



WEEK OF MARCH 7



Children's House Two Update

Sound of the Week

This week we worked with the **"t" sound**. We thought of many words at circle, including "taco, toot, tummy and title". *When we return from Spring Break, we will work with the "j" sound.*

Parts of a Leaf

Tuesday's circle lesson was about the **parts of a leaf**. The children learned that a leaf is made up of the stipules, veins, blade, petiole and apex. The lesson is reinforced with several works, including a puzzle and a felt leaf with labels, and a drawing work. We also introduced the Botany Cabinet. The children can trace and label 18 different leaf shapes! The children were excited to find many leaves on our (almost) snow-free playground. When they held the leaf up to the sun, they could see the veins within the leaf!



Sophia counted to 512 to discover that the eight cube has so many beads! This work also helps Sophia master skip counting.

Open Circle

At Wednesday's Open Circle, we introduced the next lesson in **Problem-solving**. Using the visual of a stop light, we introduced three steps to helping solve a problem: **Red Light**: stop, take a calming breath and acknowledge the problem; **Yellow Light**: slow down and think about possible solutions, and **Green Light**: go try your solutions.

Week of March 28. Snack Schedule

Monday: Hartej — please bring flowers for arranging

Tuesday: Hanne

Wednesday: Bella

Thursday: Ayaan

Friday: Ava



Etienne and Miss Luckshi match objects with the sounds "h, j, u, v, y".



Neena creates a red, ripe strawberry out of torn paper.

Author of the Month

On Thursday, we continued our study of authors **Don and Audrey Wood**. We read The Little Mouse, the Red, Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear. In this clever story, the narrator "helps" the mouse save the red ripe strawberry from the big hungry bear, by encouraging the mouse to share it with the narrator. It is not until the very end that we realize the "helpful narrator" is none other than the big hungry bear!

This Week's Snack Update

Monday

Grapes/goldfish/apples/crackers



Tuesday

Yogurt/pita/cream cheese/grapes/grahams

Wednesday

Clementines/graham crackers/cheese

Thursday

Apricots/graham crackers/clementines/Bunny Cracker mix

Friday

Fruit Kabobs/pumpkin muffins/yogurt/pretzels



Maggie carefully pours a peninsula and a gulf.



Hannah develops her concentration and coordination while pouring from one vessel to another.

Happy Birthday Maggie!

Maggie's Mom, Dad and brother Graham joined our circle Friday afternoon to celebrate Maggie's fifth birthday. We learned that Maggie has traveled to Canada, and learned to swim and skate in her first five years. Maggie was proud to share a book featuring photos from the first year of her life. We wish you a wonderful day, Maggie!

Kindergarten Numeracy Update

The children worked very hard in Numeracy this week. Monday afternoon, we continued our work telling time to the exact minute on the clock. Everyone is doing such a fabulous job! Some of the children are even wearing watches with an analog face and are amazing their friends with their time telling abilities. After looking at the short, slow hour hand and deciding which hour it is, the children then count by five's to the number on the clock closest to the minute hand, then continue counting by one's to the exact minute. This can be a tricky concept, but the children have been practicing and practicing, and using some new clock puzzles during center time, and they have made excellent progress!

The children have also begun to test the container capacities of the Gallon Guy. Armed with liquid measuring cups in the amounts of cup, pint, and quart, and a gallon sized orange juice container (courtesy of Zinna), the children have been working with partners to make sure that sixteen cups of water really do fit in that gallon jug! They are also checking to make sure that eight pints really do make one gallon and that four quarts also equals one gallon. The children really enjoyed this work - checking to make sure what has been told to them is really true. Now they have proven to themselves that these measurements are true and accurate.

We also did some experimenting with dice on Wednesday afternoon. I filled the estimating jar with some different colored dice at the estimating center, and then I put two other dice in a little dish as another center, asking the children to look at them and see what they discover about the number of dots, the different sides etc. Here is what the children learned (with a little help from me):

- There are 21 dots on every dice - which we figured out together by adding $1+2+3+4+5+6$
- If you pick up a dice with your thumb and index finger, the two sides you are touching with each finger will always add up to 7.
- Dice are very fun to play with!
- The dots are the same size on each of the two dice.

Kindergarten Literacy Update

The children have completed their story for the Scholastic Books author contest and I will be mailing it out on Monday morning. The results will be in by May 31st. The children did such a fantastic job with this entire process - they worked together, compromised, and supported each other every step of the way, and they ended up with a fabulous story that is beautifully written and illustrated. Even if Scholastic does not choose them as winners (of course they are very confident that they will☺), I already have - the book is truly outstanding for a group of Kindergartners!

During Writer's Workshop on Tuesday, the children had a lesson on **Planning Details**. After asking them what the word detail means, and receiving many correct answers, I showed the children my story about recess on the chart paper. It went like this: "I went outside. I played. I came in." They were quick to giggle and tell me that this was not a story and that I didn't tell them anything that happened. After discussing with their writing partners what I could add to my story to help the reader get a picture in their mind without me even having to draw one, they shared with me their suggestions and helped me to make my story chock full of details. The children then set off with their writing partners to re-read the small moments they are currently working on and help each other to add more details to their stories.

When we return from break, the children will begin working on **Internalizing Story Shapes**. During this session, the children will learn a strategy to tell stories across their fingers. This will help them to remember that stories have a beginning, middle, and end.

During Reader's Workshop on Thursday afternoon we continued our study of fantasy with the story The Honest Woodcutter. After using our story wands and discussing the plot, setting, characters, conflict, and resolution, the children proceeded to their centers and now everyone has a completed story map hanging in the Literacy Room - yay!

When we return from break, we will begin our **Nature Study** - a unit where the children will learn how to make accurate observations, recording exactly what they see. I have pre-ordered a very interesting specimen for the children to observe during this time....of course it will be a surprise until after break!

**** Each child went home on Thursday with a purple folder containing the following:**

- ***A blue or yellow journal to write in each day (or as often as possible) over break. The children will share when we return.***
- ***Two readers with accompanying activities. These are not required "assignments," but many of you have asked me for extra work over break.***

Enjoy your two weeks off!