

Newsletter

Term 4-Year 2015
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Welcome to Term 4 at Raffles Montessori Kindergarten (Still Rd). We also want to extend a warm to Toby and Lucas! We are so happy to have you join our Kindergarten family.

The children enjoyed many interesting lessons and activities this term. Besides learning through working with the Montessori materials, the toddlers learned many things about transportation and different occupations in term 4.



There were puzzles, games, books and materials to show them about the different types of transport. The children also had the opportunity to dress up in various occupational costumes, like the policeman and doctor, as well as shown some of the materials used by these occupations to help them in their learning.



In addition, the children tried to pick out the various sounds made by different vehicles. Songs relating to transportation were also sung and the children enjoyed the various music and movement sessions.

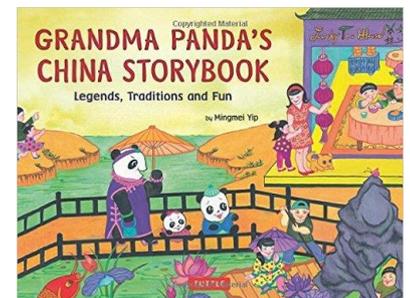
To facilitate the toddlers' understanding and learning of transportation and occupations, they also covered the same themes in the Chinese language. The toddlers also had varied exposures to the Chinese language to build a firm foundation in listening and speaking skills.



The children in the Montessori class continued to progress with the Montessori work materials and also had opportunities to do some interactive activities during circle times and group work periods. In order to hone their mathematical skills, logical thinking and listening skills, the children participated in skip counting activities. In another activity, "Duck Duck Goose", the children had learned to develop their concentration, as well as gross motor skills. To improve their language and articulation skills, the children participated in

activities that required them to repeat tongue twister words, whilst the colour game helped to improve their observation and exploration skills. All these activities further developed the children's interactive language, motor skills and social emotional aspects.

Besides these, the children also had many sessions of storytelling and dialogic/interactive reading to help the children to improve their critical thinking, listening and speaking skills. Books read include, "An Elephant in My Backyard" and "Grandma Panda's China Storybook".



The Chinese language continues to be taught in progressive stages and in an engaging manner. This term, the children learned several Chinese action verbs and different nouns relating to animals, nature and numbers. The older children also learned how to construct phrases and sentences (造句) and read pin yin (拼读). They also learned Chinese strokes and 声母.

The children also engaged in much creative work during this term. The boys were taught how to dance "The Matador", the girls

also practised how to be graceful peacocks in “The Peacock Dance”. These were taught in Mandarin by our Chinese teacher. In addition, the children also learned how to synchronise their playing of different percussion instruments, through watching their peer conducting them. All the children had the opportunity to practise singing “Reach for the Stars” and other songs. Furthermore, this term saw the children being exposed to different types of artwork, including painting, clay making, glass painting, and embroidery. The children really enjoyed themselves and were pleased to see the end result of their hard work.



Children’s Day

For Children’s Day, the teachers wanted to give the children a special treat by giving them a movie experience. A poster for the movie, “How to Train a Dragon 2” was specially flown in and advertised on the day itself. To build on their anticipation, the children were all given “movie tickets” which they had to bring to gain admittance into the “movie theatre”. The children all took their seats eagerly and watch avidly as the movie was being shown. After that, they all enjoyed a meal prepared by the teachers, and to top off the experience, they all took a bag of freshly made popcorn home! Everyone had a great time!



Mid Autumn Festival



The Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated with much fervour as the children tried their hand at making mooncakes and lanterns. Both the toddlers and the Montessori class children had hands on experience rolling and stuffing the red bean paste into the snow skins. The children enjoyed the experience a lot! The teachers also recounted the story behind the Mid-Autumn festival and the children listened intently, asking questions about the festival.



Deepavali Festival

The children and teachers celebrated Deepavali with much colour and fanfare. The children were invited to wear traditional Indian costumes and many children came in a riot of colours wearing saris, kurtas, and many other costumes. The costumes were absolutely lovely on the children. The girls also wore bangles and put on bindis. The teachers talked to the children about the significance and story behind the festival, and also the different types of Indian costumes being worn. Traditional cakes like the coconut ladoos were made by the children as well. They tried some Indian snacks like the Murukku and Bombay Mix.

The children lit Diyas and they tried their hand in adding colour to the Rangoli. It was all an interesting experience for them and they enjoyed themselves immensely.



Art Exhibition and Graduation Day

The advent of the Art Exhibition and Graduation Day was both exciting yet heart thumping as it was the culmination of many weeks of hard work by both the students and teachers. Everyone was anxious that the event would be a success and that the children's parents/carers would be proud of the hard work put in by the children. The children were greatly encouraged that their parents supported their artwork by donating generously to the cause of the Caterpillar Club. We

would like to thank all parents for their support!

The performances by the children were splendid and we could see the pride written on the faces of the parents as their children did their parts on stage. Overall, the event went very well, and we congratulate all our graduands as to move up to their next phase of life in primary school. We will miss them, and wish them all the best for the future!

Holiday Programmes

Our holiday programmes for both the Montessori Class and Toddlers have commenced on 23th Nov. Please note the respective times for the programmes as stated in the brochures.

Next Term

We look forward to the following term with a few new friends joining us. There will be more interesting activities lined up for the toddlers and the Montessori Class. We hope to continue to enrich our children's learning experiences at Raffles Montessori Kindergarten (Still Road) and would be delighted to work together with our parents to help our children reach their full potential.

PARENTS' PARTICIPATION

It is with great love and dedication that we are given the opportunity to guide your child. If you have not met up with your child's teachers to find out the progress of your child in the school this term, please do call the office to arrange an appointment.

Parents are welcome to share with us any projects and experiments that may enrich our children's learning. If you have any hidden talent and

occasionally wish to participate or perform in class during our circle time, like story-telling, singing, playing any musical instrument, dance, etc you may come forth to let us know for making the arrangement.

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 meeting parents on appointment, 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. 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 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 when they are coming to school, especially younger children who are striving for independence. It is a great

experience for them to be able to put on their shoes independently.

- 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.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for sharing your child with us. With your understanding, co-operation and support we are working hard in carving a bright future for all the children in our school.