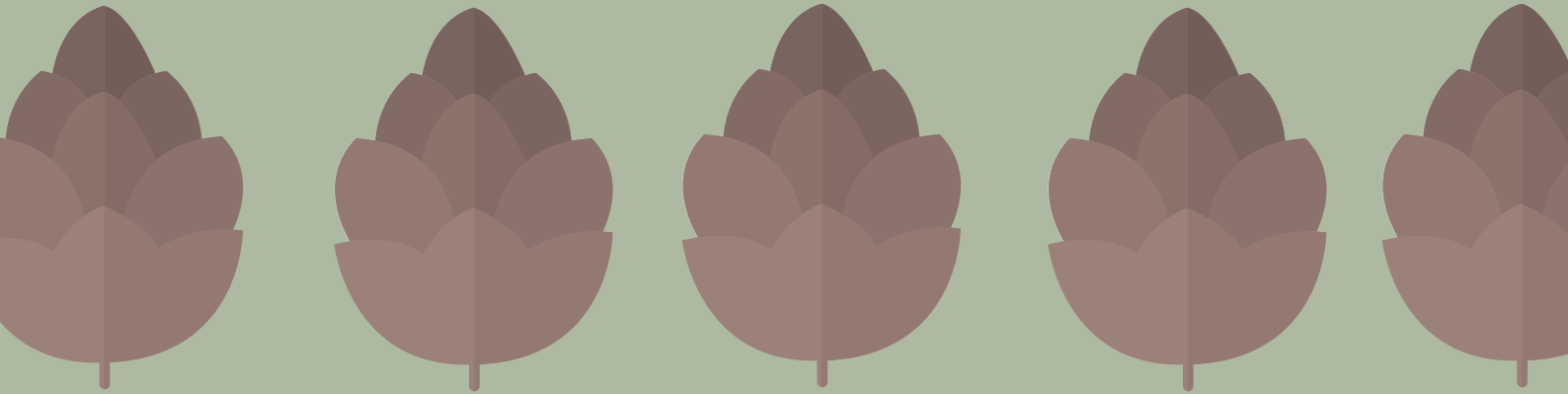


WOODLAND NATURE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2019



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year! We are super excited to begin our new studies this January. We are still studying Australia, if you have any items, photographs, recipes, etc. from Australia that you would like to share with the children please let one of the teachers or the office manager know. The children are being introduced to different forms of measurement: length, weight, volume, and temperature. If you have any of the following items or other items related to measurement that you are no longer in need of please bring them into the office: measuring cups/spoons, measuring tape, kitchen scale, glass clear jars of different sizes (may be a repurposed jar), outdoor thermometer. In the Montessori classroom, we give the children opportunities to explore abstract concepts in concrete ways using real items (not toy versions of the items) in order to help them develop a connection with the concepts in a way that is developmentally appropriate, moving into more abstract versions of the concept as they master different steps.

Monday, January 21st is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The school will be closed that day, however, we will be spending time studying Martin Luther King Jr. during the month. If you have any books or items related to the subject that you would like to donate or let the class borrow, please speak with the teachers or office manager.

The students and staff extend a generous thank you to the donor of the new refrigerator. We are so grateful for the support we receive from each and every one of you and are excited to begin this new year and to see what comes along with it.

Lastly, we are grateful for your patience and understanding in having to reschedule the Holiday Program and Cookie Exchange. As you know, the weather the day of the scheduled Program was dangerous and many of you expressed your concerns to me that day. In accordance, we chose to reschedule in order to maintain the safety of our students and staff. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, January, 16th from 6:00-7:00 pm for our rescheduled Holiday Program & Cookie Exchange.

Wishing you a happy & healthy New Year.



*With gratitude,
Ms. Karen*



Dates to Remember

January 1 - New Years Day -
School Closed
January 2-7 - Extended Care
January 8 - Parent Conferences
January 16 - Holiday Program &
Cookie Exchange
January 21 - MLK Day School
Closed

Snack Menu

January 9th - 11th - Sage - Pear & Fig
Salad
January 14th - 18th - Lincoln - Roasted
Cauliflower
January 22nd - 25th - George - Fruit
Kabobs
January 28th - February 1st - Rocco -
Chips & Dip

NEWS UPDATES

Holiday Program

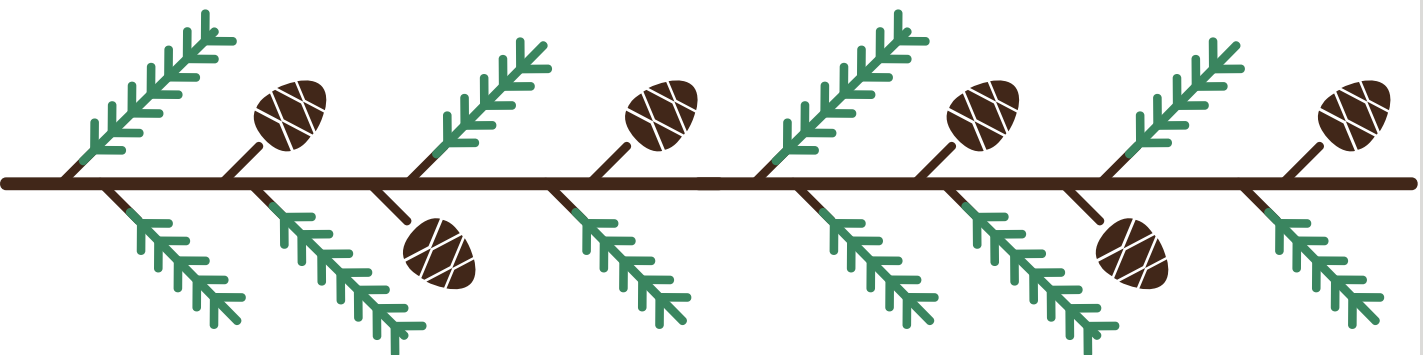
We are so grateful for your patience with us as we had to reschedule our Holiday Program. An Evite has been sent to all parents with the new date for the Holiday Program and Cookie Exchange. The program will now be on Wednesday, January 16th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Please RSVP via Evite as soon as possible.

Library

We have been working hard to get our library books organized and are now working to start a library system. The students will have a chance once a week to choose a library book to bring home and will then be responsible for returning it. We will let you know when we have begun the program. A library program like this helps to instill a love for reading in children, helps teach responsibility and independence, and helps the development of sense of order and organization.

Outdoor "Mud Kitchen"

As many of you know, we are working on building an outdoor mud area for the children. We are in the process of compiling a list of items that we are in need of for the outdoor area and will post email it and post it when it is complete. Thank you in advance for your help with the growth of our school.



A Look Back

December 2018

Snack Program

The new snack menu has been a huge hit with the kids. They are loving learning how to prepare different fresh foods. We are using the time to talk about the different textures, tastes, smells, colors, shapes, etc. of the different foods that we are trying. Communication about nutrition paired with hands-on activities in food preparation aid in nurturing a healthy relationship with food in children that last through adulthood.

Thank You

We are so grateful to the donor of the new refrigerator. Thank you so very much for your kind donation it has been tremendously helpful.

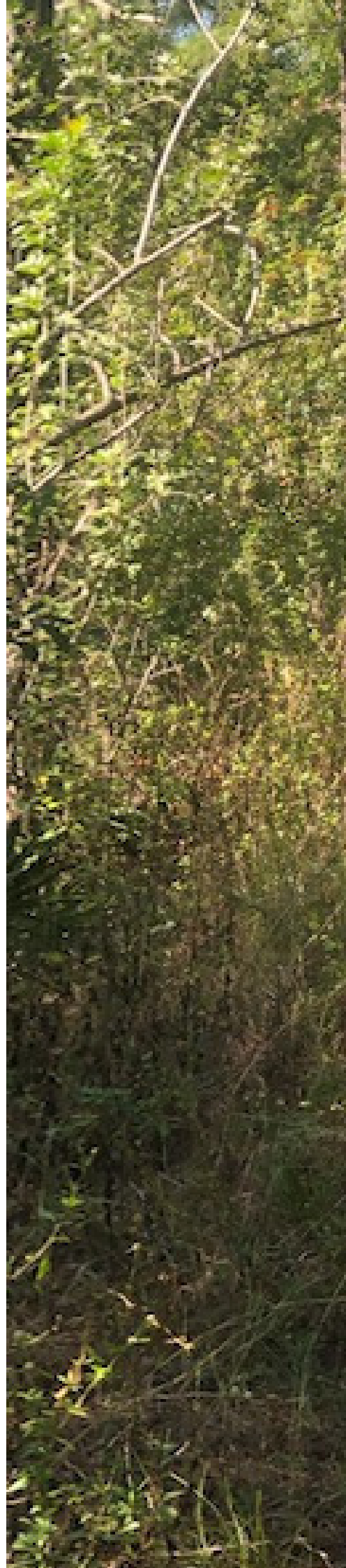
Pine Cone Bird Feeders

The students made bird feeders using string, pine cones, peanut butter, and bird seeds. They studied different facts about pine cones to record in their journals and then placed the pine cones around the playground for the local birds and squirrels to snack on.



REDUCE RE-USE RECYCLE

At Woodland Nature Montessori School we believe in the importance of the conservation of the environment around us. As educators of young children, we realize that is our responsibility to help teach the children to respect nature and to live sustainably. We are challenging you to reduce and reuse more in the new year. Recycling is important but we are focusing on teaching the children to reuse and repurpose items as much as possible before recycling them. We will be posting tips on Facebook and in Newsletters throughout the school year as well as working on repurposing projects with the kids throughout the year.





After returning from a break, we like to spend time focusing back on Grace and Courtesy lessons from the Practical Life Area of the classroom. Those types of lessons help to set the tone for the classroom and remind the children of the rules and how our community works.

Grace & Courtesy: How to Interrupt

In the classroom, learning how to properly and politely interrupt a conversation is an important tool for classroom management. It helps the children learn to self regulate their behavior, to wait their turn, and to practice active listening. It also helps to keep the noise level in the classroom to a minimum and to ensure that the teacher is giving each child individual attention throughout the day.

At home, learning to interrupt politely and how to wait your turn in conversation can help to strengthen communication and set expectations. When these skills are practiced they bring harmony to our interactions.

In the classroom, we show the students to place their hand on the teacher or child's shoulder (back or leg if the shoulder is out of reach) if the teacher or child is already engaged in a conversation. The teacher or child then places their own hand on top of the students to let them they see that they are there and will acknowledge them as soon as they are done with their previous conversation.

In a situation where one may not be able to place their hand on another, such as in a car or at the dinner table, we explain to the children that they can simply say, "excuse me." However, it is important as the adult to remember to quietly and politely acknowledge to the child that they have heard in some way, whether by indicating "one moment" with a finger or by briefly pausing their conversation to verbally reply by saying, "just one moment."

Remember that every moment is a learning opportunity. Your child may not respond to these tools right away or may forget every now and again. Gently remind them of how they can interrupt politely when they forget.