

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

December 8, 2017



Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bring in items from our wish list. I am sure that the kids will all have fun using the various fruits to make the fruit salad next week!

On Monday we had our monthly session with Coach Matt from Be Ahead of the Game! We are very fortunate to be able to host this program, in the D.C.H. gymnasium, even in the colder months. This allows for not only extra gross motor activities, but helps with social team building skills as well.

We wrapped up our week with some special Mystery Readers! Matthew's nana came to read a few stories to the class while she is in town visiting. If you or another family member would like to be a mystery reader, please send me an email of a day and time that might work for you.

Science: Our SCI-FRI experiment this week involved a famous candy called Gobstoppers. We first talked about the ingredients inside the candy, and whether or not they provide anything nutritious for our bodies. We then predicted what would happen if we soaked the candies in a pie dish filled with water. Children were surprised to see that the coloring added to the candies separated and created a swirling pattern on the plate!

Math: This week we conducted a unit on non-standard measuring using UNIFIX cubes. On Monday children measured various sized pictures of corn husk dolls, made by Wampanoag children. Later in the week, children measured and compared various lines on the table, discussing which line was the longest, and which was the shortest. Finally on Thursday, we asked children to use their estimation skills to predict the length, in cubes, of various items around the classroom before verifying their answers with the cubes. Throughout the week, children also had several opportunities to explore measuring pasta in the texture table using a standard unit of measuring: a ruler.

Social Studies: Early in the week we read a follow up issue of our Weekly Reader magazine called "What did the Wampanoag Kids Do?" about what life was like for Wampanoag children a long time ago. Children not only compared their own lives to the life of Wampanoag children, but the Pilgrim children we read about last week as well.

This week was our first of Unit 4 on "Food". We talked about types of foods and where our food comes from. Our vocabulary words were farmer, market, ingredients, nutritious, and combine. Also this week we added a familiar word, used often in morning messages, to our word wall: "to". Our read-aloud story for this week was a folktale called "The Goat in the Chile Patch" about a farmer who is having trouble with a goat coming into his garden and eating all of his ripe Chile peppers. We talked about different ways that the farmer could solve this problem. In a surprise ending it was actually the smallest of the animals, an ant, which got the goat to leave.

We introduced our second "Superstar" vowel this week: "i" Ask your child to tell you the story for this letter sound, reminding them to get the ball "iiii-iiii-in the hoop!" During the week we did a practice activity in which the children had to decipher the beginning and ending sounds of three letter words that contained "i" as the middle letter. They all did a wonderful job spelling out the words! We will continue to work on word building and blending as we add more letter sounds to our repertoire.



CORNER

Handwriting

We continued with the "corner starter" group this week, learning letters "V", "W", and "X". Because the second half of the letters from this group all begin with a diagonal, there is a fun song called, "Sliding Down to the End of the Alphabet", that also goes along with them. This song has a lot of movements to accompany it, that help children remember how to write their letters through music and movement.