

# Children's House One Newsletter

March 2010



Shivani carefully dries a dish after doing the banana slicing lesson. As with all Practical Life activities, this lesson refines the ability to move with grace, to focus, to complete sequential steps, to concentrate, to make intelligent choices and to persevere in one's work.

"If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men."

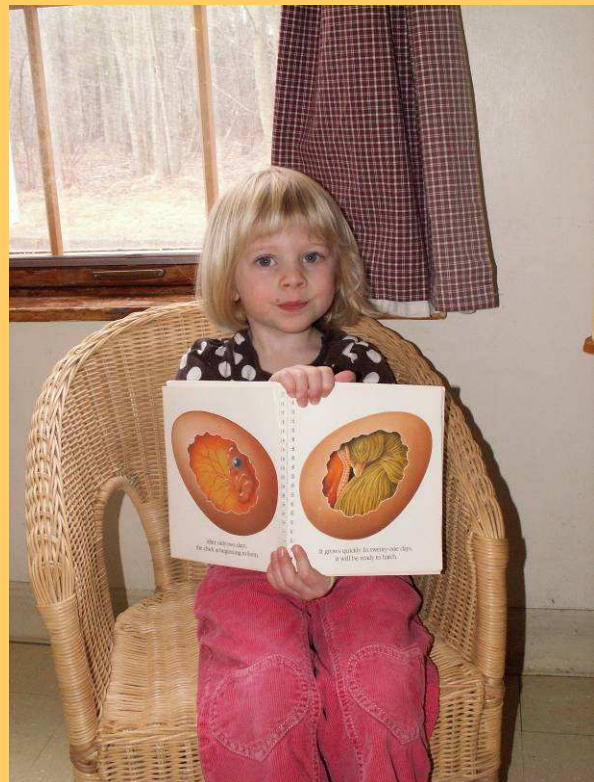
- Maria Montessori

## The Changing Seasons

As we look forward to the coming equinox, we move our curriculum into new territory, and watch the children truly stretch themselves as they explore all there is in the classroom. March sees us traveling in our imaginations to South America. We will start off by reading an Ecuadorian folk tale called The Search for the Magic Lake, and studying the map of South America in detail. We'll investigate South American wildlife. We'll discuss the geography of the earth as it relates, and explore how the seasons are opposite on this continent south of us. We invite any families with a specific knowledge of South American culture to come share with us!

As the weather changes and we enjoy a bit of thaw (we hope!), we'd like to remind everyone of the importance of having indoor and outdoor shoes. The children should have a pair of each every day. This keeps our classroom floors clean and maintains the beauty of our setting. We all spend a lot of time on the floor at kid-level, so leaving the mud outside is extremely helpful. A simple pair of slippers makes a world of difference.

The preschool is in need of extra socks and pants. If you have any to give, or that have been borrowed, please bring them. As the weather warms up, it would also be a good idea to assess what extra clothing is in your child's cubby, making sure it all fits and is appropriate for the weather.



Caroline, spending some quality time in the library corner, shows a book to the class. This book is one of many in the room connected with our current bird study, showing the stages of the chicken and egg life cycle.



Demo proudly shows his long chain. This activity can be used for many learning experiences, including counting, pattern creation, and color recognition. It is also a fabulous exercise for increasing hand strength and fine motor control.

## Coming Events

First Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30-9:30am

Morning Share March 16<sup>th</sup> 8:15-9:15am

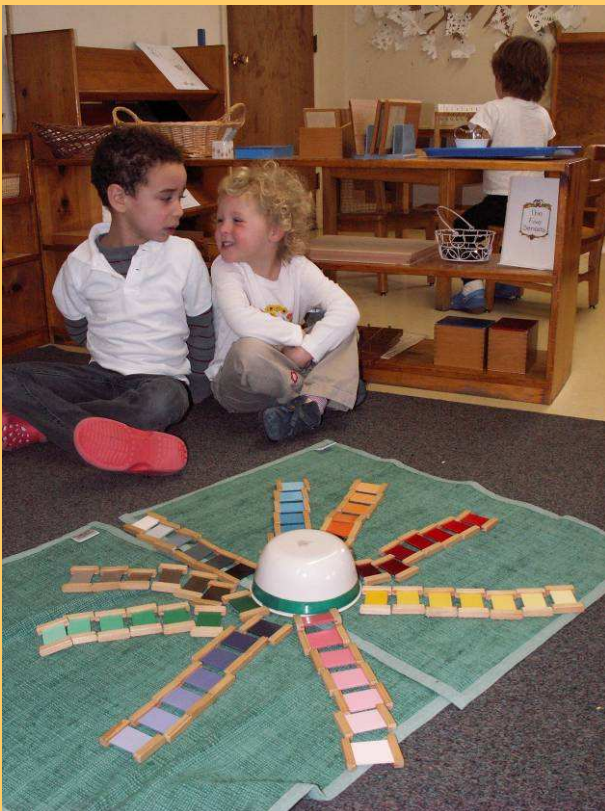
Teacher In-service- SCHOOL CLOSED March 26<sup>th</sup>

Teachers will be attending the 2010 Annual Conference of the American Montessori Society.



**MONTESSORI IN THE 21ST CENTURY**  
AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MARCH 25 - 28 \* BOSTON, MA

## Highlight: The 3 Year Cycle



Zeke shows Anni the Largest Color Box, what is sometimes called the color wheel. This material is designed to refine the child's visual sense of order to better observe and appreciate the world.

This photo shows one of the most beautiful things in the Montessori environment. An older child has shown a younger child a very challenging task - sorting 63 tablets by color and grade of lightness. They are both thrilled with the results: self-satisfaction, teamwork, clarity, mutual pride and respect, not to mention a beautiful color wheel.

We know that ages 3 and 4 are years of academic and intellectual explosion. Yet, Dr. Montessori observed that in the 6 year olds, their great work was social and emotional and lays the foundation for the next "explosion" of learning. Instead of struggling against the social and emotional growth of the children in the final year of the 3-6 classroom, Montessori encourages it. Instead of making those students in their transitional years the youngest of the children in a sequence, we make them the oldest and most mature in their group. We give them age-appropriate responsibility. We make them educational and civic leaders in this community.

The leadership of the older children has remarkable impact on the health of the three-year community they help lead, and it allows the oldest children in each cycle to stand tall with confidence during an uncertain time while internalizing the academic work of the first two years by sharing their knowledge and expertise with the younger students in the group.