MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 **December 2010**

Dear parents and students,

With the approach of the mid-year school break, we would like to send our heartfelt Season's Greetings and wish you happy holidays.

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Behavioural Skills

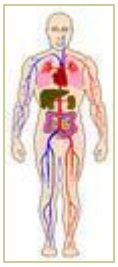
This project aims at educating the children and introducing them to class rules and communication skills; hence it is the first one in each class and its main elements are:

- Self-care.
- Environment care and protection.
- Good manners, communication skills and finesse.
- Table etiquette.
- Hygienic use of the WC.
- Proper use and handling of class tools and equipment.
- Social norms and rules of decorum.
- Big and small workcycle.

The Human Body and the Five Senses

The main components of the project are:

- Human body parts and their functions.
- The structure of the human body including the skeleton, muscles, skin etc.
- The five senses and their functions.
- The different stages of growth; the characteristics of each stage with respect to size, shape and looks.
- Fingerprints and how they differ from one person to another and their varying patterns.
- The main things that keep our bodies healthy, namely good food, hygiene, exercise and good sleep.
- Body safety awareness and how to avoid reckless acts and harmful accidents.



The children were told how important it is to have a healthy body and how this reflects positively on a family as a whole.

As for the Five Senses, they were mainly briefed on:

1. The names of the five senses.
2. The senses and their relevant body parts.
3. The importance of each of the senses.
4. Experiments on how the senses function with respect to taste, touch, hearing etc.

In addition to the project, the **family and its positive role in society** were also discussed. This was a good forum for children to learn about family members, next of kin etc.

Food and Nutrition

As for nutrition, it is an established fact that food is always an interesting subject matter for adults and children alike. The children enjoyed the discussion and their interaction was remarkable, simply because the project taught them how we consume the right kind of food for good health and growth.

The children also learned about:

- The importance of nutritious food in building our bodies.
- The three main meals.
- The various nutrients, namely proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals.

- Names of different types of vegetables and fruits and the benefits of each to our health.
- How to avoid innutritious or so-called junk food, which is damaging to our health.

Classes that took the Nutrition Project talked extensively about Milk and Eggs and their importance to our nutrition, especially in the early stages of growth.

The following points were discussed with the children:

1. How important milk is for mammals, being their young's staple.

2. The animals that humans derive milk from and consume.
3. Milking methods and techniques and milk sterilisation and pasteurisation.
4. Dairy products.

As for eggs, we told the children how some animals' reproduction occurs through laying eggs.

The egg was defined as an oval or round reproductive body laid by the females of birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, and some other animals, consisting of a developing embryo, its food store, and sometimes jelly or albumen, all surrounded by an outer shell or membrane.

In addition, we also discussed:

1. The appropriate conditions for an egg to develop and how the young of birds or animals get out of it.
2. The different sizes of egg.
3. Parts of the egg.
4. In addition to the egg's value as food, the children learned that it is used in the manufacture of cosmetics, shampoo, ink, paint, etc.

Jordan

The significance of this project lies in the fact that it helped the children understand their country and the meaning of statehood and nationhood. It also introduced them to new concepts and terminology including borders, geographical location, capital city, map, tradition and history etc.

The following points took centre stage in the discussion:

- Jordan's main cities.
- The Kingdom's non-volatile weather.
- Historical and religious sites and their importance for the tourism industry in Jordan and the marketing of Jordan.
- The main tourist attractions in Jordan, including, among others, Petra, Jerash, the Dead Sea and Aqaba.
- History.
- Jordan's Monarchy and the earlier-kings of Jordan.
- Landscape and topography.
- Traditional food and costumes.
- The plants and birds of Jordan.

- The currency.

The children were also introduced to Civic Education, which tackled the following points among others:

- The constitutional system and parliament.
- Their Majesties' duties towards their nation and people.
- The origin of Amman's name.

The illustration of the project was a video film about Jordan's history and way of life that encompassed all the above elements.

The Four Seasons, Weather, and Time

The Four Seasons

- The names of seasons.
- Features of each season.
- Clothes worn in each season.
- The effect of seasonal change on animals.
- Identification of each season's vegetables and fruits.
- The planet Earth's revolving around itself and around the sun, the resulting phenomena of the day and night and the four seasons.

The Weather

- Clouds, their formation, how they differ from one season to another and their importance in bringing rain.
- Winds and how they affect the lives of people and plants.
- Hurricanes, thunder, lightning and frost.
- Water Cycle.

Time

Time is a part of the measuring system used to sequence events, to compare the durations of events and the intervals between them, and to quantify rates of change such as the motions of objects.

The Egyptians were the first people to create a 24-hour day. Time was a little bit different in those days. The night was divided into 12 hours, which were designated by the position of the stars in the sky. The day was divided into 10 hours and a shadow clock was used to keep track of these hours. The twilight hours were the hours before dawn and after sunset.

The children learnt about:

- A large variety of devices that have been invented to measure time and the advantages and disadvantages of each:
  - The Shadow Clock
  - The Sun Dial
  - Water Clock
  - Hour Glass
  - The Pendulum
  - Mechanical Clock
  - Atomic Clock
- The time components of the day; the day consists of 24 hours, an hour of 60 minutes, and the minute of 60 seconds.
- The world time-zones
- Big Ben being the largest 4-faced ringing clock in the world.

Professions

The project focused on the following:

- The meaning and definition of the word and the various professions existing in our society.
- The relevance of professions to their environment and how village professions may differ from those in the city.
- How some professions disappeared over the years and were replaced by new ones due to the introduction of modern techniques, technology etc.

- The importance and value of work and how it makes an individual feel productive and useful to his or her community.
- The tools and instruments used in some professions.
- In addition to the above, the children talked enthusiastically about their parents' professions and what they would like to become in the future.

Animals and Reptiles

The children were given the definition of an animal as a living creature that is not a plant.

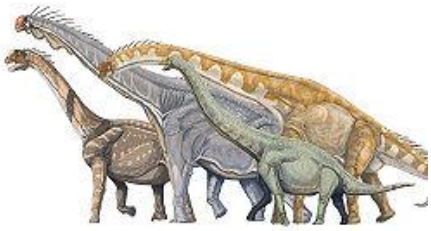
This project also included:

- The names of animals.
- Animal species (reptiles, mammals, sea animals etc).
- Animals' adaptation to their habitat and environment.
- Types of animal food.
- Names of animals' homes.
- The importance of such homes for dwelling, protection, reproduction etc.
- The benefit of animals to humans.
- The similarity between humans and some animals in terms of growth, breeding and feeding.

The children were introduced to living reptiles which are classified in four orders. The turtles, which have a protective bony shell, usually covered with horny plates. They are mostly aquatic in habits although some are adapted to land.

They are the oldest living reptiles. Members of the order Crocodilia, which included alligators, and crocodiles are large carnivorous reptiles of tropical and subtropical swamps and rivers. They were also told about lizards and snakes as well as their benefits and dangers.

Dinosaurs



This was quite an interesting project for the children who were introduced to:

- The types of dinosaurs which existed during the Mesozoic Era.
- The carnivorous & the herbivorous types.
- Dinosaur eggs in comparison with the eggs of other animals.
- The reasons for the extinction of dinosaurs.
- The dinosaurs' timeline.

As a visual illustration backup to the project a video about dinosaurs was shown to the children

Birds

An interesting project where children learnt that birds are winged, warm-blooded, vertebrate

animals that lay eggs. In the discussion, the following areas were addressed:

- There are around 10,000 living species, making them the most numerous tetrapod vertebrates.
- Birds range in size from the 5 cm (2 in) Bee Hummingbird to the 3 m (10 ft) Ostrich.
- Birds are characterised by feathers, a beak with no teeth, the laying of hard-shelled eggs, a high metabolic rate, a four-chambered heart, and a lightweight but strong skeleton.
- Birds have unique digestive and respiratory systems that are highly adapted for flight.
- Many species undertake long distance annual migrations, and many more perform shorter irregular movements. Birds are social; they communicate using visual signals and through calls and songs, and participate in social behaviours including cooperative breeding and hunting, flocking, and mobbing of predators.
- Birds live and breed on all seven continents, eggs are usually laid in a nest and incubated by the parents. Most birds have an extended period of parental care after hatching.
- Many species are of economic importance, mostly as sources of food acquired through hunting or farming. Some species, particularly songbirds and parrots, are popular as pets.

The children were introduced to the different types of local birds in Jordan.

Around the World

This project was a tour of the planet Earth starting with its present-day formation, namely the seven continent's of the world. The core content of the project was discussion of each continents' main features, countries, their borders, flags and the varying cultures as manifest in costume, architecture, art and music, to name a few. During our discussion of the project, we touched on the wonders of the world such as Petra, the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China and Taj Mahl.

We also brought to the children's attention the importance of modern day communication, be it digital or otherwise, which has turned the globe into a small village, with both the positive and negative impact this may entail. For example, one can now talk directly to a friend or a relative through the PC and see them through a web cam, as if they were communicating directly. But also globalization has its negative effects such as the quick spread of disease. The children were told that the globe should be for all and, accordingly, its resources and wealth must be protected.

Water

Water is a liquid at ambient conditions, but it often co-exists on Earth with its solid state, ice, and gaseous state, water vapor or steam.
Water covers 70.9% of the Earth's surface, and is vital for all known forms of life. On Earth, it is found mostly in oceans and other large water bodies.

The project covered the following key points:

- Clean drinking water is essential to humans and other life forms.
- Water appears in nature in all three common states of matter and may take many different forms on Earth: water vapor and clouds in the sky; seawater and icebergs in the polar oceans; glaciers and rivers in the mountains; and the liquid in aquifers in the ground.

- Water also infiltrates the ground and goes into aquifers. This groundwater later flows back to the surface in springs, or more spectacularly in hot springs and geysers. Groundwater is also extracted artificially in wells.
- This water storage is important, since clean, fresh water is essential to human and other land-based life. In many parts of the world, it is in short supply.
- Water can dissolve many different substances, giving it varying tastes and odors.
- Water plays an important role in the world economy, as it functions as a solvent for a wide variety of chemical substances and facilitates industrial cooling and transportation.
- Water effects on life and human civilization.
- Water human uses.
- Water pollution.

In addition to the above projects, the following activities were given:

- Cooking
- Drama
- Art
- Music
- Kids Dance
- Stories
- Scientific Experiments

Environmental and Cultural Studies

Ammoun

1- Land and Water Globe **2-** Planting Seeds **3-** Parts of the Cow **4-** Parts of the Snail **5-** Parts of the Tree **6-** Experiments with Water (the physical forms of water) **7-** Parts of the Bird **8-** Continent Globe **9-** Parts of the Leaf **10-** Making a Rainbow (prism) **11-** Shadows **12-** Electric Current **13-** Land and Water Forms

Amra

1- Parts of the Horse **2-** The Continent Globe **3-** Land and Water Globe **4-** Parts of the Fish **5-** Parts of the Tree **6-** Parts of the Turtle **7-** Animate and Inanimate Objects **8-** Experiments with Water (floating and sinking objects, water as a solvent, the physical forms of water) **9-** Vegetables and Fruits: Terminology Cards **10-** Magnetism **11-** Static Electricity **12-** Timeline of the Seed **13-** Planting lentil seeds **14-** The Greek Elements: Water, Earth, Air and Fire

Dana

1- Parts of the Fish **2-** Parts of the Tree **3-** The Growth Stages of the Seed **4-** Continent Globe **5-** Experiments with Water (floating and sinking objects, the physical forms of water, the water cycle, water as a solvent) **6-** Land and Water Forms (island and lake) **7-** Land and Water Globe **8-** The Puzzle Map of the World **9-** Animate and Inanimate Objects **10-** Making a Rainbow (prism) **11-** Electric Current **12-** Static Electricity **13-** Planting lentil seeds

Jerash

1- Parts of the Bird **2-** Parts of the Fish **3-** Parts of the Horse **4-** Experiments with Water (floating and sinking objects, the physical forms of water, surface tension) **5-** Land and Water Forms (island and lake, gulf and peninsula) **6-** Farm and Zoo Animals **7**- Land and Water Globe **8-** The Greek Elements: Water, Earth, Air and Fire **9-** **10-** Making a Rainbow **11-** Shadows **12-** Experiments with Air (Air Pressure, Hot Air Rises)

Petra

1- Parts of the Horse **2-** The Growth Stages of the Seed **3-** Parts of the Turtle **4-** Experiments with Water (floating and sinking objects, the physical forms of water, water as a solvent, surface tension) **5**- Experiment with Air (Hot Air Rises) **6-** Land and Water Forms (island and lake) **7-** Experiment with Light (Transparent and Opaque) **8-** Electric Current.

Rum

1- Parts of the Fish **2-** Parts of the Tree **3-** Parts of the Turtle **4-** Land and Water Globe **5-** The Continent Globe **6-** Parts of the Frog **7-** Experiment with Water (floating and sinking objects, the physical forms of water, water as a solvent) **8-** Magnetism **9-** Shadows (The Sundial) **10-** Static Electricity **11-** Making a Rainbow (prism) **12-** Planting Seeds **13-** Nature Walk

ACTIVITIES

- Montessori Evening. During the function the KG Principal, Nourhan Zehni, gave a brief overview of the Montessori teaching philosophy. After the session the parents, accompanied by teachers, toured the KG premises.
- The KG students marked the Arab Children's Day on which they enjoyed mansaf, the traditional mouth-watering Jordanian delicacy dressed in traditional Arab dresses.
- The **Amin Hassan Award (AHA)** in cooperation with the MBS and the KG organized three activities to save Batoul's life (an underprivileged cancer patient):
  - Participation in Amman International Marathon "Kids Fun Run".
  - "Go White" fundraising campaign.
  - "Normal Clothes Day" fundraising campaign.
- The AHA also organised the **"Warm Winter"** campaign to collect blankets for needy families. Special thanks to contributing parents.
- Elections event. Children were exposed in a practical way to the concept of elections.
- Country week. In order for the children to understand different cultures The following countries were discussed, Brasil, Turkey, Spain, Morocco, Greece and Russia. On the last day children were dressed according to their countries and ate the traditional meal of their country.
- A bake sale was held in support of the **Winter Jacket for Children** campaign. Special thanks to contributing parents.
- Teachers on Stage activity, where teachers take the role of the children and the children take the role the teachers in a theatrical performance.
- Classes made the following field trips:

- Ammoun: The Traffic Park, The Birds Park, Civil Defense Department, and Raghadan Palace.
- Amra: The Traffic Park and The Roman Amphitheatre.
- Dana: The Zoo, The Children's Museum, and Raghadan Palace.
- Jerash: The Birds Park.
- Petra: The Traffic Park, The Arab Horse Club.
- Rum: The Children's Museum, The Traffic Park, The Arab Horse Club.

- Petra and Rum classes enjoyed a breakfast at the school's cafeteria.
- The KG children enjoyed a play entitled "**The Spirit of Christmas"** at the school's theatre.
- Observance of Eid Al-Adha.
- The KG family would like to extend its deepest gratitude and appreciation to the parents who sent educational materials and information to enhance the concept of the different projects which were presented to the children during the first semester.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ***Winter Break (18th January,2011 – 7th February, 2011).***
- ***8 February is the beginning of the second semester.***

With the Compliments of the KG