

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

September 15, 2017



Dear Families,

If you have not returned the website permission slip yet, please bring it in sometime next week. I am hoping to have the webpage fully operational by the end of next week and I will give everyone the username and password at that time.

If you need another copy, please let me know.

This week we had our very first visits from both Coach John from Be Ahead of the Game, and our Spanish teacher from ABC Spanish in Motion! We are so excited for the children to have the opportunity to experience these programs again this year. The coaches from Be Ahead of the Game work with the children for a half hour session, once a month, to build their gross motor skills through fun games and activities on the D.C.H. field or in the Gymnasium. Each Spanish session is a half hour long, and is filled with lots of fun music and movement games. Each month we are scheduled to have two sessions, all taking place on Friday mornings. Learn more about the program on the website listed below.

"ABC Spanish in Motion is a language exposure program designed to connect and expand worlds and minds." "Children are immersed in a full Spanish class through the duration of it learning everyday and applicable themes (colors, numbers, shapes, routines, commands, etc.)" <http://www.abcspanishinmotion.com/>

Science: We continued learning about our five senses this week with a focus on our sense of touch. We began the week reading a short non-fiction book called Your Five Senses and learning a song to help us remember each of the senses. Children had several opportunities to use our five senses picture sorting mats, and completed a few multiple choice activities demonstrating their understanding of their sense of touch and smell. On Wednesday we did another sense of touch activity, asking children to reach into a bag of various textured objects and choose three to describe. They then illustrated the three objects in their science journals. Children enjoyed listening to a Steve Jenkins story called What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? about how animals use their senses in different ways than people. On Thursday we read an award winning picture book that received the Caldecott medal for its unique illustrations. The book Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young depicts seven blind mice who are trying to use their other senses to determine what a very large object is. Finally on Friday our SCI-FRI experiment involved blindly smelling various extracts and spices and making a guess as to what they are. Children's responses were recorded in their science journals.

L This week we continued in our first unit of Treasures
I called "Start Smart". To begin the week, we read a
T story called Hands Can by Cheryl Willis Hudson. We
E talked a lot about the different things that you can do
R with your hands and also your feet. Our new word wall
A word this week was "can" and the children have done a
C great job so far recognizing it in our morning messages
Y and in other print they encounter. They were all very
excited to have a second paper book that they could
read at home! We will continue to send these books
home each week and they are a great resource to keep
in order to build up your child's confidence with reading
words. The read-aloud story this week was a folktale
that many children were familiar with called "The
Gingerbread Boy". We briefly talked about the
similarities and differences between this version of the
story and others that we might have heard before.

CORNER

Math: This week we learned how to measure objects in our classroom using a non-standard unit of measurement: hand spans. The children traced, and cut out pictures of their hands to use in a small group to measure three different objects in the room. We discussed which object was the longest and which was the shortest. We will continue to practice measuring this year in both standard and non-standard units as well as build upon our comparative vocabulary. While estimating this week, children were taught a few strategies to help them become better at the skill. One on one we practiced counting the objects in the jar from one side to the other, and also talked about counting what you see, and imagining what you don't see underneath the other objects.