



College of San Mateo

Mary Meta Lazarus Child Development Center

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Children and families gather to float their wishes on lanterns for Myanmar's Thandingyut Festival to kick off our first World Story of the year with the Center for Global Engagement and International Student Ambassadors.



Celebrating/Embracing Cultural Diversity

This year we are focusing on the domain of History and Social Science from the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Within that domain is the substrand of Cultural Diversity. Our program has always recognized the importance of creating a space where all families feel welcomed and a sense of belonging. Families are the primary context for children's development and learning. We know that during the early years of a young child's educational journey, the relationship with the family is just as important as the relationship with the individual child.

Family members from various cultural backgrounds have a wealth of knowledge and experiences they can share to support and enrich the curriculum. It speaks volumes to a young child to see their family members participating in the program and their home culture represented in the classrooms. Staff honor families through greetings in home language, learning key phrases, and incorporating stories/songs throughout the day. This allows children to feel seen and know they are a valuable member of the class. As a result, children are able to be their true selves, develop genuine trusting relationships with adults and peers, and learning happens! We have had a wonderful Fall semester with many activities and celebrations that highlight the many cultures represented in our Child Development Center community.



Toti (Annei's mom) shares songs and stories in Russian.

Healthy Eats, Active Feet: Our comprehensive health and nutrition program funded by Sequoia Healthcare District's Healthy Schools Initiative



We had a great turnout at our Fall Family/Staff dinner. Families were able to participate in 3 stations: yoga, Zumba, and herb tasting. Before dinner was served, all families came together in a circle and learned Bollywood dancing from Sugandha. It was great evening for connecting and community building!



Classroom A—History and Social Science (Cultural Diversity & Ecology)

Ecology and our Natural World

When children have the opportunity to interact with the natural outdoor environment, they begin to understand the importance of care for all living things. They become engaged in taking care of plants, animals and the environment. Children become aware of protecting natural resources, and the effect of litter in the environment. The children take an active role in sorting trash, recycling and compost daily.



The children walked around on different terrain outside and observed some deer droppings on the ground. This sparked their curiosity to investigate what other animals live in our area.



The children figured out how to reuse the same water over and over again. This process taught them to be conscious about saving our natural resources.

Cultural Diversity



Children matched their own skin tones using special paints to discuss similarities and differences.

Vocabulary Words

reuse
recycle
compost
vegetation
habitat
natural resources

Room A Family Engagement



Anna (Amanda's mom) teaches Mandarin songs and stories to our children weekly.



Kumar (Aahna's dad) talks to the children about the Diwali celebration. They each created their own rangoli and diya.



Jen (Paxton's mom) shares her gardening expertise by helping to prepare the soil for planting herbs.

Classroom B—History and Social Science (Self and Society)



Culture and Diversity

As preschoolers learn about themselves, they begin to appreciate the cultural, ethnic, racial and linguistic characteristics that they share with family members.

At school, teachers can help children appreciate the broader range of cultures, languages, and practices in the world through stories, cultural artifacts, and conversation.

Room B Family Engagement



Sunny (Julien's mom) reads a Korean story before naptime.



Camilla (Quentin's sister) plays her violin for the children.

Superhero Play

As preschoolers grapple with the task of making sense of the world, they use role-play or fantasy play as one of the means to internalize their observations. Through play they can feel brave, fearless, in control of their world, outside of the ordinary, and just plain good.



Relationships

Children learn about themselves and others through relationships they develop with teachers and peers in preschool. Our early learning environment and daily routine help foster peer interactions and facilitate positive social problem solving skills.

Social Roles & Occupations



Children have a growing interest in and understanding of adult activities, including work and family roles. The children have been investigating fire fighters and have created a cardboard fire engine complete with hoses, tools, jackets, helmets, and boots.

"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning".

-Fred Rodgers

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Winter art with rosette acorns and leaves
 by Penelope C. (Room A).

Calendar of Events

December 16 -January 12— CDC Closed

January 13 - Spring Semester begins (CDC reopens)

February 14, 17 — Holiday

February 21, March 15, April 24 — Star Vista Workshops (2-4pm)

April 13-17— Week of the Young Child



Dancing
 with the
 CSM
 Dance
 Club.

Special visit with Engine 27



Police Academy visit with the current class of cadets. Children had the opportunity to explore 3 squad cars and hear a special story.



Banana Bread Recipe (Grandparents/Grandfriends Day)

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 mashed ripe bananas
- 1 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Cooking Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees
- In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
- In large bowl beat eggs, oil, honey, Greek yogurt and vanilla.
- Pour batter into greased pan and bake 50-55 minutes.

Enjoy!!!

