



Curriculum & Thematic Units

Ms. Christina Eckstein & Ms. Kendal Cates' Class
2018-2019

As part of the Montessori curriculum, your child will receive regular lessons throughout the year in the areas of practical life (grace and courtesy, practical skills, care of the person, care of the environment, food preparation, sewing and weaving) sensorial, math, language, science, geography, Spanish, art and music. In addition to these lessons, there will be holidays, festivals and thematic units that involve more in-depth exploration. If you have knowledge on any of the topics listed below that you would like to share with the class please let me know.

At the beginning of the year, you will see that we cover a vast amount and wide variety of subjects each month. The beginning of the year lessons are often shorter in length, contain simple concepts and/or provide the foundation for upcoming lessons. As the year progresses, there is a decrease in the number of subjects covered per month since the students are able to have a more in depth exploration of the subject matter. The number of holidays, festivals and celebrations per month also factors into the planning of unit studies.

August

Grace & Courtesy (throughout the year but will be emphasized heavily at the beginning)

Orientation to the Classroom

Human Needs: Care of Self and Care of the Environment

The Human Body and The Five Senses

The Globe

Directionality: introduction to spatial relationships

September

Fall Begins

Food Groups

Introduction to Living and Nonliving
Directionality: introduction to right and left
Transition from the Globe to the Continent Map

October

Fall, Halloween
Occupations and Our Community
Spiders
Introduction to Land-Water-Air Classification
Directionality: introduction to north, south, east, west

November

Fall, Diwali, Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Cosmic Address

December

Holidays and Celebrations Around the World

January

Winter, Martin Luther King Day, 100th Day of School
Hibernation
Begin Asia

February

Winter, Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year, Presidents' Day
Finish Asia
Reptiles and Amphibians

March

Spring, St. Patrick's Day

Life Cycle of a Plant

Africa

April

Spring, Easter, Earth Day

Birds

May

Spring

Insects

Throughout the entire year, the students will also take part in:

- Physical/experimental science as well as the natural/observational components listed above.
- The study of History: seasons, the calendar, chronological age, day and night, telling time.

Music and Movement

Music and movement activities will be utilized on a daily basis to promote listening skills, coordination, self-confidence and appreciation of the performing arts in general. Song selections will support character development, motor development, auditory discrimination, holidays and unit studies. The following is a selection of composers/music that will be played as the children come to circle time this year: Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, music of Asia, Ireland, and Africa. We will also do a unit about Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* in the spring.

Art

- 1) The children will create art projects that coincide with our unit studies, seasons, holidays and sound-of-the-week.
- 2) We will explore a variety of artists and genres.

3) The following is a brief sampling of art activities the children will participate in throughout the school year: self-portrait, portraits, primary colors, secondary colors, marble rolling, yarn art, textures, straw art, string art, still life, pointillism, collage, sculpture, impressionism, abstract, sewing and weaving.

