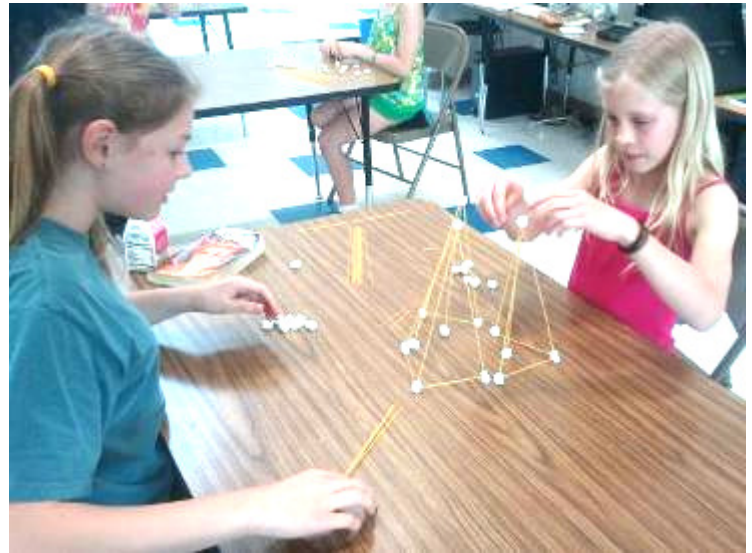




Montessori Matters



This structural engineering activity engaged E2 Science Club students with creating the tallest building with dry spaghetti and marshmallows.

Save the Dates!

June 3 Year End Picnic/Carnival 5 PM

June 8 Ribbon Ceremony 6:30 PM

This year's ceremony celebrates the graduation and moving-up of children in the kindergarten through sixth grade. Kindergartners receive ribbons for each year of RMS attendance; 1st years and other children new to RMS receive ribbons and medallions.

Many thanks!

To everyone who contributed to last Saturday's *Spring Roundup* success. The afternoon was filled with fun, food, musical performances, and a presentation by the National Eagle Center. Over 300 came together for this delightful RMS community event.

RMS

Because how children learn influences who they will become.

Learning in May

A Montessori school is a very busy place. At any given moment children engage in inquiry, exploration and discovery. Their many topics include Spanish, math, science, language, and history. This is only one part of the daily curriculum. Montessori children also learn how to learn—how to make choices, manage time, communicate, work together, and solve problems. It is so vital for children to learn their interests are important; that they can pursue topics about which they are genuinely interested. Confidence, pride, and achievement are natural results when who you are matters. Here's but a small sample of what's been going on in .

E2

The E2 students are working in groups to investigate various human biological systems. The focus of history research and discussion this month is World War II. The students are reading *Anne Frank*, *Someone named Eva*, and *Number the Stars*. Based on studies of a variety of poetic genres, the students wrote and then presented original poems on May 12th. A focus of current art activities includes Jackson Pollock and outdoor splatter painting. A lot of cooking is planned for the end of month camping trip.

E1 Ms. Hagberg

Recent science studies have focused on parts of fruits, external parts of animals, classifications through stories and riddles, and a variety of experiments. Researching famous women is a history focus. For literature, Ms. Hagberg has been reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. This chapter book, about the adventures of a china rabbit, unlike previously read chapter books, asks children to reason abstractly to understand the personification given to the china

rabbit, Edward Tulane. Daily reading activities focus on comprehension. 3rd years are working on grammar, 2nd years on language study, and 1st year children are finishing up the functions of words and handwriting instruction, cursive and print. The children are also studying a variety of poetic genres including couplets, acrostics, limericks, cinquains, diamantes, and quatrains. Cooking projects have occurred throughout the year; for example, making soups, salads and breads. Now the children are choosing to bake dessert recipes. In preparation for the year-end lock-in, the children are decorating book bags. Other art activities include making butterfly mobiles. Finally, the children are developing trivial pursuit style questions on cultural topics.

E1 Andy

The children are exploring the solar system and parts of vertebrates and invertebrates in science. History topics include needs of people and family history. Other investigations involve pin maps, the BC/AD timeline, studies of nations, and peace education. A focus for literature this month is non-fiction accounts of animal rescues. Writing genres include poetry, the mechanics of writing papers, and autobiographies. In preparation for the year-end lock-in, the children will make their own pizzas and book bags.

Both E1 classes are pursuing peace education topics and jointly preparing for the upcoming lock-in program.

Elementary Spanish

Food vocabulary is a focus for this month, and the children will soon make tortillas, tacos, fruit salads, and green salads. 5th year students for whom Spanish is their mother language are reading *Esperanza Renace* and *Mi Rincón en la Montaña* in Spanish. 2nd and 3rd year students are reading the *Diario de Greg* series.

Ginkgoes

The Ginkgoes are enjoying live chick hatching. This experience has sponsored investigations of chick, frog, and plant life cycles. Another science investigation is volcanoes. The children are learning about the American flag and also the Pledge of Allegiance. The class is also enjoying the Boxcar Children book, *The Pizza Mystery*. Several current art activities are color mixing, the color wheel, truck stencils, and bird shapes. Recent cooking projects include making blueberry muffins and play-doh personal-pan pizzas! Current songs include *The garden song*, *The grand old flag*, *I'd like to teach the world to sing*, and *brother come and dance with me*.

Oaks

In science, the Oaks' are investigating the butterfly life cycle, bubbles, and construction trucks! The children are also planting flowers. The study of Minnesota is part of the children's cultural studies. Children are writing reports on butterflies, insects, flowers, and frogs. Other written reports

School by Celeste Dyrbye-Wright

**School is hard,
School is good,
School is not quite understood!**

**Math is hard,
Geometry too,
But grammar's harder
oh' boo hoo!**

**Fun is in writing,
Boring's in spelling,
But in both there is no yelling!**

**No fooling around.
School's for education,
You can also learn about
condensation!**

are on the states, countries, and the continents. In literature, the children are exploring *Butterfly*, *Butterfly*, *In the Nest*, *Linnea in Monet's Garden*, and *How Flowers Grow*. Art activity choices include rainbows, flowers, butterflies, and knitting. In addition to favorites, the children are also singing *Inch by inch*, *The garden song*, *5 green and speckled frogs*, and *This land is your land*. This month the children are cooking blueberry muffins and making smoothies.

Willows

Science activities during May include investigating raising painted ladies, Iowa eagles, parts of the caterpillar, parts of the butterfly, and the butterfly life cycle. The geography focus for May is on the United States and involves U.S.A. rivers, mountains, state birds, state flowers, and farm animals. A companion topic in history is presidents of the United States. The children are enjoying books about butterflies, insects, flowers, and frogs. They are also enjoying singing *5 green and speckled frogs*, *It is springtime*, *Listen to the bluebirds*, and *This land is your land*. Self-portraits, quilling, cutting flowers, butterfly collages and eagle puppets are some of the current art projects. When not raining, the children are working outdoors on the patio. In preparation for the May 12 open house program, the children baked muffins.



Birches

The Birches are investigating the life cycle of a butterfly, conservation theory, and an activity called pepper chase. Europe is a current focus of cultural exploration, and the children are also exploring occupations in America. Several current art activities involve spring flowers and collages, and the children recently made mini-pizzas. Current songs include days of the week, months the year, and a Native American chant titled "Ooo Galay La."

Acorns

As busy as ever, the children are outdoors planting flowers and listening to stories about flowers, butterflies, and gardens. For Mother's day, the children made handprint cards. The children are also baking bread with the bread machine.

Pinecones

The Pinecones are investigating worms and watching how they move. The children planted sunflower seeds, and they are now watering and watching the plants grow. A variety of art activity is taking place including mixing paints and observing what new colors appear, collage work, and painting with different objects and textures. The children are listening to books about ducks and planting gardens as well as the windy day, rainy day, and sunny day books. Spring songs are about the rain, caterpillars, robins, and butterflies. Thursdays are baking days and the breads made include blueberry, mixed berry, apple cinnamon, and chocolate chip.



Angel from the Eagle Center visited during Saturday's well attended Spring Round Up.



Spring Round Up

From all accounts, and judging by the size of the attendance - over 300! - Spring Round Up was a huge success! The focal theme was *Americana*. Activities included a presentation by the National Eagle Center, square dancing, and musical performances from the kindergartners through sixth grade. Many, many thanks to the organizers, volunteers, and teachers for making this a fun event.

