

Elementary – November 30, 2018



Within the curriculum of Cosmic Education, there is a tool that the Montessori Teacher is trained to use; it is called a "Key Lesson." A key lesson is an instructional moment given to the children that can then be a tool to explore, research and investigate various interests. This week, the children buzzed about exploring, researching, writing, and discovering about adjectives, Thanksgiving, Hannukah, Mars Rover and so much more. Each key lesson provides the opportunity for a spark of interest to ignite and the exploration to begin.

One such major key lesson is called the Third Great Story. The story tells about the coming of human beings that can think with their minds, work with their hands and love with their hearts. This key lesson opens up the door for the children to explore how the human being made discoveries, invented tools, learned to adapt, and continued to make life better and better for themselves. This lesson sparks a sense of gratitude for the human being and all that they have accomplished.

As the winter season creeps upon us, many cultures celebrate various holidays. This provides the teacher with a wonderful opportunity to give little key lessons on traditions around the world. The children have recently experienced Thanksgiving and reflected on the many things they are thankful for such as family, food and wonderful moms, dads, siblings, and grandparents. The children also learned about the Indian celebration of Dewali. Next week, they will listen to the ancient stories and traditions of Hannukah. As the teachers tell the stories, the sweet smell of Latkas will permeate the hallways.

In Upper Elementary the students are continuing to research and learn about the different climate zones, the wind, and the weather. These lessons provide answers to the inquiring minds that want to understand the effects of shorter and darker days and changing seasons. As the fall slowly turns into winter, the students in Upper Elementary harvested all the plants from the garden. They dried various herbs, packaged them up and shared with the school community.

"The secret of success is found to lie in the right use of imagination in awakening interest, and the stimulation of seeds of interest already sown by attractive literary and pictorial material, but all correlated to a central idea, of greatly ennobling inspiration – the Cosmic Plan in which all, consciously or unconsciously, serve the Great Purpose of Life." - Maria Montessori

Warm Regards,

Lisbeth and the Elementary Team