

Rocks Lane Montessori Newsletter



Summer 2022, Issue No. 5

A special message:

Spring has sprung and the flowers are in full bloom! The warmer weather has allowed us more time learning outdoors and appreciating nature. We are especially fortunate to be able to witness the growth of flora and fauna in our own backyard as we explore the newly revamped mud kitchen. We have had a great Spring Term celebrating Chinese New Year, World Book Day and Easter! With Summer upon us, we're readying ourselves for a time of transition with many exciting events waiting for us like Sports Day and our Graduation!

We hope you had a great break and we can't wait to see you at school!



With love, the Rocks Lane Montessori team



Announcements:

Happiest birthday to the following children:

- Pearl (1st May)
- Arabella (4th June)
- Emily (10th June)
- Rose (29th June)
- Oscar (1st July)
- Rory (7th July)
- George (26th July)
- Otilie (26th July)
- Scarlett (7th August)



And a warm welcome to:

- Violet and her family
- Winston and his family

A Term in Review.....

Check out some of the amazing celebrations this past term!

1. Chinese New Year Celebrations

We rang in the Lunar New Year with a cultural event inviting parents of our some of our students to share about significant artefacts, practices and traditions of Chinese New Year. We heard about the story of the very first Lunar New Year painted Year-of-the-Tiger masks of our own and even did calligraphy! 新年快乐!



A Term in Review...continued.



2. World Book Day (Waterstones)

We celebrated World Book Day dressed up as our favourite characters from books close to our hearts. Little dragons, superheroes and dinosaurs wandered into our classroom, with a book in hand, ready to be indulged throughout the day! We wrapped up this special day with a trip to Waterstones and exchanged our book voucher for a very special book of our choice!



Our heartiest thanks to...

..the Mummies of Oscar, Bertie, and Elliott who spent a morning in the classroom with us organizing a special Chinese New Year event for the children. Through story-telling, craft and Chinese calligraphy, the children were introduced to the customs and practices of the Chinese community who celebrates Chinese New Year! Gong Xi Fa Cai, Xin Nian Kuai Le! 恭喜发财, 新年快乐!

3. International Women's Day

Women thrive when we support each other. We honoured the women in our lives with a very simple but special gift: a daffodil! Happy Women's Day!



4. Easter celebrations

Spring is here and Easter celebrations are in full swing! We celebrated the Easter season with an egg hunt, egg race and a little craft involving making our very own creative Easter egg, and for the younger ones, our very own bouncing bunnies!



Special feature!

Presenting..our new garden and mud kitchen!

Outdoor learning experiences bring about concrete learning of mathematical concepts such as measuring, observing, predicting and recording.

With many new features in the mud kitchen, we'll have lots of opportunities to work individually and collaboratively to solve real-life-problems as well as to enjoy some pretend play!



A fun holiday recipe:

Ultimate Healthy FlapJacks



Why are flapjacks a good idea?

With the Easter holidays round the corner and picnics are widely becoming a popular spring family activity, why not prepare your own simple and healthy snacks to pack on the go?

- Serves 4 (makes 12 small bars)
- 10 mins to prepare and 2 mins to cook
- 202 calories/serving
- Healthy, Vegetarian, Dairy-free

Ingredients:

- 1 ripe banana
- 2 tbsp coconut oil
- 3 tbsp tahini
- 60 runny honey
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 45g mixed seeds (such as pumpkin, sesame and sunflowers seeds)
- 100g rolled oats (use gluten-free oats to make recipe gluten free)
- 50g sour cherries
- 2 tbsp chia seeds
- 50g pistachios

Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C.
2. Mash the banana to a smooth paste with a fork.
3. Melt the coconut oil over a low heat. Remove from the heat and add the tahini and honey.
4. Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl plus a pinch of salt. Add the banana paste and honey mixture. Stir until combined.
5. Press into a lined 16cm x 16cm tin. Bake for 25 mins, or until firm and golden.
6. Leave to cool in the tin before slicing the flapjack into bars (it should make 12).

Montessori focus...

Numeracy and Mathematics



Numeracy means understanding how maths is used in the real world and being able to apply it to make the best possible decisions. The Montessori classroom is packed full of activities to bring this to life for each child.

When they're ready and show interest, children are introduced to counting with the help of number rods and sandpaper numerals. They gradually learn about both concrete quantities, and then their relationships with the abstract written symbol. Working first with quantities, children focus on sequence as well as patterns of numbers such as odd and even. At all times children have objects to manipulate and organise to enhance their mathematical understanding. Unique to Montessori is her approach to the decimal system. The child who knows numbers up to 10 is introduced to the names of the hierarchies within the decimal system using the bars, squares and cubes made out of the Golden Beads. With the help of these 'fixed quantities', young children are able then to count up to 9,999. To enhance their understanding of the decimal system hierarchies, they have access to numeral cards, which use colour to represent the hierarchies. The cards are also designed to highlight the place value of zero. With the help of these materials children can be introduced to numerical operations such as addition or multiplication and have the opportunity to work with large numbers long before they learn to add or subtract units and tens.

Here are some of the Montessori Numeracy activities we often use in the classroom:

1. Sandpaper numbers



Similar to the other sandpaper materials in the Montessori classroom, the Sandpaper Numbers uses the physical texture of sand to invite a child to begin exploring the world of numbers. The Sandpaper Numerals are green wooden rectangles, with numbers 0-9 engraved on front in a fine-grit sandpaper.

<http://www.infomontessori.com/mathematics/introduction.htm>

2. Number Rods



The number rods consist of 10 wooden rods whose length increases by increments of 10cm rod by rod and whose width remains consistent at 2.5cm x 2.5cm. The 3-prong aims of the number rods are to show that numbers can represent quantities, show that units can be combined to create quantities, and lastly, to count to 10.

As children work with this material, they gain the concrete understanding that the length of each rod corresponds to a greater number of units. This teaches children to associate quantities with numbers (1-1 correspondence), introduces children to the decimal system, and shows them that single units can be combined to produce various quantities.

3. Spindle Boxes



The wooden spindles are introduced after a child has the solid understanding of quantities 1-10 and recognises the corresponding numeric symbols. The activity also introduces the child's introduction to the concept zero.

4. Bead Stairs



The bead stair consists of 9 segments of wire strung with one to nine beads. Every number of beads is done in a different colour: 1-red, 2-green, 3-pink, 4-yellow, 5-light blue, 6-lavender, 7-white, 8-brown, 9-dark blue. The beads should be as spherical as possible so that they are equally wide as they are long. They should measure between 7-8mm in diameter.

Our Gallery...

Here's a little peek into our classroom where very busy children feel free to work, learn, have fun, and just be themselves!



Upcoming events:

- Half-term (30th May-3rd June 2022)
- School photos (21st June)
- Sports day (30th June)
- Graduation (8th July)
- Summer break (13th July-5th September)

Some favourite songs & stories:

1. The floor is lava:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbNAIN8FTfc>
2. STOP by Patty Shukla:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPQpWWh8M1I>
3. Green Grass Grows all Around:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkAOelMypg8>
4. Singing Mermaid (book):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KznlV5gannvQ>

A gentle reminder...

- Please remember to check your child's nails from time to time to ensure they are cut neatly to prevent germs and accidental scratches.
- Do remember to bring water bottles to school as the weather gets hotter. Water parades are held very often this term, especially after sports sessions and time out in the garden.
- Do apply sunscreen before coming into school or have them ready labelled in their bags, particularly for children who stay for the longer day.

We're so excited about the curriculum for this term!



Curriculum Focus Topics, Summer 2022						
Week	Project	Numbers of the week	Sounds of the week	Shape of the week	Book of the week	Person of the week
20 th April	Life cycles	1, 2, 11, 12	j, oo	sphere	Life Cycles by Dorling Kindersley	Rosa Parks
25 th April	Life cycle of a butterfly	3, 4, 13, 14	r, ee	hemisphere	The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle	Eric Carle
2 nd May	Life cycle of a lady bird	5, 6, 15, 16	p, sh	cylinder	Look out Lady Bug! By Jack Tickle	Claude Bernard
9 th May	Life cycle of a frog	7, 8, 17, 18	q, qu	cube	The Frog who Lost His Croak by Toni William	Ada Lovelace
16 th May	Life cycle of a chicken	9, 19	v, ch	cone	Chicken Licken by Henny Penny	Galen
23 rd May	Life cycle of a plant	10, 20	w, wh	pyramid	When Plants Took Over The Earth by Chris Thorogood	Rosalind Franklin
Half term break: 30 th May to 3 rd June 2022						
Week	Project	Numbers of the week	Sounds of the week	Shape of the week	Book of the week	Person of the week
6 th June	Conservation	1, 2, 10	k, oo	triangle	Somebody swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts and Hannah Peck	Greta Thunberg
13 th June	Recycling	3, 4, 20	d, ee	types of quadrilaterals	Rubbish and Recycling: Discover it yourself by Rosie Hartlow	Jane Goodall
20 th June	Going green-transport and buildings	5, 6, 30	n, sh	pentagon	Daniel and His Electric Car children's book by Ann Hegnauer	Elon Musk
27 th June	Wildlife and nature conservation	7, 8, 40	u, qu	hexagon	Animals Lost and Found: Stories of Extinction, Conservation and Survival by Dorling Kindersley	David Attenborough
4 th July	Off to big school	9, 50	w, ch	heptagon	Starting school by Janet and Allan Ahlberg	Emmeline Pankhurst
11 th July	Graduation	10, 60	h, wh	heart	Making Friends: A book about First Friendships by Amanda McCordie, Colleen Larmour	Josephine Butler
Summer break: 14 th July - 5 th September 2022						