



December 2013

Newsletter

Important Dates

December 10

Monthly tuition payment due

December 12

Construction of Gingerbread Houses

December 13

Last Day of School before winter break

December 16 -20

Winter camp
January 2
School resume

January 24

Moms' Day

February 7

Dads' Day

I would like to share the following quote by Maria Montessori:

It is the true that the child develops in his environment through activity itself, but he needs material means, guidance, and indispensable understanding. It is the adult who provides these necessities....If (the adult) does less than is necessary, the child cannot act meaningfully, and if he does more than is necessary, he imposes himself upon the child, extinguishing (the child's) creative impulses.

It is a fine line we walk observing our children and determining when they can work on their own and solve their own problems and when they need support. In the classroom we strive to offer only good choices. This allows children to choose their own work and to work at their own pace. The adults' role in the classroom is to get to know each child and observe him/her, providing support only when needed and a new lesson when the child is ready or needs something to spark his/her interest. Our goal is to help the child become an independent, self confident, intrinsically motivated and socially responsive.

The following link is to an article I thought might be of interest to you. It concerns children's use of time and how its use helps develop some of the above qualities.

<http://www.ahaparenting.com/parenting-tools/raise-great-kids/intellegent-creative-child/boredom-busters-good-for-kids>

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday

Fun events in November....



Celebrating Diwali!

On Friday, November 22, Mrs. Joshi joined our Primary class in the afternoon to do a presentation on Diwali. Diwali is a celebration in India that takes place in November. The children enjoyed a short animated film, a description of how the event is celebrated and then had the opportunity to make their own images similar to the ones families create in the homes to recognize the event. Mrs. Joshi also brought some yummy treats. It is always a treat to have parents come in and share with children about other cultures. Thank you Mrs. Joshi and Arin!



A visit from our friend Eagle Bear...

On Wednesday, November 20th Eagle Bear and his son and nephew came to the Concord Center for a presentation to both Apple and Suburban. All of the children got to learn about Eagle Bear's tribe, their traditions and songs. In the photos above Harper (Ms. Bannigan's class) is dressed in traditional Indian clothing including a leather vest, buffalo bone necklace and a fur fox head covering. In the photo to the right Eagle Bear, Etsy and JC are playing the drums and sound shakers. After lots of singing and dancing the children had the opportunity to feel real animal furs from a number of different animals and look at some crafts and jewelry the tribe makes.





Thanksgiving!

At Apple this is one of our favorite celebrations of the year! It is so much fun working with the children to prepare our Thanksgiving Feast. We hope all of you had a terrific holiday and enjoyed spending some extra time with your families!

A big **THANK YOU** to all of your families for providing the ingredients used to make our wonderful feast.

And another big **THANK YOU** to the parents who volunteered to help set up on Wednesday morning. We couldn't do it without you.

