

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

December 1, 2017



Dear Families,

As the weather gets colder we will continue to go outside as often as possible. We would like to remind families that it gets very cold on our back playground, colder than it may feel elsewhere, due to the breeze off of the river. Please send in hats, gloves or mittens and winter jackets daily so that the children will be able to comfortably play outside. This is also a good time of year to check your child's bag of extra clothes in the bathroom to make sure that they have warm clothes available to change into if needed.

Jayma

Upcoming Enrichment:

Spanish- 12/1, 12/15 & 12/22

Be Ahead of the Game - 12/4

(Don't forget to send sneakers!)

Music and Movement with Rubi -12/11

* Reminder: There will be no School -12/25

Science: This week we wrapped up our unit on transportation, focusing mostly on air vehicles. Children did well when they were asked to cut, sort and glue pictures of various vehicles into the three categories of land, air and water vehicles. They also made their own air vehicles to complete our transportation mural in our dramatic play area. Finally on Friday, we read about two very famous brothers in aviation history; the Wright Brothers. Our SCI-FRI experiment involved launching our own air "vehicles", made from balloons and cardboard tubes, across the room on strings attached to the walls in varying positions.

Math: In connection with our transportation unit, we asked children to complete some numbered dot-to-dot aircraft. These vehicles ranged in numbers from one to ten up to about seventy, meeting the skill levels of each child in the class. After completing the drawings, children chose how they would like to decorate their aircraft and the teachers read small informative paragraphs that accompanied them to learn more about the vehicles. Children also completed their own graph of animals that came along with our Weekly Reader magazine.

Social Studies: Early in the week we read an issue of Weekly Reader called "What Did Pilgrim Kids Do?" In the issue we learned about some of the work that the Pilgrim children had to do, and we asked each child to write about whether or not they would have wanted to live the life of a Pilgrim child.

This week was the third and final week of the transportation unit in our Treasures program. Our focus this week was mainly on air

L vehicles, but we also talked about what we had learned over the past
I two weeks. During Journal time, children illustrated their favorite
T way to travel. The vocabulary words for this week were *wheels,*
E *adventure, attach, haul* and *massive* which were familiar to most of
R the children. The new additions to our word wall were "at" and "it"
A and we reviewed the previous words as well. We were very excited to
C introduce our first "superstar" letter this week; letter sound /a/! We
Y talked about the importance of vowels and the fact that every word
contains at least one. Without these "superstar" letters, we wouldn't
have words! Although these letters are in every word, they are the
most difficult for children to distinguish. Our focus this week was on
the short vowel sound of "a" and as we progress through our phonics
program, we will learn more about the other sounds that letter "a"
can produce. At the end of the week, children explored making both
"human" and "alien" words with small letter tiles at the table.



CORNER

Handwriting

We continued learning more letters from the "corner starter" group this week; practicing letters "L" and "U" Although most uppercase letters can be made using the wooden pieces from the program, (big line, little line, big curve, little curve), "U" is one of the few that cannot. For this letter we simply say that you travel straight down like a "big line", make a "U-turn" and travel straight up the other side like a "big line".