

CASCADE Family Learning Society (regd)

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Dear parents

Read on to know how we concluded the last quarter June to August 2018. We reopened with a homely function and a community meal. Our families came together in large numbers to participate in all the programs conducted this quarter. We had euphoric celebrations and poignant moments of learning. We hope to include children's work from the next issue on. We hope you will enjoy this issue and give us your feedback, besides contribute articles and help compile it.

Vidya Shankar

Founder

CASCADE Family Learning Society

Dr. Maria Montessori's quotes:

"The child must see for himself what he can do, and it is important to give him not only the means of education but also to supply him with indicators which tell him his mistakes.....The child's interest in doing better, and his own constant checking and testing, are so important to him that his progress is assured. His very nature tends toward exactitude and the ways of obtaining it appeal to him." - The Absorbent Mind, p. 229

"The adolescent must never be treated as a child, for that is a stage of life that he has surpassed. It is better to treat an adolescent as if he had greater value than he actually shows than as if he had less." - From Childhood to Adolescence, p. 72

Editors: CASCADE FLS Team, Chennai - 600090



Upcoming Events

August 15

FAMILY SPORTS AND INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT

September 1

ADOLESCENT TRIP TO JM CENTRE

June 4

Important Announcements

Oct Admissions open for Casa age group – 2.5 to 3.5 years.

Montessori infant and toddler parenting course has started for young and aspiring parents – contact us on cascadefls@gmail.com

Materials of this season:

CYLINDER BLOCKS: CASA (Primary)

Four lightly varnished wooden blocks each containing ten cylinders. The cylinders vary in size in a regular way. Each cylinder has a wooden knob to hold it by.

AGE: 2 and 1/2 to 5 years.



Block 1

Vary in height, length, and width (taking width and length through the diameter) by 1/2 cm. on each dimension between any two cylinders in succession. The largest cylinder is the tallest and thickest.



Block 2

Vary in height, length and width as in block 1, but here the tallest cylinder is the thinnest and the shortest is the thickest.

Block 3



They are all the same height. They vary by 1/2 cm. in length and 1/2 cm. in width (measured through the diameter) between any two in succession.

News In the Community

Neeraj Bharadwaj is featuring as Bala Ramana Maharshi in the Theatre show by Bombay Chanakya – MAHARSHI - Journey of a Sage. It is running houseful shows across the country.

CASCADE Families are partnering with Namma Ooru Foundation for disposal of dry waste. Our place is 100 pc waste recycling and zero garbage.

CASCADE Adolescent student group went on field trips to our CASCADE rural centre at Jamunamarathur and worked on the fields there.

CASCADE Elementary students group visited Jamunamarathur and got a first hand experience of rural living.

CASCADE students, former students staff and families participated and presented papers at the International Geography Youth Summit 2018, held at Bengaluru on July 20 to 22nd.

Block 4

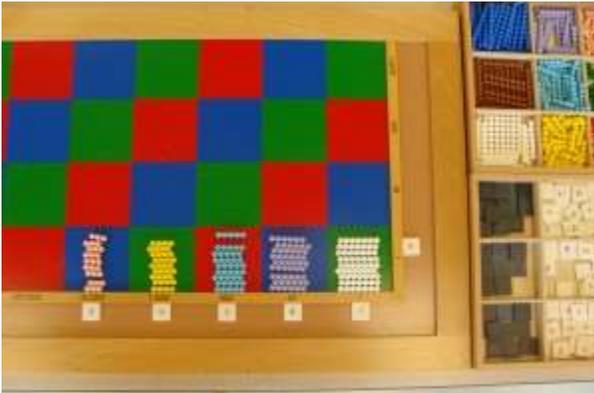


The cylinders vary only in height. They cylinders differ in height by $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. between any two in succession.

PURPOSE:

- 1) The child learns to judge size by sight.
- 2) The child reaches an abstract conception of dimension, and this interest and knowledge enable him to observe the environment with intelligence.
- 3) The child develops coordination of movement.
- 4) The child is given an indirect preparation for writing. The fingers and thumb, which will later hold the pencil, are being used to hold the knobs. These digits are also used in the manipulation of most tools (e.g. spoon, scissors, brush). Therefore, the hand is being trained for manipulative skill.
- 5) A preparation for mathematics.

Materials of this season :



CHEQUERBOARD: Elementary

The Checkerboard has four rows and nine columns of 7 cm squares arranged in hierarchical colors: green for units; blue for tens; and red for 100s. These are the same hierarchical colors found in previous Montessori math materials. The columns range from the simple class to the millions, while the individual squares account for simple units through one billion! The individual rows not only represent place value, they represent the partial products

of multi-digit multiplication. Squares located on the diagonal have the same place value. You can certainly do big math here! The Montessori Checkerboard is a concrete material that allows the child to move along the passage of abstraction at his own pace. Because the child uses bead bars, there is no need to have multiplication facts committed to memory. A child may multiply large numbers while skip counting on the beads. With increased use, math facts are mastered. This is opposite to conventional wisdom that says a child may not do multi-digit multiplication without memorizing the multiplication tables.

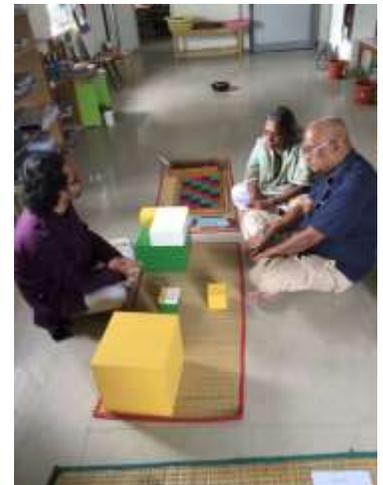
In addition, the Checkerboard is carried over into the upper elementary math curriculum. Students continue to explore and develop their abstract multiplication skills using the Checkerboard to progress into category multiplication. It also serves as the precursor to the Montessori Decimal Checkerboard, which is similar in form and function, but allows students to learn about place value while multiplying decimal fractions.

Highlights of the Quarter:

- ✓ Grand lunch on opening day with an Odissi dance performance by CASCADE Alumni Humsini Rajesh.
- ✓ Family Art programs took place thanks to volunteers from Artalogue – Meenakshi and Jey. Parents, grandparents and children participated and painted the walls of our premises with colourful art.
- ✓ Neeraj Bharadwaj presented a paper on “Is the world a dustbin?” at the IGYS and won accolades from International Geography professors who attended the conference titled “Geography of our daily needs” He later presented it to the younger children at CASCADE and interested parents.
- ✓ Hindi and Tamil Language sessions are given full importance at CASCADE. Sports sessions for two batches of students started from July.
- ✓ Home visits by guides and regular conferencing with families have made the congenial CASCADE culture spread to extended families welcoming them too.
- ✓ We had Elementary Montessori trainees from the Indian Montessori Training Centre, Chennai for observation in the month of July.
- ✓ A group of 4 children visited our Jamunamarthur rural centre in July accompanied by two parents. They experienced true rural living and the joys of being one with nature.
- ✓ Study circles and parent education sessions had very good numbers in the audience. Eager parents stepped up with their queries and shared their experiences and new revelations after their CASCADE entry.
- ✓ Mid July, a group of Elem children who completed some study of planets visited Birla Planetarium and attended the show and viewed the exhibits.
- ✓ Potluck and nightstay was the highlight for our children who danced their day away. Parents too shook a leg and feasted on the delicacies asking for more!!
- ✓ Celebrations and culture have been CASCADE's offering to families. We are indeed blessed to have the participation of all families. Independence day and Janmashtami were celebrated this quarter. Each Wednesday, we also have in the elementary, a discussion on the important day of that week. World Environment Day, Ramzan, World Population day, Mother Teresa's birthday, Friendship day, Hiroshima Day, Quit India day and Bakrid were discussed during these days.



Silent Journey Have you ever wondered what Montessori looks like through the eyes of your child? The Silent Journey and Discovery experience is designed to allow you to view and interact with the Montessori environment through the eyes of a child because, for a few brief hours, you get to be the child. In order to better understand and appreciate the developmental nature of the Montessori materials and how they contribute to your child's intellectual, emotional, moral, physical, and spiritual growth. CASCADE had its first Silent Journey or Open House for families on July 14th.



Alumni News



Humsini Rajesh, who completed her Plus 2 with CASCADE in 2015. A versatile Odissi dancer she enthralled the reopening day audience.

Vinoth, did his first year elementary with us. His mother Chandraprabha went on to do the Elementary course and started Galazy Montessori Academy in Chitlapakkam.



PHOTO GALLERY

Coming ins



Mr. Soundar from Madras Drummers circle demonstrated the effect of rhythm to our children in June. It was a new experience for all, watching him express movement based on sounds from his instrument.



Volunteers from Huma Pharma, Paris presenting on environment. They enjoyed interacting and fielding intelligent statements and questions from the audience.



Nature enthusiast P.Ramkumar, had the young elem thinkers bowled over with his presentation. He himself was bowled over by their questions and knowledge!



How to use the library – A discussion with Mr. Ajay, Ram, Archana and Vishal, enthusiastic youth from Simplified Consulting got our students engaging with books and presenting to other students, topics of their choice.



Roopa a dance enthusiast demonstrating to our children, the beauty of the art form



Featured Study circles



Ms. R. Prabha renowned Nutritionist spoke to parents on the myths and wrong ideas about diet. How food acts as a provider and protector of our body and why we fail to listen to its signals came from her anecdotal punches!



Harikumar made parents undertake the exercise of Silence, explaining its significance for the child.

Jamunamarathur Visit



A group of elementary children visited our CASCADE Montessori Rural resource centre and experienced village life there, spreading awareness on plastic segregation and reduction.



Green school initiative:



Namma Ooru Foundation has been with us in this Green journey. Our parent group was initiated fully into thinking green practices before CASCADE was to be declared a Namma Green School in Sept this year.

Family Programs:



Bhajan and Sloka chanting happens every Friday where families take turns to teach as well as bring *Prasadam*.

Night stay fun and potluck for the foodies!



Nightstays are action packed and the USP of CASCADE. Aug 3rd and 4th saw the full community coming together for a potluck.

Family Art



Triple Birthday photos





Triple Birthday celebrations – Janmashtami, Dr Montessori's and our own Murali Krishnans birthdays were celebrated with gusto. Murali went on to present the hallmark Montessori Presentation - Black strip to families. The hall was packed and prasadam were distributed.

Conferences:



Neeraj and Maitreyi participated in the International Geography Youth Summit held at Bangalore from July 20th to 22nd 2018. Neeraj presented a topic – “Is the world a dustbin”. Many parents, our staff and former CASCADE Students presented at this summit and won accolades.



Maitreyi performed Bharatanatyam in Kapaleeswarar temple in July 2018.

Inside our classrooms:



Peer learning happens when relationships as well as goal setting happens in CASCADE.

Birthday celebrations are special at CASCADE. The Solar cycle is enacted with a light source and globe. Children bring home made sweets and we sing birthday wishes in Indian languages.



Immediate follow ups after the lesson is the way to reinforce learning. CASCADE is happy to provide these opportunities for children.

I love my classroom so much that I cannot see anything missing or broken- says Mr. Fixit





It's a holiday and a mother waits patiently for her child who chose to come, to complete work!!



Presenting a topic to a group is a choice students can make, once they grasp an understanding of how to do a mini-research.



Family Timelines show the ages of family members – children see the length and sensorially relate to the timeframe of life.



6 and 7 year old children learn basics of squaring concepts using material,



Monthly community cooking brings parents to work with a group of children here. All food is consumed eagerly due to olfactory and gustatory connections while cooking.



Grandparents came in on a Friday and spent time with the children, playing with them and narrating stories. All children enjoyed their company and were eager to have such an event for parents as well.



Friday afternoons are bonding and play times for Elementary children. They look forward to do indoor games, arts and chatting up, inviting each other for visits.



Electrical and Carpentry classes on two Saturdays in a month, started for our adolescents who eagerly participate, thrilling their teachers with the right answers.

CASCADE Family Learning Society (under the aegis of Relief Foundation)

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