Hello from the Ladybug Room

Dear families,

At the beginning of the new calendar year 2018 I wish you good health,

peace, and joy. As Sanford Jones’s song says “At the beginning is a

good place to be”. Probably you’ve heard your kids sing it at home.

On the 3rd of January we welcomed a new student: 3 yrs old Mengchen.

The other kids show kindness and express their love through words of

encouragement and hugs to help her feel good in the classroom. It

warms up my heart to witness empathy and compassion.

It feels so good when their love is directed to me: gifts in the form of pictures, play dough hearts,

compliments, hugs, and “I love you” whispered in my ear.

I noticed this month children high energy. They love to play together different games and learn new

things. Everybody enjoys walking, running, and dancing on The Line. Recently I got invited to join in the

fun. We played a CD with uplifting classical music. We moved the way this beautiful music felt to us:

skipping, marching, and waltzing inside The Line. It was joyful!

This month kids continue to refine their fine motor skills by working with the activities in Practical Life

area, to develop their five senses playing with Sensorial materials, and to hone their language and math

skills by playing The Sound Game, tracing Sandpaper Letters and using Number Rods, Spindles, Beads,

Cards and Counters. Every day they choose art activities: painting, play dough, drawing, and stamping.

Kids also love to feed our pet Theo the hedgehog, to participate in sharing activity, and play outside at

playground. They are very excited about the new outdoor gravel and tires space.

**Ameli**a learned “red” pairing the Color Tablets from Box #1 and #2, “rough” and “smooth” touching the

“Rough and Smooth” board #1 and #2, paired using a blindfold the Touch Tablets (2 sets of 10 small

boards covered with sandpaper with a gradation of roughness ), became more aware of the starting

sounds in words playing The Sound Game, traced metal bead letters using a magnetic pen in preparation

for writing, did Yoga postures, practiced with the Zipper Dressing Frame, and learned how to build “The

Binomial Cube” by finding patterns and relationships between blocks. This sensorial material is indirectly

preparing the child for algebra: the cube of a binomial.

**Carson** learned how to Wash a Table, Wash an Underlay, Sift (salt and rice), build The Binomial Cube,

sort Magnetic – Nonmagnetic objects, practiced Sink and Float and worked with Nuts and Bolts. Using

the red Rods we built a small labyrinth then Carson walked on it. This is a fun activity that has the

purpose to refine gross motor skills, and to develop body coordination, focus, concentration, and

patience.

**Hunter** started to show more interest in letters. He practiced writing h, u, n (lower case and upper case)

with the purpose of writing down his name. Lately he started working with Luna using the visual

materials from Sensorial area (Pink Tower and Brown Stair) exploring ways to build different structures.

Hunter worked also with Color Tablets Box #2 and had a new lesson on Color Tablets Box #3 where he

got to grade shades of different colors and learned new vocabulary: light –dark, lighter – darker, lightest

– darkest. He also learned how to pair the cylinders of the Sound Boxes.

**Jenah** had new lessons on Spooning, and Zipper Dressing Frame. She practiced Washing a Table,

Hammering, Cutting toy veggies, working with Tweezers and Rocks and Minerals. She enjoys art

activities and games on The Line.

**Luna** had new lessons on Sifting, Washing an Underlay, Cards and Counters – a math material that

offers the child the opportunity to practice counting and to learn new concepts: odd and even numbers,

Polishing Metal, Sorting level 1 – a sensorial activity that further refines the sense of touch; the child is

sorting four different kinds of things (for example nuts) using a blindfold. This type of activity is

preparation for math (logical thinking). I introduced her to the Decimal System cards where she learns

the symbols of the categories she played with some time ago (The Store game).

**Mackenzie** loves Play Dough, Flower Arranging, activities on The Line, Opening and Closing containers,

Rocks and Minerals, and Stringing Beads. She had new lessons on Hammering, The Binomial Cube,

Sorting Beads by Size, Color Tablets Box #1 and #2, Metal Insets – a Language Area material comprised

of different shapes with frames the child is tracing and coloring, Thermic Bottles (Sensorial Area) – two

sets of metal bottles filled with water of different temperatures which the child pairs and then grades.

Besides refining the sense of touch the child is learning new vocabulary: cold - hot, cold –colder, warm –

warmer.

**Mengchen** is interested in learning new things every day. She had preliminary lessons on how to roll a

rug, push in a chair, carry a tray with something on it, etc. She had also new lessons on Spooning,

Pouring Grains, Pouring Water, The Pink Tower , Color Tablets Box #1, Tongs ,Tweezers, Clothespins,

Sifting (rice and salt) activities, Opening and Closing containers, Water Coloring, Mixing Colored Liquids –

from primary colors she creates secondary colors, Metal Insets, Rough and Smooth Board #1, The

Sandpaper Globe, The Painted Globe, The Puzzle Map of the World, Stringing Small Beads, Wood

Polishing, Metal Polishing, Washing an Underlay, Sorting Beads by Size, Sink and Float, Thermic Bottles,

Lacing, and Sweeping. She enjoys Play Dough, Cutting Paper, toy veggies, Stamps, playing with The Farm

and nesting dolls. Mengchen loves music, the lap harp and toy xylophone.

**Paige** had new lessons on Spindle Boxes (Math Area) – two wooden boxes with compartments

numbered 0 to 10. The purpose is to offer more opportunity for kids to practice counting, to see that

quantities can be more than one (a bundle of spindles), and to learn what 0 means (no spindles in the

compartment marked with 0), Washing an Underlay, The Geometry Cabinet – she learned the shapes

and names of different triangles (acute angled isosceles triangle, obtuse angled isosceles triangle,

obtuse angled scalene triangle), Matched the circles from the Geometry Cabinet with three different

sets of cards, Sandpaper Letters (z,n,a), Magnetic –Nonmagnetic, Rough and Smooth Boards #1 and #2,

and Touch Tablets. She played the Memory Game of Numbers with Luna and Hunter and explored with

the Colored Tablets box #3.

**Zanea** loves to play on The Line every day. She enjoys playing with toy veggies and nesting dolls. She

traced Sandpaper Numerals and Sandpaper letters (e, s, t, z, n, a) and practiced writing “Z” with chalk.

She likes to water our classroom plants and play with the musical instruments. We played The Sound

Game a few times to help her be aware of sounds. She played with The Lock Box, the Slot headed

screwdriver, Cylinder Block #1, Pink Tower, Sifting, Lacing, Color Box#2, Snap Dressing Frame, and

Magnetic – Nonmagnetic. Recently she had a lesson on Buckle Dressing Frame. She also enjoys doing

Yoga for kids.

With love, Ms. Monica and Ms. Sueann.