

# Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center

## Lower Elementary Newsletter

September 2013

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

**OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, September 28th**  
**9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Family Fun for everyone at *Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center*! We will have door prizes, craft and activity tables as well as outdoor science activities.

**Please save the date!**

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**Happy September** to all of our Montessori students, families and faculty. The **expansion was a huge success**. Smiles all around. It's been wonderful getting to know the students. We are all enjoying working in the garden with Ms. Joy every Tuesday morning. Our **little beet plants** are turning into **big beet plants** in front of our eyes!

**Big Happy 5th Birthday to Logan on September 11th!!!**

In addition to the regular curriculum, we're enjoying our math song each day where we celebrate the day of the week with skip counting to twenty. We've also been writing in our journals daily. There's also specific focuses for each month. They are posted in the classroom as well as our daily routine.

### Month at a glance: September

**Science: The beginning of the Universe**

This month we have been focusing on the beginning of our solar system. We had a special Big Bang presentation. We have started our own geologic time-line. We are learning about igneous rocks, plate tectonics, and Pangaea. We're investigating the sticky properties of water, in addition to studying how salt affects the freezing quality of water through experimentation. We are also constructing water molecules.

**Art: We are going to build bird houses! We also have art in the garden regularly. It's draw as you please.**

**Culture: We will be learning about the differences between schools from America with schools from other nations.**

## AFTER-SCHOOL CORNER

We have been busy in our after-school program. Over the past few weeks we learned about plants and insects in our outdoor science class taught by Ms Joy Hilton. Some students have even caught butterflies and moths for us to observe under magnifying glasses!

In **art**, students are learning that art can be whatever you want it to be-- it does not need to look "real" to be beautiful. So based on that concept, we've viewed various non-representational artworks by famous artists like **Picasso** and others.

We explored different mediums like melted crayons, oil pastels, permanent markers(colors don't blend), and acrylic paints. We discovered that different mediums have different effects when used on standard paper versus authentic artist canvas. Students were introduced to art principals like negative and positive, space, line and shape. They had opportunities to use tools of the trade, like **composes**, **protractors** and **stencils**. Currently we are practicing on our own interpretation of Picasso's painting titled "**The Harlequin.**" We plan to use real oil paints for the final version!

In **lab science** we've viewed various prepared **specimens under our new microscope** and studies "**Bart**"--our new life-size **skeleton**. In coordination with Ms Hallie, our elementary school teacher, we have also learned about the **creation of Earth**, and done experiments that help us explore the various "**Laws of the Universe.**" This month we will continue experiments on the "Laws of the Universe" and learn about Earth's various atmospheric layers.

In **cooking** we are learning about legumes. This week we plan to make **Hummus**, using student suggestions for interesting ingredients to add. We will also continue our **study of food and tool safety in the kitchen**. Students will make matching two-part cards of different measurements like teaspoon and tablespoon to help them learn how to read recipes.

Well, that's all for now. Please stay tuned for more after-school updates next month!

Happy Fall!

**Ms Hallie**

**Ms Alecia**

**Ms Joy**