

# News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

September 8, 2016



Dear Families,

I hope that you all had a wonderful long holiday weekend! Thank you to everyone who donated items from our wish list this month! Every kind gesture, no matter how small, means a great deal to us.

Starting next week, we will begin having regular enrichment programs visit our school. Twice a month we will have a Spanish teacher come from a program called "Spanish in Motion" on Fridays. We will also have a music specialist visit, as well as a sports coach from a program called "Be Ahead of the Game" ;both on a monthly basis. All of these programs are wonderful additions to our school curriculum.

**Math:** Our estimation jar was filled with magnetic gears this week. Because the contents were various sizes and colors, it made it easier than last week for the children to distinguish them from one another. Also this week, children had an opportunity to sort dominoes based on the number of dots on the domino. While sorting, we briefly discussed that what the children were actually doing while counting the dots was adding the two amounts shown on the blocks. This is an early introduction into the concept of addition.

**Science:** This week children were very excited to receive their very own official SCI-FRI badges!! Not only will children get to wear this official badge each Friday during our science experiences, but they will have many opportunities to use them this year with their lab coats in the science area of our classroom. Another science tool that we introduced this week was science journals. Throughout the school year, children will use these journals to record their predictions, observations and results of various science activities. Each child made their first observations this week when we ventured outside to observe some of the trees around our school. We will continue to revisit these same trees in all seasons to record the changes we notice.

**L** This week we began our first unit in the Treasures program.

**I** Our first story in the unit was a non-fiction book called Follow the Signs that helped us learn about the different signs you may see in a community. After reading the book, we went on a

**T** "signs walk" and used our sense of sight to "spy" signs that are around our property. Children were very excited to share

**E** information that they knew about the various signs we discovered. The children also had a chance to choose one of the signs that we found and use a printed picture of it to create their own multimedia scene in which it could be found.

**R** Our read-aloud story this week was a fable called "As Beautiful As You Are" which taught us that it is important to like yourself for who you are! We also added our first word to our word wall this week "I". Everyone enjoyed practicing reading our first book containing "I", along with pictures representing the other words. This type of book is called a rebus book and it is a great way to build children's confidence with reading.



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The leaves and acorns have already started to fall from our *Kindergarten Kindness Tree!* On Tuesday we read a book called Heartprints by P.K Halliman, a story about how kind acts leave a lasting impression on someone's heart. Each child chose one kind act that could be done and we recorded them on a class poster. I am so excited that the children are really starting to think of ways to show their kindness both in and out of our classroom. We also did an exercise with the children to help them understand that when they say hurtful things to others, simply saying sorry doesn't fix the hurt left in that person's heart. Look for both of these activities on display in our classroom.