

Newsletter

Term 3 Year 2015
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Welcome to Term 3 at Raffles Montessori Kindergarten (Still Rd). We also want to extend a warm to Meya, Zheng Hao, Zachary, Elliot and Quinn! We are so happy to have you join our Kindergarten family.

This term, the toddlers learned about different types of food. They got to taste some fruits and vegetables during class. The children had hands on experience in touching, smelling and tasting them. All were eager to try the different fruits and vegetables. The teachers prepared various art and craft activities which incorporated the theme of food, and also taught alphabet sounds for the different types of food.



In addition to the children's work with didactic Montessori materials, the Montessori Class also had the opportunity to sing and learn about "Continents". The children talked about the continents they all came from. They did show and tell, and had many interactive discussions in relation to stories being read to them. Some of the stories read included, "What Is Your Dream", "When Sophie Gets Angry" and "I Don't Like Cheese". These moral based stories helped them to practise critical thinking and problem solving. They also challenged the children to think how they would apply the lessons learned in their lives.

Circle times also gave the children opportunities to play brain storming, language and memory games, which helped in their verbal language, improved their memories and imaginative expressions.

Haig Girls' School Visit

The K2 children were very excited about the trip to Haig Girls' School. The

representative of the school showed the children around, and the children were amazed at the beautiful artwork lined all around the school and in their galleries. The children also had an interactive time in the school hall, participating in games and activities with the students at Haig Girls' School. In addition, they had the opportunity to order drinks and snacks at the canteen themselves. After that they went back to school, excited to tell their friends about their experiences.

Hari Raya Puasa

The children had a discussion about the importance of Hari Raya to Muslims, the meaning and purpose of the festival.

The children celebrated Hari Raya with various cookies and cakes baked during Hari Raya. There were chocolate brownies, cornflake and blueberry cookies, just to name a few. The children in the Montessori Class also crafted some beautiful ketupat decorations while the toddlers did art pieces

which comprised of satay, gravy and ketupat.



Racial Harmony Day

During Racial Harmony Day, children learned about the different races and culture, and why it was important to respect each other's differences. The children also learned the names of different costumes worn by the different racial groups in Singapore, the food and practices of the different races.

National Day

Colourful banners, the Singapore flag and other decorative flags were put on display a few weeks before the celebration of SG50 National Day. The children practised various Singapore songs in different languages, the national anthem and pledge in preparation for the celebration of National Day. On the day itself, everyone wore red and white clothes, the children had agar agar jelly made in the form of the Singapore flag, and ate tomato pasta, sausages and nuggets. The toddlers had

beautiful National Day hats on, whilst the Montessori class took various craftwork back. There were lots of fun games and prizes. The children also took back red and white balloons with "SG50" and "I ♥ SG" emblazoned on them. They were so excited and it was a fitting finale to commemorate such a momentous event in Singapore's history.



Field Trip to Bollywood Farm

To enrich the children's experience and knowledge about fruits and vegetables, the school decided to do a field trip to Bollywood Farm. Almost all the children participated in the field trip. The day started a bit damp but fortunately, it was mostly dry at the farm.

The children had the chance to listen to a farm representative as he showed the children a few different types of plants before they went out to the open to look, touch, smell and work with different potted plants. They listened attentively and avidly worked with the plants during the hands-on sessions. After that, the children brought potted plants back to tend at home. It left an indelible impression on them.





Chinese Language

This term, the toddlers also learned about different types of food, including fruits and vegetables, in Chinese. The children had fun learning the meaning and sounds of the different food items through song, dance and games. They matched pictures of food items and learned their Chinese names.



The children participated in various art and craft on food, as well as sang many songs, including “水果歌” “水果人”, “拔萝卜” and “跑跑跑”. They would sing and do actions with these songs.

In preparation for SG50 , the children in the Montessori Class focused on songs, dance, art and craft in relation to Singapore. They learned a number of songs, including “Count on Me Singapore” in Chinese.

The children also did various types of art, including hand and finger printing, food and material art, and creative drawing. Many Chinese characters, like “国旗”, “鱼尾狮”, “新加坡” were taught and discussed. They also practised a lot of writing. Various stories, like “一起玩” and “大狮子” were read out and the children responded to the questions in Chinese.

Throughout this term, the children had opportunities to do many motor skill activities; both outdoors and indoors. The children had been given manipulation materials for small and big group work, music and movement activities in songs and dance, and playing with various instruments.

The teachers have been receiving additional training from outside providers to teach fine art and craft to the children. Creative art has been found to be not only therapeutic, improve the sense of well-being of children, but also helps to encourage imagination and new ideas, Art also enhances their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities (Edwards, 2009, in Eliason & Jenkins, 2012, p 330).

PARENTS’ PARTICIPATION

We want to thank all our parents for their support of the school activities and curriculum. We feel that to achieve the best for our children, parental engagement and feedback is important. The school endorses close parent-school involvement and we hope to continue our good rapport and cooperation with parents.

Parents are welcome to share with us any projects and experiences that may enrich our children’s learning. If you wish to participate in class during our circle time, like storytelling, singing, playing any musical instrument, dance, etc., please do let us know so that we can arrange for you to do so.

REMINDERS

- Class is in session from 8.30am at Raffles Montessori Kindergarten (Still Road). Kindly assist your child in being punctual. Our school gate will be closed at 8.45am. The class may be disturbed by late-coming children and your child will miss interesting group activities.

- Class ends at 11.30am, 1pm and 3.30pm at Raffles Montessori Kindergarten (Still Road). Kindly be on time or within the 15 minutes' grace period to pick up your child. They are anxious to see you when the door opens at dismissals. Our teachers are required to assume their other duties like class preparation, lunch setting for extended-day children, receiving children for afternoon session, etc. Your co-operation and punctuality in picking up of your child is much appreciated. Thank you.
- Toys and valuables should not be brought to school unless for specific reasons, like during Show and Tell. The school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage incurred to these items brought to school.
- You may want to keep sufficient change of clothing, diapers and wipes in your child's bag (especially for toddlers), in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- You may wish to equip your child with a pair of easy to wear shoes or sandals when they are coming to school, so that they can participate in the outdoor activities (for safety reasons).
- Kindly sign and return any class folder brought home by the child immediately on the next school day. The teachers plan future lessons with reference to your child's past work.
- We thank you once again for your cooperation regarding the above matters.