



A Message from the Head of School

Dear Children's House Community,

Happy Spring! We've been busy here at Children's House. The children have been engaged in their lessons, the students in third grade and higher completed the required standardized testing the week before Spring Break, and in the office we are busy with our regular work as well as getting ready for the 2021/22 school year.

I have been meeting and touring several perspective families each week. I've heard from many of them that they are hearing good things about us. Thanks to all who have talked with others about your experience here. Word of mouth is truly the best advertising there is! Our enrollment for next year looks strong. We are hoping to get closer to our regular class sizes and go back to two full Primary classrooms. We do still have space to add children, so if you know of anyone looking, please have them contact me.

The spring photos were received and each child was given their envelope at pick up earlier this week. If you did not place an order, you can still do so. Just follow the instructions on the envelope.

The summer camp for 3-12 year olds has begun enrolling. This program is going to be so much fun! I am hoping we can also add the toddler age group. I'm looking for a teacher and an assistant to offer a fun and enriching program for this age group. If you know of anyone who would like to work this summer, and would be qualified to work with this age group, please have them get in touch with me.

The garden plant sale will be held on April 13-16. You are invited to park and shop with your child/children at the entrance gate before and after school. Many plants have been planted and potted by the students. The selection includes bananas, rosemary, mint, basil, aloe vera, bromeliads, iris, cucumber, zucchini, milkweed, and cranberry hibiscus. Primary, lower elementary, and upper elementary students each potted a mother of thousands plantlet labeled with their name. These will be available for sale as well. All proceeds will go directly to purchasing supplies and plants for the school gardens.

Take good care,
Ms. Kelly



Upcoming Dates of Note

- April 1—11:30 dismissal
- April 2—Good Friday
No School
- April 5—Easter Monday
No School
- April 13-16—Plant Sale
- May 28—Last Day of
School
- June 1 & 2—Parent/
Teacher Conferences

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget to go to smile.amazon.com for your Amazon shopping, and connect with us (DeLand Montessori School). Each sale done this way helps the school. You only have to connect once, then you'll be connected every time you shop!



The toddlers had a busy month! We continued to care for our garden by learning how to water the plants. We also did some planting. We learned about different woodland animals. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with all things green! Before the spring break, we had a car wash.

Best of all, we welcomed two new friends this week! Welcome Ava and Benjamin!!



Toddler

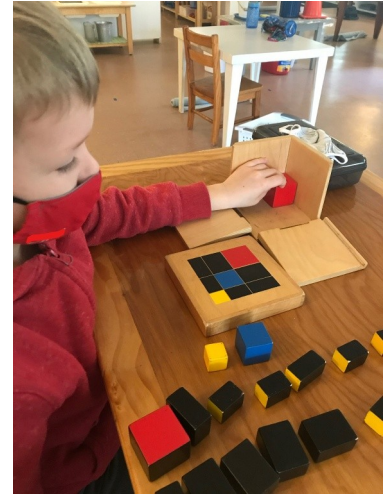




Children's House

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March 2021



Primary

This month the Primary classrooms took a virtual field trip to the Marine Science Center and learned about their rescue and release program. The program topics were:

1. Rescue, Rehab, Release
2. Reptiles are cold blooded and air breathing
3. Adaptations to help survival – learned behaviors and instincts
4. Differences in animals - claws, flippers, webbing
5. Food chains

The children have been growing in their reading, writing, and math skills this month. Spring always brings a surge of growth and change in children, and it shows in their work.

We also had a new friend join us this week!
Welcome Natalie!!





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The primary students helped care for the school animals as well as the wild animals that visit our garden. Treats for the chickens include fresh cut greens and ferns from the garden. The students gathered, prepared and fed the greens and ferns to the hens. The birds and squirrels enjoyed peanut butter and birdseed treats made by the students.

Not only did the animals receive a treat from the garden, the students did as well. Our bananas ripened and each student enjoyed one. They were delicious!

Many plants were potted for the plant sale. The rosemary and basil cuttings were ready for potting. Some iris and banana plants were also re-potted. Each student potted a mother of thousands plantlet labeled with their name. These plants will be available for purchase at the plant sale. This month a lettuce plant and lettuce seeds were planted in the greens garden bed.

Primary Garden





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Lower Elementary



This month we completed our Ancient Egypt reports and projects.

Reading Group B finished their reading book, "Triple Trouble." They will make a play about the story and then present to the class.



We are learning about maps and how to read coordinates. It has been fun reading directions then finding different places around our school.

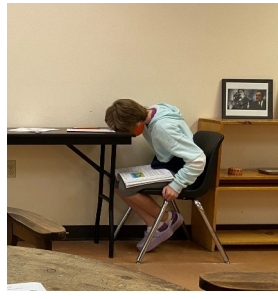
The 3rd year students took the SAT right before our spring recess. They said, "It was fun!"



We all had a nice spring recess and a lot to share with each other. We can't believe it's the end of March already! Ms. Princess said "we still have a lot of lessons to cover!"

Written by the students in Ms. Princess's





Lower Elementary

In this month's newsletter we will be mentioning checkerboard, pin maps, the test, pegboard, and language.

The test is something that third year and up do. The test takes four days. The test sees where people are and what they need to work on. The test subject changes every day.

The pin map is a board where people put pins in the board and the board has a picture of a map. Pin maps also help people to know where a state, country, or a capital is. Pin maps have all the countries so people can learn every capital and country. Pin maps holes in the board so people can put the pins in the holes. The pins have flags so people can know what the flag is.

Checkerboard is a math work that teaches people how to do multiplication. Checkerboard has three different colors. The colors are red, blue, and green. The colors mean hundreds, tens, and units. Checkerboard has four multipliers. 1, 10, 100, 1000. There is also a thing called decimal checkerboard. Checkerboard needs three materials and the materials are numbered tags, beads, and the board.

Language is a very important work in the school because it teaches people grammar. Some of the language works teach people how to spell, and others teach people how to speak correctly. If language did not exist in the class, then I don't think anyone would be able to speak correctly. Language also helps people with the symbols.

Pegboard is another board work. Pegboard is a giant board that has holes in it. The holes are for putting the pegs in. Pegboard can also be called L.C.M. which is Least Common Multiples. Pegboard teaches people to multiply. Pegboard has a lot of pegs so that the person using it does not run out of pegs.

Written by Sunny, Mark, and Langston





Lower Elementary Garden

March brought exciting changes in the lower elementary garden. The bean, tomato and pepper plants flowered. Many small fuzzy peaches developed on the peach trees. The students are hoping to enjoy juicy peaches soon. If you have a suggestion on how to keep squirrels and birds from eating the peaches, please let us know.

The herb garden is full of sage, oregano, parsley, rosemary and mint. The students enjoyed cutting herb sprigs to feed to the chickens and rabbit. Some of the rosemary was cut and dried for a future project.

Students learned about annual and perennial plants. Marigold seeds were planted in starter pots to observe the life cycle of an annual. The seeds have started to sprout. These flowers will add color to our garden area.

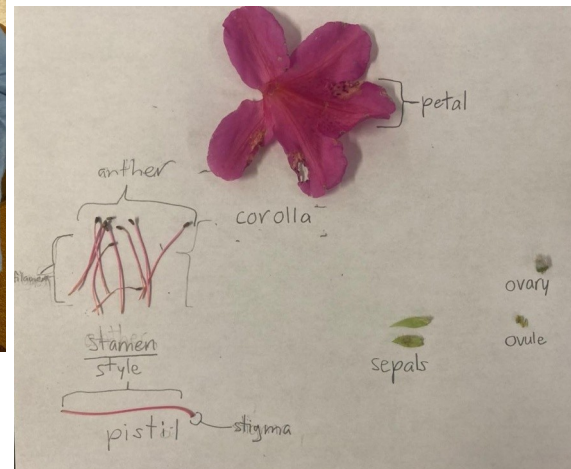
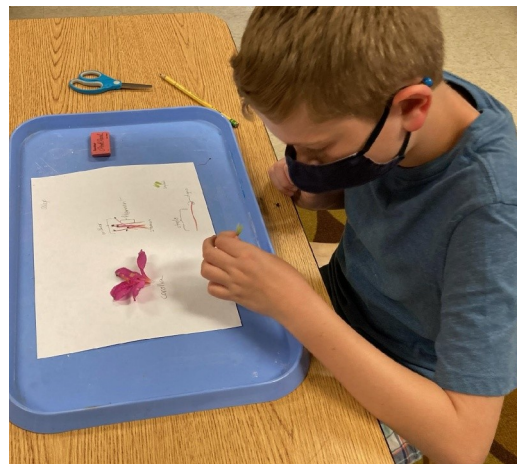
A mother of thousands plantlet was potted by each student in preparation for the plant sale. During this activity students learned that not all plants propagate by seeds, some have plantlets. These plants will be available at the plant sale.





Upper elementary students have been consumed with testing this month in practice and the four day test. In between this they have also been studying the parts of a flower and participated in the dissection of an azalea flower and labeling the parts. Students also have chosen a country that interests them and have begun researching that country's culture. They will be working on an individual special project to present to the class and will teach their classmates about that country's traditions and way of life. In math, upper elementary students are familiarizing themselves with the coordinate plane and how to plot points on the plane. In earth science, students are continuing their unit study on the oceans and are now looking at such issues as pollution, climate change, and how important the oceans are to our lives. In art, students are finishing up their scratchboard art and are designing their own robot or creature.

Upper Elementary



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The Toddlers enjoy singing, dancing, listening, playing instruments, learning songs and finger plays, and moving. Though movement is a very favorite thing, we ebb and flow as the children engage and practice the graces and courtesies of a group session. This calls for: waiting, listening, sharing, passing, final point (or STOP SIGN!) and all the things that help to reinforce community in their environment. They are doing beautifully.

The Primary classes continue to do all things that children love: sing songs, say rhymes, play instruments, (they especially like the kazoos), and move, move, move! They enjoy marching to a song or rhyme, immersion activities set to music like "Dance of the Leaves", reactionary games such as moving while the drum plays-freeze into a statue when its stops (spatial awareness), playing games like "London Bridges" (we use pool noodles for the bridge to maintain our distances), or simply dancing with scarves. Kindergarten children are reading simple rhythms and exploring the "staff". They have learned about the four classifications of the instruments of the orchestra including recognition of an instrumental sound. Bell lessons (sensorial) continue in the classrooms and Kindergarten children are working with the "green boards" (staff/notation).

In Lower Elementary, the introduction of music theory/history finds its place. Age-appropriate activities throughout these grades allow for a continuum of theoretical introductions and practices as the children build an understanding and knowledge of the language of music, using pitched and unpitched percussion, recorders (beginning in grade 2), and ukuleles (beginning in grade 3). Third year students are reading from the staff (BAG thus far), with second year not far behind. Expression, creative movement, and dance are also enjoyed and will be explored throughout the remainder of the school year.

The Upper Elementary class has completed building their rain sticks using the electric drill as well as other tools. Our next instrument-making project will be to make a frame hand drum using hide. They have been working with guitars (electric and acoustic), as well as a drum set, and are really starting to ROCK! We hope to video them before the end of the year to demonstrate.

Music





Our classes have a core structure; Requests of a specific pose, a game and perhaps taking our class outdoors. Floor poses, standing poses, flow, a creative game and the best relaxation. We practice mindfulness, balance, and self awareness. We know that if you have an injury, you need to respect your body. The children sometimes are paired up with someone they do not normally work with. This seems to be a favorite. Sometimes they cannot agree on a pose together. They will try to work it out and compromise. The children find a solution!

Yoga





The Great Lessons

In the Elementary plane of development, the children will experience the Five Great Lessons. These lessons provide the students with a big picture of the world and life. They ignite a student's imagination and helps them think of the past and also consider the future. Each lesson creates an awareness of the natural world and its laws. The Great Lessons give students an appreciation and understanding of those who came before us.

The First Great Lesson: The Beginning of the Universe and Earth
The Universe
The Solar System
Composition of the Earth
Volcanoes
Rocks
Chemistry
Creation Stories

The Third Great Lesson: Humans Come to Earth
Ancient Civilizations
Fundamental Needs
The History of:
Tools Transportation
Medicine Art
Clothing Food Preparation and Storage
Shelter Religion/Spirituality

The Second Great Lesson: Life Comes to Earth
Bacteria
Plants
Fossils
Trilobites
Dinosaurs
Oceans and Ocean Life
Supercontinents
Mountains

The Fourth Great Lesson: How Writing Began
History of Writing
Different Alphabets
Different Writing Systems
Ancient Civilizations
The Printing Press

The Fifth Great Lesson: How Numbers Began
History of Numbers
History of Mathematics
Different Number Systems
How "Zero" Came to Be
The Invention of the Calendar
Systems and Units of Measurement
Economic Geography



Pangea



Laurasia
Gondwana

