

Montessori International Artist in Residence

Rob Levit, Annapolis multi-directional artist, was the Artist in Residence at Montessori International Children's House (MICH) from October 7th through October 14th. Rob Levit, an outstanding guitarist and the leader of the Rob Levit Trio also paints, writes poetry and essays and is active in infusing creativity and leadership into schools, communities and the workplace.

The curriculum at Montessori International integrates learning from all the senses to promote a well-rounded learning experience. Creative expression is not limited to singing or dancing. Sensory input is used to integrate sensory learning to produce reports, art works and creative expressions such as poetry. The Artist in Resident program is designed to promote the student's use of imagination.

Under Mr. Levit's guidance students in Montessori International's primary classes explored the interplay between music and motion. Using call-and-response singing, scat singing (vocal jazz improvisation), moving like a butterfly, and creating musical patterns from colored blocks engaged these young students (ages 4 1/2 to 6 years) in learning to hear the music and translate that into dance that expressed the mood and manner of the song.

Lower Elementary Students (grades 1-3) used Phillip Glass' Metamorphosis of a Butterfly as the inspiration for song, dance development, creating mobiles and writing haikus. All these activities examined theme, variation, and patterns presented in the music to produce artworks.

The interplay of Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Hayden and the artworks of Kandinsky was the basis for the Upper Elementary students (grades 4-6) to design original movement pieces constructed on patterns that reflected the tone and tenor of the music.

Maria Montessori believed that "Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child to open himself to life." The Artist in Residence program is a way that MICH students are opening themselves up to the world around them.

For more information on Montessori International Children's House, visit www.montessoriinternational.org.