

Happy
Thanksgiving!

KIVA KIDS

Susan Likes -- Head of School -- susan.likes@kivacharter.org



Kiva's Week at a Glance No School for Students

Stone Soup

Stone Soup. An annual event

What a glorious evening was had. The work that the students showed off from both schools was wonderful. The Art Auction was very successful for the PTO. Thank you so much for your support of our school. It is very much appreciated.



From the Desk of Ms. Susan

The excitement of the week was almost palpable in the classrooms. Students were very excited to show off their peace studies work. What an exciting culmination of study, that all started with International Peace Day in September.

I hope that you have the opportunity to spend time with family and get some rest in to your week. It is well deserved for all. I do hope you have a wonderful holiday.

As always if you have questions or suggestions please feel free to call me on my cell at (970) 759-5869 or email me at susan.likes@kivacharter.org.

Montessori Tidbit

Montessori stresses discipline, which is not obedience but self-discipline. Self-discipline is an active discipline that children develop through repeated, intentional practice in an appropriately organized environment. This is especially true at the primary level (ages 3-6) where children are engaged in mastering their minds and bodies. Dr. Montessori said that normalization (self-discipline and better social behavior), "... comes about through 'concentration' on a piece of work. . . The essential thing is for the task to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality." This is why teachers often create works that match the child's interest. Once the child has directed their focus to tasks they find riveting and concentration has become a habit of mind, they are then able to direct attention to things others want them to focus on (lessons and presentations in elementary school).

A Peek Forward - Save these important Dates

November 20th to November 24th - Fall Break
 November 27th - Health and Wellness Committee Meeting - 10am Beech Campus
 November 27th - CKMS Board Meeting - 5:30 Work Session - 7:00 Board Meeting - Beech Campus
 December 1st - 10am - Fundraising Committee Meeting
 December 1st - 1:30pm - Nomination and Board Development Committee - Cortez Library
 December 2nd - 9am to 12 noon - Substitute Teacher Orientation
 December 5th - School Accountability Committee - 4:00pm - Beech Campus
 December 5th - Montessori Philosophy Night focusing on the Upper Elementary Classroom - 6:00pm - Beech Campus
 December 11th - Children's House Board Meeting - 5:00 - Empire Campus
 December 12th - PTO Meeting - 5:30pm - Trinity Lutheran Church
 December 14th - Winter Program - 6:00pm - MCHS Auditorium
 December 18th - CKMS Board Meeting - 5:30pm - Beech Campus
 December 21st - January 5th - Winter Break

November Service Project

I hoped you all received your information about Heifer International and the Read-a-thon that we are participating in all month. If you have any questions, please call or email. I would be happy to answer them for you.

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Along with regulating and focusing their minds, to become disciplined children in Montessori primary classes learn to control their bodies. This happens with and through purposeful activities and materials that help a child begin to control and refine their bodily movements. Placing the knobbed cylinders quietly and carefully on the table rather than dropping them or slamming them down, walking conscientiously around rugs and shelves rather than running, and scooping rice from one bowl to another are all ways the young child strengthens their command of their body.

Children who spend three years in the primary environment most often exhibit a graceful, effortless control of their bodies as well as a healthy attention span and a strong focus. After children can deliberately control their minds and bodies, we can expect them to act in harmony with our community rules and expectations. As a public Montessori school we have students who did not have the invaluable experience of three years in a primary Montessori class, and they continue in their basic development of control over mind and body. As they gain mastery of themselves, their understanding of and contribution to the learning community will grow. In the words of Dr. Montessori, "We claim that an individual is disciplined when he is the master of himself and when he can, as a consequence, control himself when he must follow a rule of life."

The Importance of Math

- Give children opportunities to connect math concepts to prior experience and relevant situations. For example, reinforce measurement concepts by having students compare the height of siblings, or the weight of their book bags when empty and full. Have students first estimate measurements (e.g., how many books the bag can hold, how much taller John is than Matt); then solve exact measurements.)
- Identify topics that would be of interest to your children, such as building a skateboard ramp, or a birdhouse, , etc., and explore the mathematical relationships or concepts related to these topics. Have them help you figure out the measurements for a recipe if you want to make a double batch.