

March 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

On Monday, some of the teachers and I went to Washington, DC to observe at one of the best Montessori schools. It was delightful. The staff welcomed us warmly and made us feel at home. The children were beautiful. It reassured me that we are changing the world with our pedagogical method. It also reassured me that our school is amazing, and I believe, one of the best in the country!

This week we are busy researching and taking notes for our Industrial Revolution History Day. The children are amazed to think at their age they would have been working 12-hour shifts almost daily during this time period! I think they appreciate me much more now! I know you will enjoy their finished projects in a couple of weeks.

Across the room you will find many different mathematical minds at work. We were amazed to find that the Industrial Revolution was really started by some great mathematical minds who applied their thoughts to inventions and new ways of living. In our room you will see fractions, squaring, cubing, decimal fractions, square root, and operations with expanded notation using the powers of numbers.

In art we have been really looking at color and how Matisse and Seurat used it in their works. In language we are looking at the parts of the sentences, such as prepositions, tense of the verb, verbals, etc. Often you will see these parts acted out in mini-plays. We have worked daily on memorizing a few poems. In geometry angles, circles, equivalency and the perimeter of the school being measured.

Of course, we have our singing every day. We are getting pretty good at doing rounds. The older students are getting very good at being able to tell the different keys by which notes are flat or sharp. If you come to observe, it is almost guaranteed you will watch a musical performance or dance routine.

It is a joyful, mind-expanding place! Come visit!

Cordially,

Deryn Semmes