous field trip to the concert at the Gazebo and the children recognized a lot of familiar places. This time around, we got to be a lot closer to some of the shops we had drawn in our street scenes. Some of the kids were especially excited to pass by their ballet studio, where we saw some of the older ballerinas having class. Right after this beautiful sight they saw the doors to Georgio’s Pizza.

We were seated at a very long table where the children took to looking through the menus, placing their napkins on their laps and looking at the condiments (pepper, salt, cheese, oregano). Our class split into two groups. One stayed at the table to order water and continue to look around the restaurant while the other visited the kitchen.



First things first, we all washed our hands at the kitchen hand washing station. While waiting for their turn, the children looked around the kitchen, watched some of the chef’s work and also looked at the big fridge that contains some of the pizza ingredients. Next, we made our way to the prep table. We had to carefully pass by the huge ovens, which were extremely hot.



The chef showed us the machine he uses to flatten the pizza dough—he just put the dough into one end and it came out nice and flat on the other! Then, he had to cut the dough to be a perfect 12 in circle. For that, he used a circle piece of tin, which we noticed looked just like our metal insets back at school! He then brought the dough over and quickly poured the sauce, sprinkled the cheese and dropped some pepperonis. Some of our hungry students even got ahead of



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themselves and started placing orders for cheese pizza! After the chef put his pizza into one of the big ovens, he gave each of the kids a small piece of dough ready to be topped with sauce, cheese and pepperoni.

Back at the table, the kids tried their hand at being little chefs. We saw some interesting pizza styles—just cheese with no sauce or pepperoni, extra sauce and so much pepperoni that it covered all the cheese! Next came the most anxious wait yet—the pizza was taken to be cooked. While we waited, we kept busy by playing “I Spy,” talking about the pizza and watching some of the news on the T.V. (some cute pets were offered for adoption!) and smelling the condiments, which were



similar to the smelling jars at our school.

The pizzas turned out to be very delicious! Some of us even added the condiments we had looked at and smelled. The kids took the extra pieces with them and maybe some of you even got to try the pizza!

Thank you to Georgio's Pizza for allowing us to visit and have such a

wonderful time!



Preview for next week (July 12th – July 16th): Transportation – How to get around our community: trains, bus, Lake in the Hills airport, bike paths. How groceries and supplies arrive to Crystal Lake. We will be tie dying our shirts this week, so if you still haven't brought one to school, please do so ASAP.