

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

October 6, 2017



Dear Families,

As the seasons are changing it is a great time to check your child's extra clothes bag to be sure that there are appropriate clothes. Please feel free to leave an extra sweatshirt in cubbies as our back playground is generally colder than other areas of our property.

We introduced something new to our classroom this week; the Kindergarten Art Gallery! On Wednesday, we talked about what "inspiration" is, before choosing a picture of an owl canvas for our art gallery inspiration. Each child now has a frame on the wall in which they can choose a piece of art to display. The art that they choose can be something they have created in the art center, block area, or perhaps even something made from play-dough! If the actual piece of art cannot be displayed, a picture of the work will be placed in the frame in its place.

Jayma

Special Note!

There will be no school on Monday October 9th for Columbus Day

Social Studies: In connection with our literacy unit on families, children have begun developing their own family trees! This is a multi-step project that we began on Monday when we ventured outside to do some bark rubbings. Children then used the "bark" paper, along with seasonally colored tissue paper, to create their tree art. Jenn and I now are working individually with the children to cut and glue their family photos onto their trees in a logical order to display the people that they know in their families. This activity helps the children understand how everyone's family is unique yet similar to one another.

Science: During SCI-FRI we introduced our new science unit on trees by watching a brief video about the life of a tree, and exploring pieces of tree trunks. Children also had a chance during SCI-FRI to explore a large slice from a tree that we estimated to be around 70 years old when it was cut down! We showed the children how to count the rings inside of a tree to determine its age and also how the rings can tell a story of the tree's life. If the space between rings is thick, then it was a year in which the tree had great growth. If that space is thin, then it means that the tree did not grow very much in that year. We talked about the various reasons why a tree might grow differently from year to year and possible reasons for different markings on the tree. We also asked children to make a tree ring print in their science journals to compare to their own thumbprints.

Math: Now that we have been counting our days of school for a few weeks, we have been starting to practice counting our "bundles" of straws, groups of ten, during circle time and counting on the "ones" that do not make a bundle yet. Children have also started to notice patterns in our counting chart, which illustrates even numbers being circled and multiples of fives and tens being red.

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This week was the second week of unit one in Treasures about "Families". We talked a great deal about favorite activities that we do with our families, and places that we like to go with them.

On Tuesday we read a story called Look At Our Families that exhibited lots of activities families can do together. We also choral read another paper book called "The Family" and sent them home for additional practice. We introduced a new sight word, "the" and also added some of our handwriting vocabulary words to the word wall as well. The new vocabulary words for this week were *activity, cooperate, exciting, exhausted, and gather*. Our read-aloud story for the week was a folktale called "The Squeaky Old Bed" that had a lot of repetition and sound words that the children enjoyed repeating together.

Our new Lively Letters phonics sounds were quiet tongue dancing sound /t/, and its noisy tongue dancing sound /d/. When producing these sounds, your tongue moves the same way behind your teeth, and the only difference between them is whether your "voice" is on or off, causing the sound to change.

Handwriting

In our classroom we use a multi-sensory, handwriting program called "Handwriting Without Tears." This week we continued to learn a few of the songs from the program and learned some new vocabulary. We talked about the terms vertical, horizontal and diagonal and built upon our understating of these terms while playing tic-tac-toe with our Mat Man pieces on the rug.

At this stage of development, it is common for children not only to be more familiar with uppercase letters, but also to reverse some of their letters. Please don't worry about any difficulties that your child may have at this time. We will continue to work on strengthening their fine motor abilities throughout the school year.