

# MIM ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

October 21, 2011

## Language Arts

Students have continued their work with the grammar materials and several students are completing their work with the adjectives section. Second graders have also continued their work with contractions. Everyone began using the Insta-Learn Board to practice vowel sounds. This week, first graders began meeting to practice writing. Second graders began meeting to begin work with our reading comprehension program, Junior Great Books.

## Science and History

Students continued their study of frogs. They completed booklets that described the five stages of metamorphosis of a frog. Then students worked together to create display of this metamorphosis. It included images and paragraphs of each stage and can be found in the hall.

## Art

Last week students continued their study of abstract art. They were introduced to Jackson Pollack and imitated his use of untraditional painting utensils to create art. This week we looked at another abstract artist, Kandinsky. Students were inspired by his work with concentric circles and used compasses to create similar works of art.

## Math

Last week, first graders learned to count combinations of dimes and pennies and this week they began practicing counting combinations of nickels and pennies. Second graders continued their work with equivalent fractions and some began adding fractions. All of students added the place value, block numbers to the Golden Bead materials to represent numbers.



Golden Beads & Place Value Board



Adjective Grammar Boxes

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## Arabic

We learned how to write and pronounce our family members in Arabic including grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, aunt, and cousin. All kids draw pictures for and put names of their grandfathers. We worked more on the article "this" as it is gender sensitive in Arabic. The newly purchased Arabic textbooks are amazing; kids enjoyed them very much as they started discovering new vocabulary when exploring textbook lessons. So far kids learned 6 new words (mouse, lion, snake, key, door, and statue). We had a fun and creative activity as we wrote our names (in Arabic) out of dough then we baked them and ate them; they were so delicious both for the brain and the stomach! Another theme that we addressed was the "hand and torso" of the human body. Kids were "quizzed" on this topic and all fared very well. Kids also learned how to write different parts of the leg and drew it. It was indeed rewarding when I noticed tremendous improvement in the kids handwritings; this has been achieved thanks to the daily handwriting assignment that each kid performs. Kids now know more than 15 words of the Arabic vocabulary since we started using the booklet that we put together lately. Kids also learned how to use such new vocabulary in simple sentences. Although kids at this stage are not expected to form sentences they were able to make meaningful sentences. This week we also started using the "set aside" private room to teach the kids how to pronounce Arabic words correctly.

Students of group level one are learning new adjectives like "fat" and "thin". Students of group level two are working in translating a small book dealing with the topic family that we covered earlier. The plan is to finish the translation this week; you will enjoy listening to your kid reading from that book soon inchaAllah. It would be helpful to help your kid practice more Arabic at home by writing and listening to those words in the Arabic booklet that was sent home with them.

We also made it part of our routine to read stories in Arabic in a regular basis. Lately, we read a small story about a trip to the sea in addition to Cinderella 1 and 2. No doubt this routine will continue regularly as kids loved it so much and kept asking for more and more.

## Quran

We are currently working on three Surahs "athu7a", "atteen", and "azzalzala". Please help your child memorizing his or her portion which is 5 verses his or her assigned surah.

## Islamic Studies

We are now learning about our beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Kids were very curious to know more about Prophet Muhammad and his "Seerah" (biography). Your child should be able to talk about some basic facts regarding the Prophet "Seerah". In another activity, Kids now know the twelve Islamic ("Hijri") months. They even learned how memorize these months using a beautiful song.



Making names with bread

October 21, 2011

### Activities to Practice at Home

Since homework in our Montessori classroom is limited, I would like to include a list of activities or discussions you can have with your child.

Ask your child....

- Who are the famous artists we have been studying and what type of art did they create?
- Define the three parts of speech: article, noun, and adjective.
  - Say or write examples
  - What symbols are used to represent these parts of speech?
- Name and describe the 5 stages of a frog during metamorphosis.
- Define herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore
- Draw the Golden Beads used to represent numbers
  - 2 digit numbers (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
  - 4 digit numbers (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Count groups of dimes and pennies (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- What does the work halitosis mean? (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

### Upcoming Events

- Monday, October 31 will be Pajama Day for the whole school. Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas to school on this day. Pajamas will be worn throughout the entire day so make sure they are comfortable and warm. Our class will also spend some time reading books in the dark. Each student needs to bring a flashlight so he/she can read during this time.
- Conferences will be held during the week of November 14. The signup sheet for this is on top of the lockers.

### Helping out our Classroom

The cold weather is coming and with that comes runny noses. If you are interested, the classroom could use a donation of tissues.

Thank you