

MIM ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Language Arts

We enhanced our lesson and activity cards for compound words by creating a colorful activity that allows students to use clothespins to build compound words. With more volunteers and a regular assistant in the classroom, the students are getting more time to read with adults. During our Small Group work time, students have been working through the Handwriting Without Tears program. Once this is completed, I hope to incorporate cursive handwriting into all areas of second grade classroom writing.

Science and History

We began the month by studying the landforms of the earth. Students used models to draw and define landforms. They also used a sand and water mixture to create replicas of these landforms. We also began working with an activity that allowed us to build a representation of the lines of latitude and longitude that divide the earth.

Art

We wrapped up our class discussion of Andy Warhol by studying his famous Campbell's Soup painting. We incorporated his use of still life, pop-art paintings to draw and color food products from today's popular culture. We also learned about Italian artist, Guiseppe Arcimboldo. He created portraits entirely out of flowers and other objects. We used pictures of flowers to create our own ,Guiseppe-inspired portraits.

January 27, 2012

Math

We have spent the last month focusing on the use of the following Montessori math materials: golden beads, colored beads, place values tiles, wooden numbers, and the three bead frames. First graders have used these materials to represent numbers up to 4 digits. Second graders have used these materials to add and even multiply 4-digit numbers and larger.



Building landforms in a sand and water mixture



Representing 4-digit numbers with the Golden Beads

Arabic

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Counting: Students learned how to count and write from 0 to 30 in Arabic

Reading: We read a fiction story titled “alkhathi aladil” (The Fair Judge) “alkittatatani wa alkird”(The Two Cats And The Monkey). We discussed the wisdom behind these two stories including the disastrous result of lying and not telling the truth and the benefit on reliance on one’s self to try solving his or her problems before seeking help from others.

Arabic workbook: The workbook has been a valuable resource to teach kids new words in Arabic in structured way.

Themes of the months: Food, transportation: each theme is composed of 5 new terms dealing with the topic of interest. New terms were explained, pronounced, written, and drawn. Second level students have been tested on these new terms using the method of dictation.

We learned about the Arabic antonyms (*al-ad`daa*: الأضداد). We used drawing and acting techniques to convey the meaning of antonyms in a capturing and straightforward manner. We also learned about colors in Arabic and how they depend on gender and number.

Level 1 Students

Writing: Students of this level focused on reading and writing simple words.

Grammar: Students of this level learned about adjectives in Arabic and how it depends on gender

Listening: We have given complete attention to listening tasks and considered the context of answering the question given by the teacher. For example we read a story together and we explained difficult words and we understand the story via question-answer sequences.

Level 2 Students

Writing: Second level kids continued improving their writing skill via copying and composing Arabic sentences for writing purposes.

Grammar: We focused this month on the “Present Tense” and “Past Tense” and “Future Tense” with personal pronouns. Kids conjugated selected verbs and made use of them in meaningful sentences of their own making. Students of this level have had a productive month as they enjoyed learning the structure of sentences in Arabic while playing the game of silly sentences. A noun, an adjective, a verb, are picked in a random manner to put them together and form silly sentences. Kids of this level are now capable of making sentences by themselves using their own vocabulary. It was a distinct moment to see the kids making their own sentences from their own vocabulary which made us all happy and joyful.

Listening: We continued cultivating listening habits by attentively showing interest and trying to understand new sentences and answering related questions.

Respect of other religions and equality in Islam

Quran: We learned how Quran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad PBUH and how it is the actual words of Allah. The kids were also introduced to an eloquent Quranic concept that teaches beautiful lessons via stories of prophets and messengers: Quran is a shining treasure of relevant and teaching stories.

Recognizing and understanding “Sunnah”

Prayer

Students learned how to make the correct “wudoo” (ablution). They recognized mistakes that some people may make in Salah and how to avoid them. Kids also learned the meaning of “Khushoo” (concentration in salat) and why it is important to have it during our prayers. We also did an activity in which they drew two people one of who was very focused in his prayer and the other distracted and not praying properly.

Miracle of ant in Quran

We had a great time reading the story of prophet Suleiman (AS) and the ant. Students did a small project about the story and put together a great work dealing with the story. It was a teaching moment to let the kids know how Allah almighty takes care of everything including the tiny ant.



Miracle of bees in Quran

Kids learned about the bee and how it makes honey and how the holy [Qur'an](#) refers to honey as a healer of disease in surah “annahl”. We also did a small project about bees and enjoyed it a lot.



Projects: This upcoming week we will conclude our project with second grade about the farm. A new project about fruits and vegetables will be started for the first grade students.



Quran

We are currently working on these Surahs:

[Level 1:](#) Azzalalah, , Annasr

[Level 2:](#) Alrahman, alghashiya,

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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...

- Name and describe last artist we have studied.
- Draw and label some of the landforms we have studied.
- Define compound words and list as many as possible.
- Find the sum of math problems that include adding 1 or 2 to a 1-digit number. (1st grade)
- Describe, name, and sketch the phases of the moon. Explain how they are created. (2nd grade)
- Explain regrouping in math and why it is needed for all the four basic processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division (2nd grade)

Upcoming Events

- We will be celebrating the 100th day of school on Thursday, February 2. Please contact Ms. Vicki or a teacher if you are interested in volunteering.
- We are asking parents to volunteer to be reading buddies in the classroom. The morning spots have been filled but parents are welcome to come from 12:30-1:30. During this time, parents will listen to students read from their level readers.
- Early Dismissal Wednesday, February 8.
- No School on Monday, February 20.

Classroom Reminders

- Please help your child fill out their Take-Home Reading Log each day and return books, baggies, and record sheets to the school regularly.
- All of the Elementary students now have personal accounts on IXL. We work with this program at school but I want to encourage everyone to work on this at home. I recently received a notification that our school has completed 10,000 math problems!
- We try to spend time outside as often as possible. Students need to have coats, gloves, and hats every day. When there is accumulated snow on the ground, students must also wear snow pants and boots in order to play outside.

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Notes to Parents from Ms. Samia

1. Please help your child do his or her homework in Arabic, Quran, and Islamic. Students are given homework assignment each Friday, parents are expected to sign the homework sheet and make sure that they do their homework.
2. Please work with your child in his or her Quran memorization

