

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

October 13, 2017



Dear Families,

I hope that we will see many of you at our upcoming parent potluck night next week on Thursday October 19th from 6:30-8:30. Please remember that this is an adult only event. A sign-up sheet is hanging outside of our classroom for families to make note of items that they will bring to the potluck. This event is a great way for families to get to know each other a little better, while seeing some of the great things that the children have done in the classroom. A classroom scavenger hunt will be available for each family to complete during the event as well.

We had our first of two visits from our Spanish teacher Alexandra this month. The children are doing well with learning their colors and numbers and are working on remembering the proper ways to ask for materials during group song games and activities.

Jayma

Science: On Wednesday this week we asked the children to tell us some facts that they knew about trees before we continued with our tree unit. Children also had many opportunities to explore some tree pieces that were used in the SCI-FRI activity last week, in our science areas throughout the week. With this week being a short week, we decided to forgo a regular SCI-FRI experiment and instead we read an issue of Science Spin magazine called "Panda Scientists". In this issue, we learned about what scientist do, and analyzed a graph of some of the tools that they use.

Math: We introduced something new this week, graphing! In connection with our unit on families, we decided to graph the family members that live in our houses. Each child drew their family members on individual blocks of paper before adding them to the class bar graph. After everyone had added their family we had a class discussion about who had the most members, the least members and if any children had the same amount.

This week's estimation jar was very tricky. We used some of our cut up straws from the texture table that were various sizes and colors. Once everyone had made their guess, we grouped the straws into piles of ten, and noticed that some of the straws were hiding inside of other straws, which made it more difficult to estimate. Just as we do during calendar time, when we count our days of school straws, we counted our piles by tens and added the single leftover at the end. Although everyone tried their best, nobody was close enough to win a pencil this week.

LITERACY
This week was the third week of unit one in Treasures about "Families". On Wednesday we read Franklin's Baby Sister by Paulette Bourgeois and discussed various ways that a family could change. We also talked about things that we like to do with our families and ways that we are each different from our family members. The children had great ideas to share on all of the topics. The vocabulary words this week were *occasion, eager, celebrate, changes* and *relatives*. We also reviewed all of the word wall words that we have added so far. The read-aloud story this week was a fiction story called "Jennifer Bing, Why Won't You Sing?" about a girl from a musical family who struggles to figure out her talent.

In the end she discovers that her musical talent is dance! Although we did not introduce any new phonics sounds this week, we did review the previously learned partners. As we learn more letter sounds, and add vowels to our repertoire, we will begin learning how to lend the sounds together to make words.



CORNER

Handwriting

This week we began our first group of capital letters in our handwriting journals: "frog jump" letters. These letters are a part of this category because when you write them, you begin by making a vertical "big line" and when you get to the bottom you "jump" back to the top. So far we have completed letters "F", and "E" in our journals, and have practiced the frog jump song many times. Children also gained a new tool in their journal bins; "helper hand eye balls"! These eye ball rings are intended for children to wear on their non-writing hand, also known as their "helper hand". Their helper hand is supposed to hold their paper or workbook still while they are writing and then the "helper hand eyes" can watch their writing hand do the hard work.