



## Curriculum News: Lower Elementary Classroom

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### What we did during the last (2) months:

As I was contemplating the work the children have done since the beginning of the year, I was in awe. I need to tell you all about it. The level of critical thinking is college level I am sure.

Many children started with *Where am I in the Universe* and were inspired to give their responses in multiple ways, the favorite being a mobile.

Many first grade boys wanted to learn about WWII. So we discussed it, I showed them my son Sam's response from last year, and the little boys went from there. What they created can only be described as magnificent. They recreated the land, air and water war. They loved learning about the dolphin soldiers!

What I loved was that they thought about it, they discussed it and they learned. One child did WWI with the Eastern and the Western front and the trench warfare. One child did the Viet Nam war, because Grandpa was in it. It is spectacular! The VA has a howitzer next door, and often times we will just go over there and touch it. It is very powerful.

Many of our girls botany and zoology work should be published. It reminds me of Captain Meriwether Lewis's journals that he wrote with his Corps of Discovery (which we will be discussing in the spring, from the viewpoint on Capt. Lewis' dog, Seaman! In the spring)

There is one child who has been creating his own work all year. Right now he is thinking about creating his own beehive!!!

We have also been outside a lot. Yea snow!



As I said earlier the critical thinking and problem solving going on here is beyond amazing. Once again, I must say "Thank you Dr. Montessori, you saved the children."

I also wanted to make you aware that your children are forming friendships that I think will last their lifetimes. I wanted to show you who are "besties" with whom. It is heartwarming to watch, and I learn so much about friendship from them. Thank you. Please have play dates!



#### What we will be doing January:

We will be beginning a study of water on our earth, followed up with a Field trip to the Peggy Notebart Museum in Chicago. They have beautiful nature studies, a study of how water flows in Chicago and a butterfly habitat. Volunteers are needed! The date for that will be in January, I will let you know of the specifics closer to the date. We will do a study of Scandinavia and the

Vikings! We will also be doing a constellation study. Please look for the North Star at night. As soon as it gets dark, it is directly to the North. This is so fun for the children!

Miss Rosa and I are beginning our take-home reading program in January. The children will “check out” books so they can read to you. They chose the first basket of book available for check out. Every one of your children told me that they could not wait to read their particular choice to their Mom or Dad, they could not wait to turn them on to the great stories!!

*What you can do to support your student's learning:*

Please read to your kids, I cannot tell you how much they love it!

Have a Blessed New Year,

Cas and Rosa