

Palm Valley Montessori Newsletter

January 1, 2009



Adam loves working on continents.

Artist of the Month: Andrew Wyeth (born 1917) is known as “the painter of the people” due to his popularity with the American public. He is the son of artist and illustrator N. C. Wyeth and was home-schooled by his father. Wyeth’s favorite subject is the land and inhabitants around his hometown of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania and those near his summer home in Cushing, Maine. His works include Master Bedroom and one of the most well-known images in 20th century American art, Christina’s World. A print of this American masterpiece hangs in our Palm Valley Montessori language room and children are always curious about the work.

Composer of the Month: Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer and pianist. Beethoven began to lose his hearing in his twenties, but continued to compose, perform, and conduct even after he was completely deaf. He remains one of the most acclaimed and influential composers of all time.

Solicitous care for living things affords satisfaction to one of the most lively instincts of the child’s mind. Nothing is better calculated than this to awaken an attitude of foresight.
-Dr. Maria Montessori

Welcome! Kylie Johnson joined Palm Valley Montessori in December. Kylie is very social. She loves math and sensorial works, but her favorite activity is napping!

Palm Valley Montessori Newsletter

January 1, 2009

The New Year is bringing steady growth to our little school community. The current students are choosing their own tasks, respecting the materials, and working beautifully so it is time to add a few new faces to the class. Three new children will begin on different dates in January. Also, Ms. Esther, one of our part-time Spanish instructors, will begin full-time in mid-January. Ms. Esther comes to us with Montessori assistant teacher experience. She will guide the children in practical life work, outdoor environment studies, and Spanish.

We have new residents at Palm Valley Montessori as well. Mr. Fish has survived and thrived the last few months so we are trying our hand with slightly more complex creatures. Three hermit crabs (King, Kranya, and Olga) have come to live in our classroom. The observation and care of living things is so important for young children. As Dr. Maria Montessori said, "Solicitous care for living things affords satisfaction to one of the most lively instincts of the child's mind. Nothing is better calculated than this to awaken an attitude of foresight." Our menagerie will continue to grow in 2009. I am currently researching desert tortoises for our outdoor environment.

Over the Winter Break we attacked the mess of dirt and tumbleweeds out back. The first section became our Japanese dry garden. Next, we will level the ground and create a grass lawn. Then we will start our vegetable garden in the Spring. Right now, we use the large patio only for our "walking on the line" activity, but by Spring it will become a major part of our classroom. When the weather is fine, the doors will be wide open and the children will be busy polishing shoes, washing linens, painting pictures, and gardening vegetables outdoors.

Happy New Year! -Ms. Eva