

February, 2011

Hello Everyone!

The excitement and distractions of the December holidays are past and the children are happy to be back in their normal school routines. Our classroom has settled into a more focused, productive and busy atmosphere. Today, I observed children choosing work ranging from some of the less complex Practical Life exercises to Multiplication with the Stamp Game! Another child learned to tie with the Bow-tying Dressing Frame for the first time today. The older children are working hard on their reading skills. They read to me, their friends and the younger children. We have had many helpful Elementary students come and assist them with this complex process.

Puzzle map drawing is a favorite activity as well right now. It is amazing to watch a student's perceptual and fine motor skills develop with each successive map drawing. Our various chalkboards are also heavily used for both drawing and handwriting. Often an older student will be helping a younger one learn to write their numbers or letters.

The cold weather and snow has made bird watching a favorite activity. There is a steady supply of birds at the feeder just outside our courtyard window and on the Cherry tree in the front yard. This has led to some nice conversations about the birds among the students watching together. Their observations have increased interest in birds and other vertebrates. This ties in to work with the vertebrate puzzles, parts of the animals language cards and Movable Alphabet.

Recently, our older afternoon group spent time leaning about life in Germany. Many differences and similarities were noted between life in our country and theirs. We have now moved on to a unit about art. We started by leaning about the prehistoric cave drawings that have been discovered. Next came Michelangelo and then the Impressionists. Today, we focused on M.C. Escher's drawings. We will spend another week exploring various styles of art, before moving back to American history.

In the coming months, our class will continue to evolve as the students grow and mature. It is always an amazing process to watch and I hope many of you will be able to come and observe for yourselves. –

Sandy Baumgart