



Language

It is not uncommon for the teachers to return to the Great Stories after the winter break and this week was no exception. Both Lower Elementary classrooms told the 4th Great Story: The Story of Communications. This is the unveiling of the development of the human invention of the written symbol. The children hear about the earliest forms of communication on rocks, clay, papyrus and more, drawing upon their developing creative imaginations. Eventually, the story leads the children to the symbols that they use to record thoughts today.

This Great Story is the opening invitation to explore further written expressions throughout all the Elementary years. This was visible in all the classrooms as children explored nouns, articles, sentence structures to include predicates, subjects, and direct objects. Children in the Lower Elementary environments were seen throughout the week deep in research; recording notes and writing reports. In Upper Elementary the students were working on descriptive writing. Children also gathered in lessons to work on rhyming and memorizing poems in some classes.

We know that Maria Montessori didn't want the exploration of writing and language to remain in solitary confinement of language alone, yet be dispersed within other subject areas. This was also evident in the work that the children were doing when they were working on maps in geography, exploration of other languages, and preparation for lesson night just to mention a few interdisciplinary connections.

In the above picture, you see children making cuneiform tablets. This was an ancient form of writing used by the Sumerians. They used objects such as clay and reeds from nature to begin recording their ideas. One child came up and showed us what he had written with a giant smile on his face. The enthusiasm and joy on his face were priceless.

The Language Program would like to invite parents on an opportunity for collaboration in the classroom. We would be delighted to have parents visit the language classroom to share a cultural celebration, tradition or experience from a Spanish or French speaking country or read a favorite story in Spanish or French to our children. We would like to highlight the cultural diversity within our community and offer you an opportunity for further collaboration.

Looking ahead.....

The students are preparing for the Elementary Sing-Alongs. They look forward to your attendance.

Lower Elementary: February 21

Upper Elementary: January 29

"Every subject of our interest and study can be related to human beings, who have toiled, often starved, to overcome obstacles for its understanding, and to give us knowledge free from such pains.

Everything is the fruit of the human soul,We must ourselves feel and inspire in the children admiration for all pioneers, known and unknown, possessors of the flame which has lighted the path of humanity. " (pg. 52 *To Educate the Human Potential. Maria Montessori*)

Warmly,

Lisbeth and the Elementary Team