

# Palm Valley Montessori

March 1, 2009

*Dear Parents,*

Children love simple science experiments in the Montessori classroom. Our earth was formed by principles inherent in simple physics and chemistry experiments. We give these experiments to children in a motor-sensorial way. This is not the time for a lot of words and explanations. Instead, we place in the environment simple science materials for the child to work with as much as he desires, in a way absorbing the basic principles that will lead to later interest and study of earth sciences. Children at this age love working with water, magnets, batteries, and other *real* physics materials, each a *key* to a basic physical law.

A new experiment found in our classroom is simply called "sink and float." For this experiment, we have a tray containing a box of objects, a small towel to work on, a clear glass bowl, a pitcher for bringing water to fill the bowl, a bucket for taking the water to the sink when the work is finished, and a small cloth for drying everything when the experiment is finished. We show the child how to carefully place one object into the water, and to observe if it sinks or floats. We make one group, on one side of the bowl of those objects which sink and another, on the other side, for objects which float.

We do not talk or explain this phenomenon from an adult point of view, we give no labels or language, but let the child ponder, and repeat the experiment whenever he is interested. It is not uncommon for the child to carry out the activity, carefully dry everything, repeat and repeat these steps, as a deep and private understanding of the physics principle grows inside him. *It is only after the child has had some experience* that we introduce the terms "sink" and "float" and discuss the experiment. It is natural for children to delight in scientific wonders when they have direct experience with them.

*Ms. Eva*

*Palm Valley  
Montessori  
will be closed for  
Spring Break  
Monday, March 16-  
Friday, March 20.*

## *Welcome New Students!*

Madison Tjader joined our classroom last month. Madison lives in Buckeye with her parents and two beloved doggies, Baxter and Roxie. She loves singing, math games, swinging on the swing, and learning Spanish.

Grace Bowen also joined Palm Valley Montessori in February. Grace loves puzzles, storybooks, setting the lunch tables, and stitching. She lives in Goodyear with her parents, brother, sister, and two dogs.

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*Mark your calendar  
for our  
Spring Fling celebration!*

On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we will take a break from our regular school work and celebrate the coming of Spring with a full day of outdoor fun. Please dress your child in "working clothes" because we will begin our day planting flowers and vegetables in the garden. We will dig in the dirt and break in the Japanese Dry Garden. Then we will get clean and cool by playing in the sprinklers and on the slip 'n slide. We'll eat our lunches outside and then enjoy some popsicles. If you would like to send some flowers, seeds, birdseed, etc with your child it would be appreciated. Please bring a change of clothes for your child (she's going to need it!) and don't forget sunscreen. Parents are welcome to join us for this activity day.

## *Snack and Share Day*

The children are ready for a little public speaking so beginning this month we will have regular snack and share days. Have your child bring a healthy food for snack and a share item to present to the class during group time. We ask that you please stay away from toys or commercial items (Thomas the Train, Barbie, etc). The share item could be something the child created, something from nature, a favorite book, a picture of a pet, or a souvenir from your last vacation. Your child will discuss her special item and take questions so you may want to prepare her a little. The sign-up sheet for snack and share day is on the sign-in table. I will send home a reminder before the big day.

## *Composer of the Month:*

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899) was an Austrian composer famous for having written over 500 waltzes, polkas, and marches. His father and brothers were also composers. His best known work is "The Blue Danube."

*Artist of the Month:* Claude Monet (1840-1926) was a French painter and founder of Impressionist painting. The term Impressionism is derived from the title of his painting Impression, Sunrise. His works include Poppies Blooming and Water Lilies.