

February 2020

# Children's House Three February News

## Save the Dates

### **February**

#### **Wednesday, February 12th:**

Primary Education Night: 6:30

#### **Friday, February 14th:**

Teacher Staff Day: No School

#### **Monday, February 17th:**

President's Day: No School

### **March**

#### **Tuesday March 3rd:**

Parent/Teacher Conferences:  
No School

#### **Wednesday, March 4th:**

Parent/Child Night



Singing and acting out the song, "5 Little Speckled Frogs"

## *January Recap*

We jumped into January with studying the second class of vertebrates: amphibians. The children learned about the three different types of amphibians: frogs and toads, salamanders and newts, and caecilians. Once we had a grasp on the three types of amphibians, we began learning the parts of a frog, as well as the frog's life cycle.

egg -> tadpole -> froglet -> young frog -> adult frog (1 year)

Following our unit on amphibians, our class learned about the continent of Asia. Since Asia is enormous and has 48 countries, we focused and studied only a few specific countries in depth. Among those were China, Russia, India, and Thailand. I had the privilege to teach English in China for a few years, so we spent significant time learning about the Chinese culture, language, and people. I also brought in various items from my time there. The children enjoyed exploring my artifacts and souvenirs!

## *February Highlights*

This week we began our study of the third class of vertebrates, reptiles. Miss Kylie is letting us borrow her class pet, Meli, who is a leopard gecko. The children could not be more excited to meet a real life reptile and to have a new (temporary) pet in the classroom.

Spanish Corner

During our morning Spanish lessons, together we reviewed los colores with a new sorting work that consists of different beautiful pictures and labels.

In addition to reviewing los colores, we learned about los meses del año (months of the year), the first six meses are: enero (January), febrero (February), marzo (March), abril (April), mayo (May), y junio (June).

Last but not least, we learned how to say pez (fish), and sapo (frog), as we explored the five different types of vertebrates.

Sing along with your children la cancion del sapo.

Habia un sapo, sapo, sapo,  
Que nadaba en el río, río,  
río  
Con su traje verde, verde,  
verde,  
Y tenía frío, frío, frío.



Kindergarten Corner

This year, to celebrate the Chinese New Year, we had the opportunity to take our kindergarteners on a field trip to Judy's Sichuan Cuisine. Judy's has been known to serve the most authentic Chinese dishes in the area, and it did not disappoint. We sat at three large circular tables that had lazy Susans in the center.



Just like in China, we had dishes that were shared in a family style. The children tasted new foods and used "kid friendly "chopsticks. Children from multiple classes claimed it was, "the best field trip ever!!" We hope to make this restaurant celebration a tradition in future years.

Three, It's a Magic Number

The Three Hour Work Cycle (part 2 of a 3 part series)

"A teacher simply assists him at the beginning to get his bearings among so many different things and teaches him the precise use of each of them, that is to say, she introduces him to the ordered and active life of the environment. But then she leaves him free in the choice and execution of his work. Children as a rule have different desires at any particular moment, and one keeps busy at one thing and another."

- Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child

The Three Hour work cycle is unique to Montessori education. In the traditional school system, areas of the curriculum have specific time frames and limits. Dr. Montessori believed that the three hour work cycle is essential to help each child develop independence, order, sense of self and concentration in an uninterrupted work cycle with a key focus on movement.

In the Montessori class, children are allowed to work on a material they choose at their own pace, as long as they have been given the initial lesson, and they use the materials correctly and respectfully. There is an ebb and flow to the three hour work cycle. The children fall into concentration on their work soon after arriving. Around 10:00 or 10:30am, the volume goes up and the children appear to be unsettled and unfocused. To an observer, it looks like chaos. Dr. Montessori called this period the "false fatigue" period. The children must be allowed to re-focus and settle back into their work. The volume will return to normal and the children will concentrate on their work once again. This "second" work cycle can be stronger than the first work cycle, if the children are allowed to continue working. It is a mistake to pull the children together into group or otherwise interrupt the three hour work cycle, when this period of "false fatigue" happens. Often children do their best work during this second work cycle. It is very exciting to watch.

By: Anne Stackhouse