

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

October 20, 2017



Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Parent Night on Thursday evening. I hope that you got a sense of how our classroom runs and had a chance to see some of the wonderful things your child has been doing so far this year. If you ever have questions about something, please don't hesitate to contact me.

This week we had two special visitors to our school. On Wednesday, a team of firefighters from the Dedham fire department came with a truck to teach us about fire safety! The children had an opportunity to board the vehicle, take a peek inside the equipment cabinets and even spray the fire hose! Then on Thursday we had our monthly visit from Be Ahead of the Game. Coach Matt worked with the class on their soccer skills and team building.

Jayma

Science : This week we wrapped up on unit on trees! On Monday we read a beautifully illustrated book called In A Nutshell about the journey of an acorn. Children then completed their own models of the life cycle of an oak tree. We also read a short non-fiction story called Tree Homes and talked about some creatures that make their homes inside of various trees. On Thursday we read The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons and decorated our own apple tree pictures in each season. During our SCI-FRI activity we explored what would happen when we placed pinecones in three different environments. In the first jar we poured cold water, in the second we added nothing but the air around us, and finally in the third we added boiling hot water. The children made predictions before the experiment and then recorded their findings after we notice some changes taking place.

Social Studies: Before our visit from the fire department Wednesday, we read an issue of our Weekly Reader magazine called "Firefighters to the Rescue". The issue talked about parts of a fire truck, and displayed other vehicles that a firefighter might use to battle a fire. Children also completed an activity the required them to sort pictures of various fire safety "do's and don'ts".

Math: Our estimation jar this week contained various buttons. The children discovered that this was a difficult item to try to count because some buttons were much bigger than others, allowing for smaller buttons to "hide" behind others in the jar.

This week was the first week of unit two in Treasures on "Friends". We read several stories about friendship including a few Berenstain Bears classics called The Trouble With Friends, and The In Crowd. The vocabulary words this week were *partner, hobby, compete, friend, and favorite* and we added the word "like" to our word wall. Everyone did a great job of finding this new word, as well as previous word wall additions in morning messages and other literature that they browsed. Our read-aloud story was a well-known fable called "The City Mouse and the Country Mouse".

The new phonics partners this week were the lip biting letters "f" and "v". Both sounds require you to "bite" your front lip while forcing air out. Quiet letter "f" keeps our voice off as we make the sound while its noisy partner letter "v" requires us to turn our voice on when making the sound.

Ask your child to tell you the stories behind these two sound cards.



CORNER



? **CALLING ALL MYSTERY READERS!!!** ?

If you or another family member would like to be a mystery reader in our class, please send me an email with a day that could work for you. The children love to have guest readers come in to share stories with the class!

Handwriting

We continued learning more "Frog Jump" letters this week, practicing letters "D" and "P". The children really enjoy the fun sing-along songs that involve a lot of movement activities with them.