

Elementary – November 9, 2018



*"The teacher is confronted with an individual who has already acquired the basis of culture, and is anxious to build on it, to learn and penetrate deeper into any matter of interest."
(Montessori, Maria. To Educate the Human Potential)*

The elementary child from 6-12 is on a quest for truth and answers to questions about the world around them. It becomes the job of the teacher to link the child to the world through real-life experiences. This week, in elementary, voices of enthusiasm and excitement for the joy of what they are learning permeated the air.

A lesson in Upper Elementary about Jamestown ended with one student exclaiming, "Best ever! Can we have the next lesson?" Another group of students found it fascinating to find the circumference of the playground equipment. The 6th years are taking on the challenge of proving the Pythagorean theorem with various figures. To start, they worked for two days figuring out the theorem using a rhombus. They were energized and quickly moved to trapezoids and were on a mission to work on hexagons and pentagons next.

Similar colonial experiences were happening in Lower Elementary. Both classes took a field trip to Ambler Farm on Monday. The students learned how children lived during colonial times. The corn-on-the-cob toilet paper caught the children's attention in particular. It was a rainy and cold day, but the creative ingenuity of the teachers related it to the fact that the colonial days existed during a mini ice age.

It is the job of the teacher as well to connect the children to the community and society around them. Considering this was election week, the children learned about voting. They were particularly interested in the rules, naturally, as this is the age when moral development is peaking. Alongside the laws, the children learned about the etiquette of politics and how in this culture, it is courteous to refrain from asking who people voted for in the election.

Parallel to the lessons on civics, children are exploring how to make bar graphs. The environments exploded with children walking around with clipboards, asking, "Would you like to take part in a survey?" and then followed up with questions such as, "What is your favorite planet?"

Another phenomenon occurring this week was setting back the clock one hour. This led to lessons on seasons and the rotation of the earth, and the orbiting around the sun in the Lower Elementary classes and the study of Climate Zones and the tilt of the earth on its axis being 23 1/2 degrees.

Rounding out the children's fantastic experiences was celebrating French Week. They ate French foods and participated in a spelling bee. The children spelled words out loud, wrote them on the board and quizzed each other with the enthusiastic support of Kimberly and our lovely volunteer, Lydie Schwartz.

Finally, to conclude their week, we hope you come and enjoy Fall Clean Up Day together as a community. We have a special treat at 11:30. The Harvard Krokodiloes will sing for us!

This upcoming week, we have Parent Teacher Conferences. We look forward to seeing you.

Joyfully,

Lisbeth and the Elementary Team