

Reminders/Thank You

- **Winter Break No School: Feb 17-21**
- Thank you Toby for the playdough and Heidi for the cut-outs!
- Thank you co-teachers for Specialty Movement and Elder Readers!
- Thank you Jordan for your awesome Specialty days!
- **Valentines: Wednesday and Thursday the week of Valentine's Day we will exchange Valentines** (Teachers will help parents distribute Valentines in name labeled bags in tent). We plan to cook a gluten free pancake meal (with a class made fruit compote, chopped almonds and seeds) and sing, recite Valentine songs and poems. **Please no need for addressing names on the valentines**, and no pressure, this is to be fun and relaxed fun. If you do not get them made, that is totally ok!
- Thank you Klahanie School parents for being so kind! Please send the word out that we have two more 4 year old spots open in our PM Class for 2020-21 families seeking Montessori into Kindergarten. Thank you! We also have two more spots for our Mentor Late Start Program.

February 2020 Unit Topics

There are three ways to ultimate success:

The first way is to be kind.

The second way is to be kind.

The third way is to be kind.

~Fred Rogers

- Love & Emotions: exploring this powerful emotion and how we show love to self and others. This will incorporate arts, movement, spoken word, songs and poetry. Deep Emotions: movement/games to practice identifying and naming emotions, exploring empathy and stepping into another person's experience using scenarios and stories of perspective and compassion using our puppet friend Little Mouse Who Lives in a House with Walls the Color of the Sky as well as some fantastic discussion-encouraging books we will save photos of in our February Google Photo Album.
- Beavers! We continue to go deep into Beaver study continue.... Please note that we have heard the very exciting news that Vashon has One Beaver living on-island!! As we learn more and you learn more, please pass information along about our native ecosystem planet earth Peacemakers!
- Color Mixing: continue work with primary and secondary as well as time exploring meaning of hues, tints, shades, tones and neutral colors of black and white. Hue: both a color and a shade of a color. A rainbow shows the melting of one hue to another.
- Self Portraits: beginning our first steps: discussion and color mixing. This becomes an extended week process of creating individual self portraits 100% led by the child and supported by teachers. The experience also opens wonderful circle reflections and inquiries led by the children and mentored by the teachers working from anti-bias education clear based practice to honor and

celebrate similarities and differences. Heidi Grimsley (Donovan's mama) and Susanna Williams (Arthur's mama) will be helping with this very sweet process.

- Vashon Winter Birds continued--this unit is so fantastic and we extend to the birds we witness at Klahanie and KVI beaches.
- Beginning Hawaii Unit: the magic of Hawaiian native plants, birds and language.
- Poetry reading a ton of poetry and encouraging children to draw and write their own poems. We ask permission to read at ending circle and applaud. "Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words." ~Robert Frost
- Partner Dancing & movement storytelling
- Math, The Families: units, tens, hundreds and thousands. Using stories we practice having fun exploring as a circle The Families.

January 2020 Reflection

Hawaiian Poem: Peacemaker (To make Peace)

Ua kuikahi ke aupuni e haawi e paa I ka lima ke kuike e mamua o ka olelo – alohaloha ua kuikahi ke aupuni ~ To unite as one and make peace you must give your hands up in agreement that you will 'try' to understand one another, speak kindly, entreat gently and go with love, yes, in order to unite as one and make peace

~Bonnie Flach, English Translation

Klahanie kids are mighty, mighty kids and mighty, mighty kids they are.

They work for peace.

They work for love.

They work for harmony!

January brought us amazing levels of connection, reflection and presence. We dove into the exploration of earth Peacemaker heroes starting with Dr. King and moving to North American Beavers creating many amazing art projects. While learning about Dr. King, we focused on his work for inclusiveness and harmony. We wove in honoring and gratitude of each of the Klahanie School students as Peacemakers, how they show daily kindness. Thank you parents for your wonderful check-ins and inquiries this month. All your children have shown tremendous levels of kindness and focus of helping self, friends and environment. With the solid base of each working as a team member making peace by creating focus, offering help everyday within themselves and in friendships, we now are working on the new layer of group connecting and a magical normalized class time together: a Montessori term for focus in harmony and joy within a class space.

This deeper layer of our group work is more opportunity to practice our peace scripts: naming emotions, repeating back (active listening process), making amends, moving forward. This includes teachers help to fill the vocabulary goals by inquiring about the intention, offering the language to help for clarity and moving to extended play. The large motor play that occurs in the garden incorporates the goal of practicing kindness/grace and courtesy, stating needs clearly all while playing. Interactions like these might be shared with you at home in your child's reflections of the day. These interactions are wonderful opportunities for deeper connection creating and we continue to find how much the children benefit from

the reminder of the key script when feeling social-emotional discomfort and to ways to be brave, come get a teacher for help or say it outloud to the friend independant: “When you...I feel....” and asking the other child to repeat back what was heard. We use a talking-listening piece in this moment and the process becomes a daily practice. Our play works from the basis that if a child is focused alone that can remain until the child seeks connecting time. Two children together means a group at school and when a group is asked, “Can I play with you?” our Klahanie School script of inclusive response is, “Sure, we’ll figure it out, we are playing...who do you want to be?” We are consistent with the script and etiquette of group play and we do witness more connection bridging formed from this practice. We ask the children to support one another at school and outside of school by acknowledging one another and remembering we are a team in the school and in the big, noisy world. We have one another as supporters.

Some additional language guides we help practice for clarity assistance:

I would like a turn with that when you are finished.

I will hand it to you when I am finished.

I would like your attention, can I share with you?

Thank you, maybe later, I am focusing-right now.

I am very excited, may I tell you?

Sure, I am listening.

Thank you for listening.

Coming back together celebrating togetherness and re-establishing connection and friend dynamics through dramatic play and garden adventures has been the core of our work this month while maintaining our class lessons and fun. We feel honored to hold such a powerful and loving container of safety for your child to express fully the wonders of learning.

In the practice of compassionate listening, you listen with only one purpose: to give the other person a chance to speak out and suffer less. Practice breathing in and out deeply and concentrate on what you are hearing. While the other person speaks, they may express bitterness, wrong perceptions, or make accusations. If you allow these things to touch off the anger in you, then you lose your capacity to listen deeply. Listening with mindfulness helps you keep your compassion alive. It protects you, and your anger will not be triggered. Even fifteen minutes of listening like this can be very healing and can bring a lot of relief to another. You may be the first person who has ever listened to him or her like that.

~How To Love, Thich Nhat Hanh