Napa Valley Montessori K/Elementary Newsletter

January 2017 Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope you have all had a pleasant holiday season, and we’re very excited to have the kids back. Our end-of-semester pajama bash was a big success! We would like to appreciate Joti Mangat and Genevieve McCrary for bringing cupcakes and cookies, and Genevieve especially for making delicious hot cocoa! Joti also washed our work rugs, and laminated some new materials. Thank you both! Currently we are looking for help managing our garden in preparation for spring. If you are interested please stop by and see Ms. Mahealani.

We would also like to thank Rachel Fernandez for her efforts in getting two laptops donated to the Birch class. Students have begun working on typing using our own link at Typing Club ([napavalleymontessori.typingclub.com](http://napavalleymontessori.typingclub.com)), and they will continue to practice research skills and internet usage throughout the school year.

An additional thank you to Josie and Kevin Gerber for a new parakeet “condo”! They are happy and loving their new location in the hallway, and the students have enjoyed interacting with them regularly, learning about the needs of a bird, and listening to them throughout the day.

Last month, in the Redwood class students studied parts of the fish, the Hawaiian humuhumunukunukuapua’a, and gyotaku, the Japanese art of fish printing. Big thanks to Faraha Nia for donating the fish! The students also experimented with different art mediums, including oil pastels, colored pencils, crayons, and tempera paint while learning about primary and secondary colors. At the same time, the Birch class was learning about the Nitrogen Cycle and Hydrotropism in Botany, explored Latitude and Longitude throughout the world, and the countries of North/Central America. And in geometry they studied angles, learning to organize triangles using terminology.

In celebration of the winter holiday season, the Birch class research, wrote, and presented on the the history of Diwali, St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, and Christmas. And Amaya’s mother (Faraha) and Aunt Mahini presented on the history, food, and ceremony of Kwanzaa.

This month, we have begun discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in honor of his upcoming birthday, as well as other men and women who have contributed to social justice reforms and civil rights. Later this month we will present on the Lunar New Year (Year of the Rooster), including a kamishibai story about how the years got their names.

Also this month, Redwood class will begin the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum, and begin studying parts of speech including the noun, article, adjective, and verb. Students will be continuing with all four operations in mathematics working with a variety of materials. Studies of the amphibian and the root will take place, as well. In the Birch class students will be continuing their studies of plants and animals in the Paleozoic Era. They will be working through the writing process to develop their story writing, and reporting skills. Students will also get to discover types of roots, as well as the external and internal parts of the fish.

If any parents have special interests, hobbies, skills, or cultures that they are interested in sharing, please let us know. We would love to welcome your participation and support (as long as you have a TB test).

A note on the weather: Please remember to send your children to school with appropriate layers of clothing. Jackets should be standard for the next few months.

Thank you!

Brendan Gagnon

Elementary Head Teacher

Napa Valley Montessori Learning Center