



## Butterflies Open House on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2011



Open House is a very special time for our students. They get to present their everyday Montessori 'jobs' to their parents in their own classroom setting. We pick an educational theme for the big day & each class works on projects & activities centered on this theme.

Our general preschool theme this year was **Literacy**.

The Butterflies class theme: **Diversity in Literacy**.

To get ready for this special day we read books by authors whose works included diversity as the main theme.

The Authors were: Tomie De Poala, Jeanne Willis, Eve Bunting and Patricia Pollacko. We read some of their books, such as: *Strega Nona (her story)*, *Big Anthony (his story)*, *Strega Nona's Magic Lesson*, *Big Anthony's magic ring*, *Adelita*, *Nana Upstairs Nana Downstairs*, *The Art Lesson*, *26 Fairmont St*, *Starstruck*, *Gorilla Gorilla*, *Caterpillar Dreams*, *Tadpoles Promise*, *I want To Be a Cowgirl*, *Susan Laughs*, *One Green Apple*, *Jin Woo*, *Butterfly House*, *Dreaming of America*, *You were Loved Before You Were Born*, *Our Library*, *Little Bears Big Boat*, *Rechenka's Eggs*, *The Keeping Quilt*, *The Lemonade Club*, *Thank You Mr. Faulker*.

Our class projects centered on the books we read and tied into our theme of **Diversity in Literacy**. We took a step outside of ourselves and tackled subjects such as disabilities and stereotypes through activities which evoked meaningful conversations with children.

- The children wrote and illustrated their own books. Their take home project was to design a book cover with their parents. The children all participated in making the classroom mural of a scene from the book about Stega Nona and Big Anthony. They also enjoyed the cookery lesson, making magic pasta.
- Introducing age diversity, the children brought in fabric squares and photos of their grandparents for the classroom quilt, in keeping with the story, The Keeping Quilt. The children also made Faberge eggs after reading Rechenka's Eggs.
- To be sensitive about cultural diversity they brought in pictures to show the diversity in their own family & learned how to say 'welcome' in different languages.
- The children wrote a Cinquain about themselves, made "Free To Be You and Me" flags, also learning the song of the same name. They made a booklet on the lifecycle of a butterfly. All these activities centered on celebrating their own uniqueness.
- We learned about disabilities with activities to ensure that our school was inclusive to people will all abilities. What a wonderful theme to learn about others!

