

April 2021 Full Day News



“The senses, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge. Our apparatus for educating the senses offers the child a key to guide his explorations of the world...”

-Maria Montessori

Dear Full Day Parents:

It's hard to believe we are already in the month of April. Our passports are getting filled up and every continent study opens up so many possibilities to learn and experience the richness each culture offers. Through our cultural studies, we learn to appreciate what makes us the same in this world while celebrating our unique differences. What better way to celebrate Earth Day than making the Earth seem like a smaller place!

Australia

Good day mates! We are having so much exploring down under. Some key highlights of our study:

- **Animals:** we are learning about kangaroos, koalas, the kookaburra, sea turtles and the platypus. We enjoyed hopping like a kangaroo carrying our Joey and making a kookaburra mask.
- **Sydney Opera House.** We listened to opera during a candlelit lunch. We talked about tenors and sopranos and heard Luciano Pavarotti's "Nessem Dorma" and we also listened to the Barber of Seville and Figaro. We finished our study by making our own Sydney Opera House complete with fireworks!
- **Great Barrier Reef:** This week, we will learn about the coral reef and make our own coral reef. We will learn about the parts of a hawksbill sea turtle while seeing a taxidermy specimen up close. We will also learn about the life cycle of the sea turtle.
- **Aborigine Tribe:** Also, this week, we will learn about the Aborigine people and see their dream paintings. The children will be able to decorate boomerangs and do some dot paintings. A thank you to Andrew's parents for borrowing us original dot paintings.

April

- Earth Day: We looked at different pictures of the Earth while listening to “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong and “Somewhere over the rainbow” by Israel Kamakawiwo. We talked about all the things we love about the earth and talk about how we can each do our part to save the earth.
- Color gradation and mixing: We talked about the rainbow and introduced different chromatic activities and work in the classroom. We graded different shades of the same color using the Montessori Color Box 3. It’s a beautiful work that truly refines the visual chromatic sense with added vocabulary: darkest, darker, dark, light, lighter and lightest. A favorite activity is mixing 2 primary colors to make a secondary color. Some children mixed all the colors and discovered a murky brown! We will expand and add looking at a light prism to marvel at the rainbows created!

Donations needed:

- Colorful fabric scraps with or without patterns and black fabric squares
- Cotton Batting
- Burlap
- Embroidery hoops
- Tiny glass beads or pony beads different colors

In case you missed the previous videos/slideshow of our past country studies:

[Wayang Kulit Indonesia](#)

[Chinese New Year Dragon dance](#)

The song we will be listening to on Earth Day:

[Israel Kamakawiwo'ole — 'Over The Rainbow' & 'What A Wonderful World' Medley](#)

With warmth and Peace,

Ms. Maria and Ms. Cheryl