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Community News

November 16, 2011

Curling Up With A Good Book

There are few things more satisfying than a good read! Books provide us with a basis of learning and bring so much joy to our lives. They are the universal way to keep records, share stories, culture, and information. They've come a long way since stone tablets and verbal historians, evolving to ink and paper and to the electronic devices of our modern day. Whatever the case, in some fashion, books have always been a part of mankind.

We thought it would be fun to share the titles of our favorite children's books and books that support Montessori education. Each teacher was asked for a list of his/her three favorites (some had difficulty containing their enthusiasm for books and provided more). Happy reading!!

From Ginni

SPOTTED BEAR, A ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOLK TALE by Hanneke Ippisch, THE SNOWY DAY by Ezra Jack Keats, and TIME TO SLEEP by Denise Felming.

From Crystal

THAT'S GOOD THAT'S BAD by Margery Cuyler, CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina, and THE STORY OF FERDINAND by Munro Leaf

Personal favorites from Angela

GOODNIGHT MOON by Margaret Wise Brown, I CAN READ WITH MY EYES SHUT by Dr. Seuss, and THREE QUESTIONS by Jon J. Muth. Classroom favorites from Angela: THE BLUE DAY BOOK FOR KIDS: A LESSON IN CHEERING YOURSELF UP

by Bradley Trevor Greive, WE ARE ALL ALIKE... WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT by Cheltenham Elementary School, and THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE by Kate DiCamillo.

From Kara

STONE SOUP by Jon J. Muth – this version is about sharing and happiness, not about being deceiving, THREE QUESTIONS by Jon J. Muth, and THE BOXCAR CHILDREN by Gertrude Chandler Warner – read aloud for children listening to chapter books.

Sally's favorites from childhood:

ELOISE AT THE PLAZA by Kay Thompson, BLACK BEAUTY by Anna Sewell, and THE SECRET GARDEN by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Sally's favorites to read to children: WHEN SOPHIE GETS ANGRY -- REALLY, REALLY ANGRY by Molly Bang, ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY by Judith Viorst, and GOOD-NIGHT MOON by Margaret Wise Brown

From Heather

My three favorite chapter books to read aloud to kids are THE TALE OF DESPERAUX by Kate DiCamillo, THE FARTHEST AWAY MOUNTAIN by Lynn Reed Banks, and ROXY AND THE HOOLIGANS by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. My favorite picture books are MICE AND BEANS by Kate Munoz Ryan (great fun and collaborates Spanish and English... so do the SKIPPY JOHN JONES books and kids love them!), and HOORAY FOR DIFFENDOOFER DAY! by Jack Prelutsky and an illustrator who finished one of Dr. Seuss's unfinished works and reminds me of a Montessori school!





Grins & Giggles at the Pajama Party!

It was great fun to come to the school in the evening and spend fun time with the teachers and friends! Games, art projects, pizza dinner, and popcorn with the videos all in jammies. A wonderful time was had by all.

Another Pajama Party is scheduled for Friday, November 18th and the fun is expected to continue. Watch your Communicator for future Pajama Parties.



L I L A C C L A S S



*We find enjoyment in work!
Washing a table is not a “chore” it is just a fun time. After getting the work off the shelf and putting on an apron, there are many “delights” in doing the work. Feeling the brush is an interesting tactile experience. Then, feeling the soap, feeling the water, and working with these to get the table clean. Once the table is clean, it might get cleaned again and again, just for the joy of it!*



B I R C H C L A S S



Focus, like anything else, improves with practice. These beautifully crafted Montessori materials are designed first to help the child learn to reason and make judgements so her mind can think logically. Gripping of the small knobs, just so, helps her to develop the hand for holding a pencil or crayon for writing and drawing.



APPLE CLASS



The Montessori sensorial materials, such as these knobbed cylinders, are designed to help the child refine his senses. First, the child uses his visual sense to discriminate between the sizes of the cylinders and their corresponding holes. Once his eyes have sharpened, he is ready for a new challenge – eliminating the sense of sight with a blindfold and refining his tactile sense. This self correcting material is one example of how the child gains independence and focus in his abilities, while enjoying his “work.”



Pajama Party proceeds benefit the teachers' endeavor to attend the AMS Montessori National Conference in San Francisco in March. We thank you for your support and the children thank you for a good and special time!

LINDEN

C L A S S

As we begin our Cultural studies of North America, we made it come to life by visiting the Welder's tipi. We learned about the history and the meaning of the symbols on the tipi. Experts say that field trips help children develop in many different ways – Language and Literacy, Math and Numeracy, Physical Development, Science, Social/Emotional Development, and Social Studies. We also think they make our community stronger.



A Special Afternoon

The afternoon Lilac group walked to The Hockaday for a cultural experience. First a tour of the museum, then trying their own hand at watercolor painting. It was a wonderful afternoon!



Elementary I



Elementary I students were given the task of designing, planning, adapting, building and tallying the projected and actual cost of towers which were required to hold an empty Easter egg. The materials used were uncooked spaghetti, marshmallows and tape. Each item was purchased at our “store” for a fixed cost. After deciding upon a tower design, coming up with figures for total projected cost of the project, the students were allowed to purchase materials. Unplanned materials were allowed to be purchased throughout construction. With a goal of keeping overall costs down, yet creating a solid enough structure to hold an egg, students had to prioritize their objectives. The temptation to eat materials was too much for some students, which was also another learning experience. Beyond the other obvious learning objectives such as practical geometry skills, spatial reasoning, and adding money, the majority of students experienced the pains of translating designs, which were almost exclusively done in two-dimensional form, to our three-dimensional world of tower building.



Stepping Out to The People’s Center, Pablo, MT

Students made Indian pouches at the People’s Center in Pablo, following a museum tour and learning how to play Sticks, a traditional Indian game involving bones and sticks. We learned that this game is still played today for large purses of money as well as just for fun in many local and faraway tribes. We also had a chance to view and even touch many artifacts made locally by the Salish, Pend d’Oreille and Kootenai tribes residing on the Flathead reservation here in Montana.

Elementary II



Elementary II students visited Samaritan House, a homeless shelter. Sixth year students lead fifth year students in preparing a luncheon, serving food, and cleaning up; the event was a fundraiser for the shelter. Our students also learned about homelessness in the valley and how Samaritan House provides assistance to the community. Montessori alumni along with Andre Floyd provided entertainment. The function went so well that our students have been invited back for a future event!



Carrying On EI-2 Halloween Traditions





Bulletin Board

“Books” continued from p.1

From Aaron

My favorite children’s books to read with my kids are: SEVEN BLIND MICE by Ed Young, HAND HAND FINGERS THUMB by Al Perkins, sing along book THE WHEELS ON THE BUS. My favorite books from when I was a kid are BRER RABBIT SHORT STORIES, THE GIVING TREE by Shel Silverstein, and THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA series by C. S. Lewis.

From David

1) LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE series by Laura Ingalls Wilder – my kids loved it and we were fascinated by the history. 2) THE HOBBIT by JRR Tolkien – that’s one of my favorites and I read it to Elementary II kids aloud. 3) THE GOLDEN COMPASS by Philip Pullman – I love sci-fi and this mixes it up with a bit of fantasy in a retro-alternate universe setting (also read aloud). If I had to choose a fourth, I would choose the TOM SAWYER/HUCK FINN books by Mark Twain – classics.

From Terry

No child’s life is truly enriched without reading PIPPI LONGSTOCKING by Astrid Lindgren. There are Pippi sequels that are fun, but not quite as enchanting.

HOMER PRICE and CENTERBERG TALES by Robert McCloskey bring back a magical world that every boy should experience.

Ruth Stiles Gannett’s series MY FATHER’S DRAGON, ELMER AND THE DRAGON and THE DRAGONS OF BLUELAND were around generations before all of the current fantasy series and they are especially fun for Elementary I readers. I am long past that reading level, but I still want to live in that world.

When it comes to books I love to read to Elementary II students, I truly do believe that if any child reaches the age of 12 without sharing TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD by Harper Lee, he or she may never be a complete human being. I also try to make sure that everyone gets to hear WATERSHIP DOWN by Richard Adams, and HOMECOMING and DICEY’S SONG by Cynthia Voight. All of these books lead kids through emotional passages that are essential for cultivating true empathy and an understanding of “the human condition.”

Just for the record, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD is my second favorite all time book. My favorite is PALE FIRE by Vladimir Nabokov. That would probably be a strange reach for anyone else in their right mind.

Special picks for Parents

For parenting strategies and in the spirit of “consistency is key” aligning yourself with Montessori, our top three recommendations are RAISING SELF-RELIANT CHILDREN IN A SELF-INDULGENT WORLD by R. Stephen Glenn, POSITIVE DISCIPLINE by Jane Nelsen, and MONTESSORI PARENTING, UNVEILING THE AUTHENTIC SELF by Dr. Jim and Sonnie McFarland.

The American Montessori Society website also contains a Family Resources page listing many valuable books and publications. Please visit www.amshq.org.

• **KINDERGARTEN ICE SKATING:**
1:00-2:00 Mondays. Ends December 12th.



• **WOODLAND PAJAMA PARTY:**
Friday, November 18th, 5:30-9:00.



• **WOODLAND THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON:**
11:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 22nd. Parent’s invited – please RSVP.



• **KME STONE SOUP:**
Tuesday, November 22nd.



• **NO SCHOOL:**
November 23rd-25th. Care available 11/23 at Woodland for children up to 10 years old (must call for drop-in space availability). School Closed 11/24-25.



• **HOLIDAY PROGRAM:**
December 7th at Glacier High School.



• **KME CRAFT DAY:**
Thursday, December 15th.



• **WOODLAND HOLIDAY TEA:**
Thursday, December 15th.



• **WINTER BREAK:**
Early Dismissal & Pajama Day (both schools), Friday, December 16th.
No School Dec. 19th-Jan. 2nd. *Some care will be available at Woodland over the break for children up to 10 years old. Watch for reservation form and schedule.*

