



WEEK OF
MARCH 7TH 2011



Children's House One Update

Sound of the Week

Our sound of the week was **Tt** as is Turkey. The children were able to think of many words beginning with this sound including tooth, time, tall, and to. When we return from break our sound will be **Jj** as in jump.

Parts of a Leaf

Tuesday morning, Miss Stefanie introduced the children to the **parts of a leaf**. The children are now able to identify the petiole, stipule, veins, blade, and apex. To help the children internalize these parts of a leaf, they can make their own coloring book and match the wooden puzzle pieces to the control chart. Miss Stefanie also introduced the children to the Botany Cabinet – a three drawer cabinet containing the shapes of various leaves. The children enjoyed looking at the plants all around the classroom and identifying the different leaves.



Inspired by our circle lesson on the parts of a leaf, Brady traces and pin punches a leaf from the Botany Cabinet.



Sumana pin punches our sound of the week and then writes down some of the words beginning with that sound. Great job, Sumana!

Open Circle

On Wednesday during Open Circle, we continued our lesson on **Problem Solving**. Last week we identified what a problem is, and this week we talked about what to do when we encounter a problem. We used a picture of a traffic light to help us remember to **stop** (red) take a calming, and realize what the problem is, **think** (yellow) about a possible solution, and then **act** (green) on that solution.



Ellie concentrates as she practices number formation on the chalkboard. Excellent job remembering to start each number at the top!



Samantha carefully writes down the words she has just composed using the Large Moveable Alphabet. Great job stretching those words to hear every sound!

This Week's Snack Update



Monday

AM: muffins and yogurt tubes
PM: bananas and pretzel goldfish

Tuesday

AM: yogurt and strawberries
PM: apples and pretzels

Wednesday

Am: yogurt tubes and graham crackers
Pm: grapes and mini pitas w/cream cheese

Thursday

AM: graham crackers and strawberries
PM: bananas and goldfish crackers

Friday

AM: pita bread "pizzas" with cream cheese and berries
PM: crackers, cheese and grapes

Week of March 28 Snack Schedule

Monday: Kate (please also bring flowers for arranging)

Tuesday: Audrey

Wednesday: TJ

Thursday: Shriya

Friday: Brady's 5th Birthday Walk!

Happy 6th Birthday Zinna!

Friday morning we celebrated Zinna's 6th Birthday! We were joined by Zinna's parents, Chuck and Jamie as we all watched Zinna take her six ceremonious walks around our birthday sun. We saw some wonderful photos of Zinna from the day she was born right up to a recent trip to North Carolina where she was hiding in some bamboo. We learned that Zinna loves pancakes and everyone had very nice compliments for our good friend at the end of her birthday walk. Happy 6th Birthday Zinna! We love you!

"One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child"

-Maria Montessori

Authors of the Month: Don and Audrey Wood

Thursday morning we read a story by Don and Audrey Wood called Jubal's Wish. A chipper little bullfrog named Jubal is granted a wish, and after seeing his overworked and tired friends, he wishes happiness for everyone. We went around the circle and talked about times when we all made wishes and what we have wished for.



Zinna takes her fourth trip around the sun during her Birthday Celebration on Friday morning. Happy Birthday Zinna!

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.**