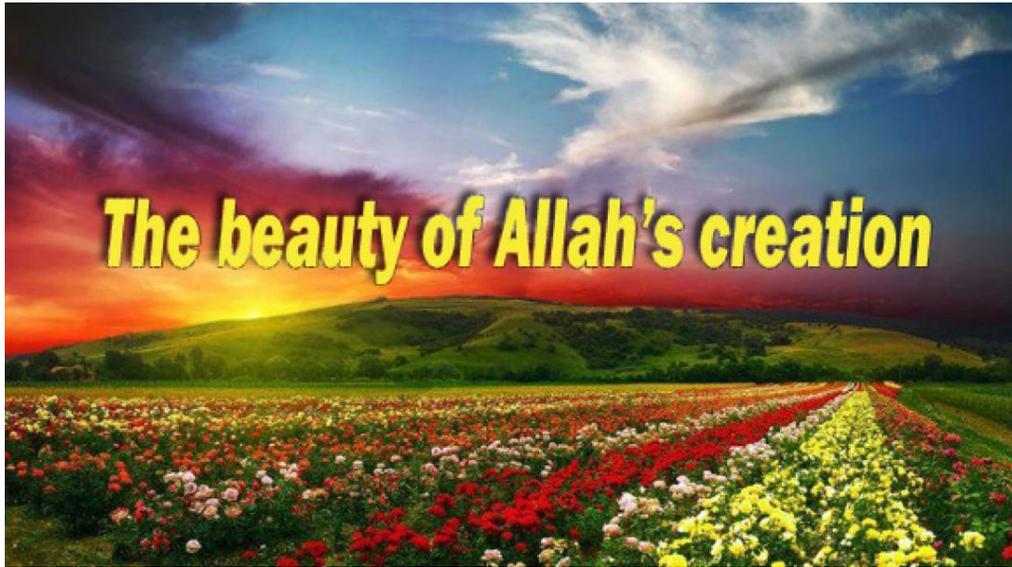


PRIMARY MONTESSORI STEAM THEME



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Primary Montessori Newsletter

First Quarter
2019-2020

FIRST ISSUE

As'salam-o-alekum Parents, Alhumdullilah! The first quarter of school year has ended. Primary Montessori focused on Math concepts, phonics & reading, and Science activities; our learning pace is immensely fast. Students are introduced with the individualized and independent environment where they are trained to perform activities by themselves. Primary Montessori's returning students (Juniors & Seniors) revised the previous lessons and Montessori lessons were introduced to new students (first-year-students of Montessori). We made sure that new students catch up with other Montessori students and Masha-Allah their progress is steady. Also, I was pleased to see how well the Seniors and Juniors, who are returning to Primary

Montessori, remembered all Montessori lesson and classroom rules. From their academics to etiquettes, their progress is remarkable. Masha-Allah! To enhance their responsibility and leadership attributes, Montessori Seniors were mentoring their junior fellows, to help them through the Montessori learning steps and to make the environment welcoming for their junior fellows.

Following are the lessons that were introduced and are being practiced by Montessori students:

JUNIORS' LESSONS

Practical life:

Pouring & transferring, cutting, punching & pasting, use of scissors; washing dishes, dressing frames; classroom etiquettes.

Sensorial:

Geometrical solids, shapes, primary, secondary, and tertiary colors. Rough and smooth, and constructive triangles.

Math:

Number recognition; concepts of teen numbers; concept of ten numbers; number values; hundred board; counting by twos.

Language:

Beginning sounds; vocabulary pertaining to beginning sounds; introduction to blending sounds and three letter words (Pink series).

SENIORS' LESSONS

Seniors have been revising all the previous practical life and sensorial lessons by being mentors to their junior

classmates. Seniors were introduced and practiced following lessons for math and language:

Math:

Introduction to short bead chains, 45-layouts, practice advance addition and subtraction, introduction to multiplication, number signs: equals, greater, and lesser number, concept of missing numbers; number sequences, counting by fives, tens.

Language:

Blue series, Phonograms, sight words: pre-primer and primer lists; introduction to nouns, and word building. Practice reading level 1 and 2 books.

Science and geography:

In addition to revising the previous lessons, many science-oriented lessons were introduced to the entire classroom as group lessons. Following are the science, social studies, and geography lessons presented to Montessori during first quarter:

- ✓ Solar system
- ✓ Land, Water & Air
- ✓ Continents
- ✓ Changing Weather
- ✓ Why & how leaves change color in Fall?
- ✓ Ocean creatures
- ✓ Backyard insects
- ✓ African Animals
- ✓ Sink & float
- ✓ Farm animals

IXL

Pertaining to our individualized curriculum and advancement, Montessori is continuing **IXL** program for our students. **IXL** is a virtual learning program in which students master their math and language skills using computers. This program will also fulfill the need for Montessori students' home-based learning. The students are expected to use **IXL** as part of their daily regime. This month, **IXL** is also assigned to Montessori Juniors (second-year-students).

Parent-Teacher Conference

Montessori system usually relies on a semester system, not the quarterly system, our PTC meeting is scheduled in November.

THINGS TO CONSIDER: Montessori & Writing

Montessori is a scientific way of learning with structured environment precisely following hands-on, three-dimensional learning, involving their sensorial stimuli instead of relying on two-dimensional conventional learning. In Montessori, writing-skill is considered only one element of learning, which is now being adopted by many schools as a modern way of learning. In Montessori, students **learn-to-write** not **write-to-learn**. Students' academics are not and should not be judged by their writing skills but by their

cognitive and verbal skills, which has now become the key element of learning in the twenty-first century. MAP, ITBS, STAR 360, CogAT, and other standardized tests are the example of changing ways of students' evaluation in the twenty first century. Montessori Parents are expected to emphasis on the modern ways of learning since their child/children are part of a modern learning program.

Montessori Assessment

Newer Montessori parents usually expect traditional way of reporting and academic updates as they used to receive in other non-Montessori classrooms. Their concerns may be true but please be advised that the evaluation of academic progress in Montessori is not like traditional system. In traditional students are evaluated on the taught lessons, not every student understands the lesson to the fullest, regardless, the teacher moves on to next lesson. In Montessori, students keep revising and practicing the lessons until they understand the complete concept and achieve mastery in it. The whole point of practicing phase is to go back and repeat the exercises as trial and error, until they understand the entire lesson. Students are not graded for their understanding but are directed to learn a lesson repeatedly until they become proficient and

independent in doing an activity or a lesson without further guidance.

STEAM Theme- Allah's

creations: Primary Montessori was introduced with the STEAM theme of ALLAH's creation. We will learn various aspects of students' environment where they will think critically and analyze that how many of Allah's creation they are surrounded by. Until now, we covered all the creatures that Allah made red.

Montessori Compass: Please log-in to Montessori Compass to see your child/children pictures and other academic updates.



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QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Please feel free to email us, whenever you have any question and/or concern. We will reply you within 24 hours of your email, excluding weekends. Please be advised, you will receive a reply to your email on Monday if you emailed on Friday after school hours. Also, please don't expect any reply from the teachers if you are informing about any absence, early dismissal, or aftercare. Your understanding is always appreciated.

Jazak ALLAH kher

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