Agriculture Education

Cycle 3 Theme: Meaning & Purpose

Thematic Lesson: Kick Off Activity

"To mean something is to have value, to be definable, to feel significant. To have a purpose means to bring value to something, to make something significant." (quora.com).

"You're going to hear my voice when I shout it out loud" - Bon Jovi

Kick off activity goals:

- Introduce the cycle theme
- Connect secondary and primary Montessori concepts with the use of a primary material
- Give students a common definition of the theme
- Present the seasonal curriculum in the context of the cycle
- Provide a platform for students to become excited about the content and work ahead

Title: My Place in the Cycle

- **Type of Activity:** Collaborative artwork
- **Time Required:** 20 minutes
- **Materials Needed:**
    - Pieces of the birthday celebration wheel (mat, sun, 4 seasons, 12 months, moon, earth, vase, flower, water, candle, stars & clouds as needed to ensure everyone has an object)
    - Lighter
    - Enough glass beads for each student to have one (add initials if desired)
    - Cycle 3 cover sheet

To kick off Cycle 3: Meaning & Purpose students will build a seasonal celebration wheel similar to the birthday celebration wheel used in primary Montessori classrooms. Coming together in a circle students will place the mat then the sun followed by the season cards, the month cards, the moon, the earth, the vase, add the flower and pour water into the vase. Place the candle in the middle of the sun and finally sprinkle the stars and clouds as needed.

Distribute a glass bead to each student and tell them that we each have a place in the cycle of life. It is our purpose to sustain the beauty and function of the world around us, to cultivate life and nurture our spirits. Explain that each student will walk the wheel and pass through each month and season, sharing their unique talents with the world.

Light the candle instruct the first student to stand, slowly and silently walk around the wheel then place their bead gently in the vase with the flower and the water. When one student completes their walk and sits the next student in the circle will stand and begin their walk.

When all of the students have walked around the wheel and all the beads are in the vase thank the students for embarking on this journey to seek meaning and purpose in themselves and in the natural world.

Blow out the candle and place the vase on the center table in the room.

Distribute the Cycle 3: Meaning & Purpose cover sheets and encourage the students to review them to discover more about the cycle and the work ahead.