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# THE MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

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Issue 2

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## **CLASS PROJECTS**

### ***DAISIES***

- 1- Behavioural Skills.
- 2- Four Seasons and the Weather.
- 3- The Deep Sea.
- 4- Milk and Eggs.
- 5- Animals.

### ***LILIES***

1. Behavioural Skills.
2. The Human Body and the Five Senses.
3. My Family and I.
4. Animals.
5. Ants.

### ***POPPIES***

- 1- Behavioural Skills.
- 2- Nutrition.
- 3- Dinosaurs.
- 4- The Human Body and the Five Senses.
- 5- My Family and I.

### ***ROSES***

- 1- Behavioural Skills.
- 2- The Human Body and the Five Senses.
- 3- My Family and I and Our Home.
- 4- Transportation and City.
- 5- The Ladybird.

### ***SUNFLOWERS***

- 1- Behavioural Skills
- 2- Animals.
- 3- Nutrition.
- 4- Ants.
- 5- The Human Body and the Five Senses.

### ***TULIPS***

- 1- Behavioural Skills.
- 2- Homes.
- 3- Animals.
- 4- The Four Seasons and the Weather.
- 5- The Deep Sea.

**Behavioural Skills**

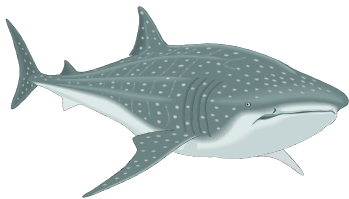
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### The Main Elements:

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

### The Deep Sea

This project was a voyage to the revealing depths and wonders of sea life, plants and creatures and how aquamazing they are.



The focus of the project was on the following points:

- 1- How deep sea fishes look and

adapt to their environment, with their big heads and slender bodies due to food scarcity which 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 types of fish including sharks.

5- Shells.

6- Fungus, Plankton, Nekton, crabs, oysters and corals.

### The Four Seasons and the Weather

Here we talked about:

- 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 and the resulting phenomena of the 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.

### Milk and Eggs

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As an introduction we discussed the nutritional value of both milk and eggs.

Touching on milk, we discussed the following points 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 sterilization and pasteurization.
- 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

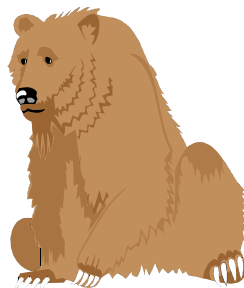
surrounded by an outer shell or membrane.

In addition, we also discussed:

- 1-The appropriate conditions for an egg to grow and how the young of birds or animals get out of it.
- 2-The different shapes and sizes of eggs.
- 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.

#### **Animals**

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.
- Names of animals.
- 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.

#### **My Family**

##### **And I**

In this project the children learned:

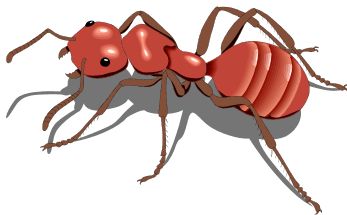
- The family, its composition, members and the home.

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- The duties of parents, brothers, sisters etc.
- The names of next of kin.
- The importance of the family and its role as the nucleus of society.
- The difference between the family in the past and now.

### Ants

Naturally, this was an attractive topic for the children who enjoy knowing, examining and talking about such tiny creatures. This project helped them learn about:



- 1- All ants are tiny – most are well under an inch long.
- 2- They live in huge, well-organized groups, called colonies.

- 3- Colonies contain thousands of individuals and the nest is a maze of chambers and tunnels made underground or in rotting wood.
- 4- Most members of an ant colony are female, and the colony includes at least one queen ant which lays all of the eggs.
- 5- The workers are females and do not have wings. Some of them have big jaws and their job is to defend the colony.

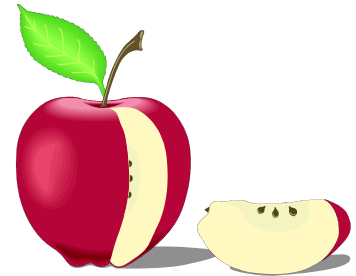
The children also learned the names of different types of ants such as the fire ant, red ant, harvester ant, army ant and carpenter ant.

They also studied the parts of the ant, its life cycle, its enemies and

its defence mechanism.

### Nutrition

The children were extremely happy with this project and their interaction was remarkable simply because the project taught them how we consume the right kind of food for good health and growth.



In addition to the above the children 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.

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- 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.

### ***Dinosaurs***

The children found this project quite interesting since it introduced them to:

- The types of dinosaurs which existed during the Mesozoic Era.
- The carnivorous & the herbivorous types.
- Dinosaur eggs as opposed to 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.

### **The Human Body and the Five Senses**

The highlights of this project are:

- Human body parts and their functions.
- The human body structure 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 the varying patterns of fingers.
- 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.

As part of this project the children were briefed on the importance of having a healthy body for family members and how this reflects positively on the family as a whole.

***As for the Five Senses***, the main discussion areas were:

- 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.

***Transportation and the City***

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The children enjoyed this project, which introduced them to means of transportation. In the course of the discussion, transportation was defined to the children as being the process of carrying goods or passengers from one place to another. They were also introduced to the various means of transportation: land, sea and air. The children were also taught that different types of fuel are needed for these to run efficiently. They were also briefed on the history of transportation.

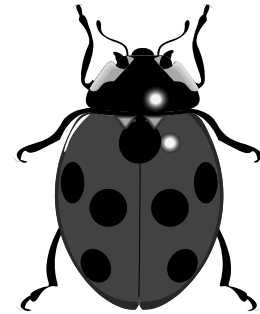
***Touching on the City***, the children were taught that it is a major population centre, organized as a community, where commercial and cultural activities are centred in a country. They were also taught that a

city has a significant size and importance when compared to a town or a village.

In addition to the above, the children were taught about the characteristics of the city with regard to architecture, buildings, roads, educational and cultural institutions, commercial centres, means of entertainment and various services. Also, a comparison was drawn between the city and the village, which highlighted the relevant advantages and disadvantages of each with regard to noise, pollution, traffic, etc. We also touched on the difference between present day cities and old ones.

### **The Ladybird**

In this project the children learned about:



- 1- The ladybird beetle, what it is and how it looks.
- 2- The ladybird's life cycle.
- 3- Its body structure.
- 4- The ladybird's benefits to humans and plants.
- 5- Its main food and how it protects itself from potential enemies.
- 6- Ladybird species and colours.

### **Homes**

In this project the children learned:

- The types of homes and their benefits to humans.



- Development of home types, their structure and design in terms of varying environments and locations
- Home internal division.
- Animal home types.
- The importance of homes to all creatures.
- Some of the most famous buildings such as the pyramids, Taj Mahal etc.

***The above-mentioned projects were given added support through the following activities:***

- Cooking
- Drama
- Art
- Music

- Physical Education
- Stories
- Scientific experiments

## **Environment**

### ***Daisies***

1. Parts of the tree.
2. Parts of the fish.
3. Land and Water Forms (island and lake).
4. Parts of the bird.
5. Parts of the cow.
6. Things that sink and float in water.
7. Growth stages of the seed.
8. Evaporation and Condensation.

### ***Lilies***

1. Parts of the bird.
2. Parts of the horse.
3. Land and Water Globe.

4. The Four Greek Elements.
5. The Continent Globe.
6. The Continent Map.
7. Magnetism.
8. Water as a solvent.
9. Things that float and sink in water.
10. Planting bulbs and seeds.

### ***Poppies***

1. Parts of the leaf.
2. Parts of the tree.
3. Parts of the bird.
4. The seed's growth stages.
5. Water cycle.
6. Land and Water Forms (island and lake).
7. The Globe.
8. Water experiments:

- Water as a solvent.
- Things that sink and float in water.

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- Things that can absorb and cannot absorb water.

9- Timeline of an Apple.

### **Roses**

- 1- Parts of the tree.
- 2- Parts of the leaf.
- 3- Parts of the bird.
- 4- Timeline of land transport.
- 5- Parts of the insect.
- 6- The concept of things that can float and cannot float in water.
- 7- The candle experiment and how fire needs oxygen to ignite and keep burning.
- 8- The balloon experiment and its relation to breathing.

### **Sunflowers**

- 1- Parts of the rabbit.
- 2- Parts of the bird.

- 3- Parts of the tree.
- 4- Timeline of an Apple.
- 5- The candle experiment and how fire needs oxygen to ignite and keep burning.
- 6- The balloon experiment and its relation to breathing.
- 7- Water cycle.

### **Tulips**

- 1- Parts of the leaf.
- 2- Parts of the tree.
- 3- Parts of the cow.
- 4- Parts of the bird.
- 5- Parts of the fish.
- 6- Growth stages of the seed.
- 7- The three states of water.
- 8- Things that float and sink in water.
- 9- Things that can absorb and cannot absorb water.

### **Activities**

- The Montessori KG held “The Annual Montessori Evening”, during which the parents heard the KG principal, Nourhan Zehni, give a brief overview of the Montessori teaching philosophy.
- Observance of Isra’ wa Miraj.
- The Tulips and the Sunflowers visited “The Humane Centre for Animal Welfare”.
- The children had an alfresco breakfast.
- They also marked The Arab Children’s Day.

In this regard, we commend the parents’ contribution which made the day a success.

- Another major activity was the children’s participation in

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planting saplings in the KG garden.

- The Drama activity for this semester included four plays:
  - Semsem the Mouse, in Arabic (The Roses).
  - The Carrot Seed, in English (The Daisies).
  - The Newborn baby, in Arabic (The Sunflowers).
  - Getting Ready for Eid, in English (The Tulips).
  - Who Am I?, in Arabic (The Lilies).
  
- The semester's activities were crowned by the children's marking of the holy month of Ramadan, the climax of which was their introduction to Al-musaher who

sang for them and gave them presents on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr.

- **Coming Events**

**The KG will celebrate Christmas and Santa will distribute presents among the children.**

**Ammo Shadi the puppeteer will perform a puppet show with a play called "Farah El-Eid".**

**Parents meeting will be held on December 19, 2002.**