



MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

May 2010

Dear parents and students,

As another scholastic year (2009-2010) comes to an end, we would like to congratulate you on a successful and productive year and wish you a happy vacation. We also look forward to meeting you next year to pursue our joint academic successes.

Class Projects

Amoun

Human Body and the Five Senses

Food and Nutrition

The Solar System

Around the World

Amra

Professions

The Four Seasons and Weather

The Deep Sea

Dinosaurs

Dana

Food and Nutrition

Music

Jordan

Writing

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Around the World

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Music

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.

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.

The Four Seasons and the Weather

The project covered the following key points:

- 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 on its own axis and around the sun and the resulting phenomena of day and night and the four seasons.



As for the weather, we covered, among other topics, the following points:

- 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.

Around the World

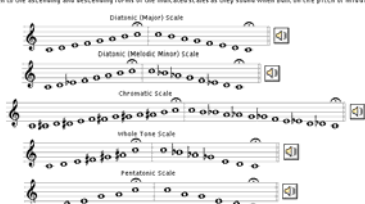
This project was a tour of the planet Earth starting with its present-day formation, namely the seven continent's of the world. The core content of the project was discussion of each continents' main features, countries, their borders, flags and the varying cultures as manifest in costume, architecture, 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.

Music

Music, in a broad definition, is the artful arrangement of sounds across time. It is part of virtually every culture on Earth, but it varies widely among cultures in style and structure as well as sounds and instruments.

Music began almost universally in early times as an accompaniment to movements and activities of workers and farmers and has evolved over the years in terms of sounds and instruments.

Listen to the ascending and descending forms of the indicated scales as they sound when built on the pitch of middle C.



The relevance between the various civilizations and their music is clear cut. It is very easy to differentiate between western music, oriental music, Latin American music etc. and the sounds of each culture's instruments.

Most musical ethnic division divides into so-called classical music and music of the people or pop music, though these two categories are not always distinct. Art music demands a high level of training on the part of the performer and a relatively high level of sophistication on the part of the audience. Popular and folk styles of music can become equally sophisticated, but they tend to start out being easier to perform and more easily understood by a wider audience.

For example, classical music, pop music, western country music and jazz each has its own audience who appreciate it to varying degrees. The same applies to Arabic music where we have "tarab" and also other types, such as modern pop music of the youth.

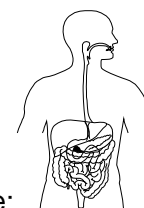
The voice is the most important element in the music of some cultures, while instrumental sounds are more important in others.

Types of Instruments:

- Percussion
- Wind
- String
- Electronic

The children found this project very interesting. In addition to the above, they learned about the musical scale as well as renowned composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Chopin and they listened to some of their masterpieces.

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.



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.

Writing

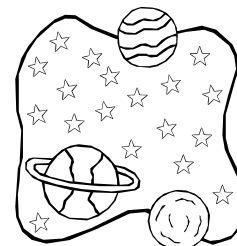
Writing is the representation of language in a textual medium through the use of a set of signs or symbols. It is distinguished from illustration, such as cave drawing and painting.

When the complexity of trade and administration increased to a point where it exceeded the power of memory, writing developed as a more dependable method of recording and presenting transactions in a permanent way.

The highlights of the project were:

1. Writing is a distinctly human activity. A person who composes a message or story in the form of text is generally known as a writer or an author.

2. Historians draw a distinction between prehistory and history, with history defined by the advent of writing. The cave paintings and petroglyphs of prehistoric peoples can be considered precursors of writing, but are not considered writing because they did not represent language directly.
3. The many tools and writing materials used throughout history include stone tablets, clay tablets, wax tablets, paper, quills, ink brushes, pencils, and pens. Children learned about modern writing tools and how paper is produced.
4. Writing was very important in maintaining the Egyptian empire. The world's oldest known alphabet was developed in central Egypt. Egyptian hieroglyphs were a formal writing system used by the ancient Egyptians that contained a combination of logographic and alphabetic elements. Egyptians used papyrus and wood as writing tools.



The Solar System

The children showed great interest in the subject and felt it was a good opportunity for them to learn about the following:

- Naming and listing the planets according to their distance from the sun.
- The features of each planet in terms of size, colour, temperature, surface etc.
- The importance of the Sun in our life and the fact that it is the closest star to the Earth.
- The moon and its phases. The children also saw a documentary about the pioneering human landing on the moon by American astronaut Neil Armstrong who was the first human to set foot on the moon on July 20th, 1969.
- The difference between a planet and a star.

- The characteristics of the Earth, such as water, oxygen, gravity etc., which make life on it possible for all creatures.

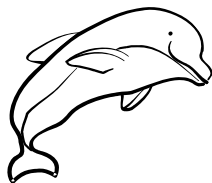
The Deep Sea and Dolphins

The Deep Sea

This project was so exciting for the children who enjoyed a virtual voyage to the aquamazing wonders of sea life, plants and creatures.

The highlights of the project were:

1. How deep sea fishes look and adapt to their environment, with their big heads and slender bodies due to the coercive force of food scarcity that prompts them to keep their mouths open.
2. The difference between the Dead Sea, with its high percentage of salts that makes life for fish impossible, and the Red Sea, with its wonderful marine life.
3. Whales, their types, habitat and reproduction.
4. Some fish species including sharks.
5. Shells.
6. Fungus, Plankton, Nekton, crabs, oysters and corals.



Dolphins

The Dolphin is a fast-swimming aquatic mammal, belonging to an order which also includes whales and porpoises. Sleek and powerful swimmers, dolphins are found in seas throughout the world; some inhabit freshwater rivers and lakes. Characteristic features of most dolphins are long snouts with rows of sharp teeth, and rounded foreheads with a nostril on top, known as the blowhole.

1. There are at least 40 species of dolphin. The children were told that dolphins resemble fish in many ways, but they exhibit a number of true mammalian characteristics: they are warm-blooded, breathe air, and nurse their young on milk.
2. After a gestation period of 12 to 16 months, depending on the species, a single calf is born. The mother nurses her newborn underwater for about 6 months to 2 years.
3. Dolphins communicate with one another using a complex set of whistles, screeches and clicks. The loudness of the whistling may communicate the emotional state of the dolphin.
4. Because dolphins rely on sound to communicate and find food, scientists are concerned about the increase of underwater noise pollution from ship motors, oil drilling and production and undersea machinery.
5. Dolphins throughout the world are threatened by habitat destruction and pollution. Many cultures have hunted dolphins for food and for the oil found in small quantities in the animal's head.



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.

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

- Cooking
- Drama
- Art
- Music
- Kids' Dance
- Stories
- Scientific experiments

Environmental and Cultural Studies

Amoun

1- Animate and Inanimate Objects 2- Parts of the Leaf 3- Parts of the Bird 4- Parts of the Frog 5- Parts of the Turtle 6- The Continent Globe 7- World Flat Map 8- Land and Water Forms (Lakes and Archipelago) 9- Experiments with Air (Air is a mixture of gases, Air Pressure) 10- Static Electricity 11- Electric Current 12- Surface Tension 13- Conduction of Heat 14- Shadows – The Sundial 15- Nature Walk

Amra

1- Parts of the Tree 2- Parts of the Horse 3- Planting Lentil Seeds 4- Parts of the Insect 5- Nature Walk 6- Experiments with Light: (Transparent, Translucent and Opaque) & (Reflection & Refraction) 7- Physical Forms of Water)

Dana

1- Nature Walk 2- Parts of the Flower 3- Parts of the Horse 4- Growth Stages of Wheat 5- Pollution – Air and Water 6- Magnetism 7- Land and Water Forms (Gulf and Peninsula) 8- Water Cycle 9- Growth Stages of the Butterfly 10- The Greek Elements (Water, Air, Earth and Fire) 11- Experiments with Air (Air is a mixture of gases) 12- Experiments with Light: (Transparent, Translucent and Opaque)

Jerash

1- Nature Walk 2- Parts of the Bird 3- Parts of the Tree 4- Parts of the Tortoise 5- Parts of the Flower 6- Land and Water Forms 7- World Flat Map 8- Air Pressure 9- Making a Rainbow 10- Surface Tension 11- Static Electricity 12- Shadows

Petra

1- Nature Walk 2- Parts of the Bird 3- Parts of the Fish 4- Land and Water Forms (Strait and Isthmus, Valley, Hill, Mountain) 5- Experiments with Air (Air is a mixture of gases, Air Pressure) 6- Static Electricity 7- Electric Current 8- Experiments with Water (Physical Forms of Water, Water as a Solvent, Surface Tension) 9- Conduction of Heat 10- Magnetism

11- Making a Rainbow 12- The Greek Elements (Water, Air, Earth and Fire)

Rum

1- Nature Walk 2- Planting Seeds 3- Parts of the Frog 4- Parts of the Leaf 5- Experiments with Water (Physical Forms of Water, Water as a Solvent, Surface Tension) 6- Static Electricity 7- Electric Current 8- Animate and Inanimate Objects 9- Fruits and Vegetables – Matching Cards 10- Conduction of Heat 11- Pollution – Air and Water 12- Air is a mixture of gases

ACTIVITIES and FIELD TRIPS

- Mother's Day Assemblies.
- Observance of the Prophet's Birthday.
- Easter Celebration.
- Amoun and Amra classes visited the Children's Museum.
- Jerash and Dana classes visited the Roman Amphitheatre.
- Rum class visited the Traffic Garden.
- Seed planting in the KG vegetable garden.
- As a backup to the music project, Dana class visited the music room in the school, the music teacher Mr. Hasan Ali played different musical pieces and demonstrated many musical instruments. Sara Malhas also visited the class and played different musical pieces on Oud while Tareq Al-Wazani played the guitar. Thank you very much for your presentations.
- The **Amin Hassan Award (AHA)** launched the **Go Pink...Save a Life** campaign to bolster the fight against cancer. Many thanks to contributing parents.
- The MBS (Mind , body and Soul) launched the "Donate a book for Madrasiti project" . Many thanks to contributing parents .

- The KG children attended a musical play **The Snow Queen** as part of the Elementary Drama Activity Programme.
- The renowned writer Taghreed Al-Najjar visited the KG and read her new book **A House for the Little Bunny**.
- Country week was a great success. A big thanks to all parents for their cooperation.
- 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 projects which were presented to the children during the second semester.
- There will be no summer club this year due to the construction work in the KG.

IMPORTANT DATES

**** June the 3rd, 2010, is the last day of school for the KG1 and Nursery students.**

**** June the 9th, 2010, is the last day of school for the KG2 students.**

**** June the 10th is the Graduation Day for the KG2 students.**

**** August the 29th, 2010 will be the first day of the new scholastic year, 2010/2011.**

**** 1st grade books will be available for sale as from August 1st 2010.**

***With the Compliments of the
Montessori KG***