



Diamante Montessori School
Enriching the Person Within Your Child

MAY 2017



Alice's Corner

The end of school is always busy and a time to reflect on how quickly the year has passed and how much we have accomplished! What a joy to see the changes in our students! This year has been exceptional with the number of well-rounded and normalized children in all our classes. From our littlest students in the toddler class to our oldest students in our enrichment class – we continue to see amazing children being independent, kind and focused.

This year we appreciate so many families that donate time and energy to us in many ways. We have cooking moms come to help in the preprimary classes, sound moms who work every week with the children teaching letter sounds, fundraiser committee members who organize and run our fundraiser events and one of our favorite things – secret readers! Each class has had the fun of surprising our children with someone unexpected coming into class to surprise their student and read to the class! It's always a hit!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our fundraiser, all the committee members for helping with our February fundraiser and our Kids Beach Party Bingo. We're thrilled that we finally had enough of a break in the weather to run this event. The children are still talking about it!

Everyone at Diamante feels so close to students and parents – we all consider you family and hope you have always felt

welcomed at our school. We appreciate you sharing your children with us and together we can accomplish so much.

As we leave school for summer break we wish all the enrichment students the best as they move on to first grade. This group has been very close and it's been a joy watching them grow and learn. Our summer camps are all full and we think we have a great curriculum planned. We expect everyone will enjoy camp this year.

We have to say goodbye to one staff member. It's always hard to lose someone we've grown close to – Grandma Jeri is leaving this week and enjoying retirement. She hopes to come back and help with various activities and possibly continue with Nature for our summer camp. Jeri was one of the first mentors I had after I received my training and her work with children is a joy to see. She has been the Lunch Buddy for the enrichment students and will teach one week of our summer camp – week 3 on Nature. I know she will be missed but we hope she enjoys more leisure time.

Alice

Pre-Primary Class

Wow! Didn't we just put our first counting bead on the tray for the first day of school?

We have observed so many changes since the beginning of the year in our class. One of the biggest changes has been in the area of independence. As we observe the children now, we see them choosing works on their own and asking for help when they need it-many times from another child who has mastered that particular work. The students have become good at problem solving. It's awesome to see a student quietly and confidently take care of a problem-especially in the practical life area-or help someone else take care of a problem. They have also become very good at taking care of themselves. We have found that by giving the children the proper tools and instruction we have empowered them to act confidently and independently. It's been exciting to see!

As school ends and summer activities begin we encourage families to continue to build their child's vocabulary especially through new experiences. As your student begins reading or continues reading understanding vocabulary-what they are reading-becomes very important. For example, if someone has never seen or played a



baseball game it is difficult to understand a story about baseball. Some fun experiences to try might include planting a "pizza" garden and later making a pizza using ingredients freshly picked from the garden. Our students have enjoyed flower arranging so growing colorful flowers would provide the opportunity to create beautiful arrangements for you or your relatives or neighbors. Digging for worms and looking for insects/bugs is another experience the children love doing. Having a bucket, trowel and bug boxes available along with magnifying glasses provides an opportunity to observe these animals and learn more about them. Please encourage curiosity and talk about everything!

The language area has been **very** busy! We have observed a lot of story writing, word and sentence building, learning initial sounds and reading. This group has a great love of language!

Counting fish, butterflies, bunnies, and many other objects has given our students a good foundation of 1-10 symbol and quantity. We have also seen 45 Layout work, addition, subtraction, building 4-digit numbers, roll writing, multiplication and bead chain work. Our students enjoy the math area very much.

The area of science found us learning about shells, ocean life, fish, birds, flowers, and butterflies. Our class enjoyed its trip to Lincoln Marsh to learn about and explore the wetlands. Our field trips throughout the year have reminded us of the good listeners and participants our students have become.

The area practical life has been enjoyed all year long. Cooking projects have been some of our class' favorite activities. They've enjoyed making waffles, egg in a



nest, English muffin pizzas, heart shaped pancakes among others. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped measure, crack eggs, stir and cook our projects!! They were yummy!

We celebrated Mother's Day by inviting our moms into the classroom to eat together, do works together, and share some special gifts together. It was a fun morning and we know that Moms are very special to our students!

We have enjoyed this group of students very much. They have a great sense of humor and tremendous love of learning. We feel privileged to have been able to spend time with them each day. Thank you and we wish every family a wonderful summer of relaxation.

Liz, Estrella & Joan

Toddler Class

Teese and I have had so much fun watching this class grow! What a change from the beginning of the year when separation from mom was difficult to now where they handle most things independently! We love the idea of independence that Montessori teaches. Never help a child with a task they



can do by themselves! This is a concept that is easier said than done. Two year olds are amazing at how many things they really want to do for themselves. Guiding them in the steps to accomplish any task is key. Setting the table was a big job at the beginning

of the year. Now it's done so easily! Waiting to us a work, cleaning up and putting things back in their place is another big step. Our children are now mostly potty trained, they show an interest in cleaning! We've seen our art easel scrubbed clean many days! Our tables are being washing and dishwashing is a popular work. Children love being needed and helping and most visitors are amazed at how self-directed the children are.

Vocabulary has grown tremendously in our class. Language works and practical life are the key areas for toddlers. Communication with works is one thing that grows but communicating with us and each other is fun to see.

Some children start our class and are non-verbal or very quiet. As they get comfortable and confidence grows we see so much growth in language. Slowly this will grow into lots of

Congratulations!
Rockey from our enrichment class welcomes her new baby sister, Vada.
Congratulations to mom and dad, Margot and Kevin!

social interests and interactions.

Most of our students will be moving on to our 3-6 classes. Being in a mixed age group will be an adjustment, but since we've played outside with these children we expect the transition to be easy. We hope during the summer your children will spend time outside on new adventures. Spending time in nature and with family members has a huge benefit to children. We hope the summer is relaxing and fun. We look forward to seeing everyone return in the fall! Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Alice & Teese

Keeping Busy...



Enrichment

As we look back over the last months we are reminded of the studies, trips and activities that have filled our days.

Our study of the solar system generated many interesting observations and questions on the students' part. They have a very real interest in what is happening beyond their local environment. Each student created and painted their own solar system which they were very proud of. The paintings were beautiful!

Our current study of the earth and its history is introducing some interesting words into everyone's vocabulary-trilobites, cephalopods, cockroaches, microscope are among the words that we are hearing in our room on a regular basis!!

We completed our study of Australia which had the students measuring how tall an emu is, creating maps of Australia, and learning about its unique animals and geography. South America is

our current study and the students are being introduced to some rainforest animals along with map work and creating a unique book cover. The geography studies throughout the year have helped the students develop a sense of responsibility and independence for completing assignments on their own.

The students enjoyed our trip to Lincoln Marsh for their Insectmania program. The program was very interactive and the students had fun learning about insects along with finding them under logs and examining them! We are reminded when we take field trips that our students are great listeners and wonderful representatives of our school.

We welcomed our moms into our classroom for a fun Mother's Day celebration of eating, sharing and working together. Each student had written a book about their mom which demonstrated creativity and how much their writing skills have matured during the year.

As we think back over this past school year we are reminded of how much deeper our students love of learning has grown and of how they have matured in so many areas. We have enjoyed seeing their math and reading skills grow along with their sense of humor and their ability to follow directions, think creatively, complete assignments, organize their time and enjoy their peers.

Liz & Teese

Quotes of the Month

From our guide at the Cernan Space Center-

"These students are magnificent!"



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