

# News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

November 10, 2017



Dear Families,

We introduced something new to our classroom this week in the "Construction Zone" area of our classroom. As we introduce new themes into our curriculum, we will give the students building challenges to attempt using the materials in our block area. This week we were inspired by our "Ways to Travel" mural bridge building, and decided to explore some famous bridges around the world!



This week we had another mystery reader on Wednesday. Teaghan's Nana surprised the class and read a fun story called Edward the Emu, and even gave a copy of the story to each child in the class!

Next week we will be meeting on Thursday night, November 16<sup>th</sup> for parent teacher conferences. I will be sending home your child's progress note early next week so that you may review it prior to our meeting. This allows time for you to consult with a parent that may not be able to attend, as well as formulate any questions or concerns that you may have about your child's progress in kindergarten thus far. Please note that if you ever have any concerns or questions after this point in time, I am happy to set up a time to meet with you.

**Science :** We wrapped up our unit on leaves this week with a few fun activities. On Monday we read a book called We're Going on a Leaf Hunt before venturing outside to collect various leaves from our property. Once inside, the children used some of these leaves to do a few leaf rubbings and we reviewed the names for each part of a leaf. Then on Tuesday the children used the remainder of the leaves for an art project. After reading Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert, each child designed their own creature using the leaves and acorns from our leaf hunt. Our SCI-FRI activity was a familiar experience to many: exploring parts of a pumpkin!

**Math:** At various times throughout the week we played a game that we frequently play called "I'm going on a picnic" in which the teacher names three items (from a particular category) that they will "bring on a picnic". The children then have to deduce what the category is, and make guesses about what they could bring to the picnic. Categories for the game could be anything from things that are a particular color, items that begin with the same letter sound, certain types of vehicles, or even animals that live in one specific habitat. This is a great game that can be played in the car or while sitting together as a family. During our SCI-FRI pumpkin exploration on Friday, children practiced their counting skills while tallying the number of seeds that they could find in their pieces of pumpkin.

This week was the first week of unit 3 in Treasures on "Transportation". The focus of this week was on land transportation and we read a few books about the topic.

**L** The children related well to a Franklin story called Franklin Rides a Bike by Paulette Bourgeois. In the story, Franklin is learning to ride a bike without the training wheels and discovers that he must practice a lot and never give up to accomplish his goal. It reminded us that everyone has things that they are good at, and other things that they may need help with.

**I** Our word wall addition this week was the words "see" and "am". We practiced reading the new words in a paper book called "I See Pam" as well as searching for them in books from our classroom library. The vocabulary words this week were *transportation, vehicle, glide, continue* and *rapidly* and our read-aloud story was a familiar fable called "The Turtle and the Rabbit". The overconfident rabbit is defeated in a race by the slow and steady turtle because he "kept his eye on the prize".



**Y** CORNER

## Thank You Veterans!

In honor of the men and women who protect our country, we read an issue of Weekly Reader magazine called "Happy Veteran's Day Mom and Dad!" As a class we discussed the different branches of the military, watched a brief video about the jobs of each branch, and even had a chance to see how soldiers parachute from planes to help those in need! Children also shared if they knew anyone in their own lives who is a veteran. Each child wrote a letter to thank a veteran for their service and we will be mailing them to an organization called Project Gratitude that collects and sends letters, cards, artwork and care packages to troops and veterans.