

Montessori Pathways Summer Camp 2010

"A World of Possibilities in our Community"

Week 6 (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.

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

Morning Class

This week, the **science** area was especially popular. This time, the students expressed an interest in the different *parts of plants* (leaves and flowers) *and animals* (turtle, horse, and butterfly).



This area was closely related to this week's *theme of transportation*. We discussed the various methods to get places by land, water and air. Some of us have tried a lot of different transportations: buses, trains, planes and cars.



However, none of us have had a chance to try out a submarine! Then, the children were able to choose a mode of transportation that they liked (car, van, train, plane, etc). They poked it out and created the appropriate scene for it using cotton balls as clouds, popsicle sticks as railroad tracks and tracing metal insets and blocks for the other details.

We also looked at the *map of our continent* and noted where different *fruits and veggies* grow. Some of our favorites (pineapples and bananas) can't be found around here year round, so we discussed how they might come to our grocery stores (planes, trucks, etc). It was a perfect connection to our theme last week!



Some of the children decided to find this continent on the map, trace it and draw the fruits and veggies that grow there. Others, however, wished to create their own drawings of transportation using some of our puzzles, thus developing not only their imagination and concentration, but their observational

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and motor skills as well, which are crucial in the preparation for writing.



As always, the **sensorimotor** area was also very busy, which is always nice to see, as it helps the child develop and prepare for his or her future academic challenges. Some of the children worked with the *Colored Cylinders*, which develop the visual discrimination of dimension (preparation for math).



Also popular was the *Tetris Game*, where children not only had to fit together oddly shaped pieces, but create a pattern out of them too (which develops not only great motor skills and concentration, but also critical thinking).

Our students also had a great time working with *beads, pattern blocks and boards*, which develop imagination, hand-eye coordination, concentration and prepare the hand for writing. Others *sorted beads using tweezers*, which is excellent for developing fine motor muscles, including the pincer grasp used in writing.



In the **language** area, we saw children working with *word building*, where they used their ability to distinguish letter sounds that make up the word they want to write and the ability to put the sounds of the word in order. By building the names of familiar objects with the *moveable alphabet*, they also learn to symbolize—to represent something concrete with letters (symbols). Other children were *building sentences using word cards*.



Younger students in the **math** area were working with *order numbers* (*first, second, etc*), while the older students worked with the *Golden Beads* (association of the beads and numerals), which introduces children to the place value of numerals (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands).



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The **art** area is also very popular among children since it not only allows the children to develop their imagination and creativity, but also to develop their gross and fine motor skills, sense of order and independence. Some of the children *painted portraits of their families*, while others *mixed primary colors to get secondary colors* (blue+yellow=green, etc).



*In the **practical life** area, we continued to care for our environment* with mirror and window washing, preparation for lunch, dishwashing, baking, and table scrubbing, all of which help the children prepare for the real world and serve as a base for academic skills.



We also took advantage of this week's wonderful weather and had a special project: *Tie-Dye!* Throughout the week we took groups of children outside to tie dye their shirts.



First, they got their shirts nice and wet so the dye would stay better. Then, we twisted the shirts together to make the classic spiral design. The children had a chance to pick what colors they would like on their shirts—we had discussed that any of the colors we had (red, yellow and blue) can mix to make another (orange, green and purple). Of course, the most popular choice was all of the colors, but we did have a few sunburst, mellow green and vibrant purple shirts!



It was especially exciting for the children to open up their shirts on the next day and hose them down to see how they came out! It's been a very fun week.

We also discovered that the cherry tomatoes and cucumbers our kids and parents planted earlier this spring are already ripe, so as a special addition to our Friday lunch, we picked off some cucumbers and cut them up. They were especially sweet because they were our very own!



A special "Thank you" to Emma's family for the delicious black and white currants from their garden—they were new to a lot of our friends, but were very delicious and healthy!

Also "Thank you" to Michael's family for bringing us cereal that we used as a tasty snack.

We also had a special "Happy Birthday" candle ceremony for Hannah, who brought homemade mini-cupcakes as a treat. *Thank you and the best of wishes to you Hannah!*

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

Afternoon Class

We looked at the *different types of transportation* using matching cards: motor home, car, racecar, tractor, motorcycle, etc. Each child described the card he or she had and once somebody guessed what it is, we matched them. Then, everyone had a chance to pick a type of transportation *to draw and write a story* about using story paper.

To better understand why we need transportation, we *read our community book* and learned about the *different kinds of communities: suburbs, towns, cities, etc.* To get from the city of Crystal Lake, which is a suburb of Chicago, it would be best to take the Metra train or a car.



To finish off the week, we *created our own transportations from clay*—we had quite a few trains and cars. Some of the children even *made food* to be carried on these transportations!



As always, the children have been very busy this week playing in the sun and water. We've been using *team work* to empty out the pools and water our gardens. Once inside, the older children *prepare snack* for the younger students and invite them in after naptime using *grace and courtesy*. Before we head outside to finish off the day, we make sure to make our room beautiful for the next day—stack the chairs, scrub the tables, straighten the shelves and take care of our Canary!

Preview for next week (July 19th – July 23th): Community workers – garbage collectors, recyclers, construction workers, waiters and waitresses, etc.: reading, drawing; dramatic play.

Field Trip: *We will have a petting zoo with farm animals at school*