



**Girl Scout Troop
Visits the Little Flower**



From the Coordinator

May began with a special art project for Mother's Day. Dipping the soon-to-be butterfly wings in water color, making a colorful handprint, and painting and gluing their creative collage had all the children engaged and excited about their gift for Mommy.

We also enjoyed this month the visit of a Girl Scout troop who are working on their Community Service badge. Two of the Girl Scouts, Amira and Carolyn, are actually former Seedlings. It was great fun to have 10- and 11-year-old girls leading the Little Flower children in games such as Tag and Duck Duck Goose. Thank you, Girl Scouts!

Announcements

(For school closings, see "Closings" at bottom of page)

Cheerful Chipmunks

May has been a busy month for the Cheerful Chipmunk class. We began by learning about gardening. We gathered all the garden tools and started cleaning and tilling the soil in our garden plot. We found rocks, roots, and leaves. The Chipmunks were very happy to tell the whole class how much they helped their families planting at home. Ever since planting, we check every day on our sunflowers, beans, carrots, and corn, and all the Chipmunks really enjoy watering with their green watering cans. We like to sing songs while working in the garden, such as *The Garden Song* and *Inch by Inch...*

Branching out naturally from the theme of gardening, we began learning about insects such as caterpillars, ladybugs, dragonflies, bees and ants. We used finger puppets, books, stories, and toys to learn all about these fascinating creatures. Favorite books included **The Crawly Caterpillar**, **In the Woods** and **Butterfly**.

Now we are learning about camping. What do we eat when we're on a camping trip? Where do we sleep? How do we prepare our food? How can we make a tent?

The Chipmunks are preparing special art work for the Open House on June 13. We hope to see you there!



Closings

Remember: The Seed will be closed for Spring Break

Monday, May 24 through Friday, May 28

The Seed will also be closed on Memorial Day

Monday, May 31

Little Flower Newsletter

May 2010

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*Welcome to the
Little Flower:*

Tyler

Ruby

Ethan

These new Seedlings began
attending

The Little Flower this month.

We are so happy to have these
new friends with us!



Girl Scouts read to the Little Flower children at The Seed

Wonder Pets

We have been having great month learning all about gardening. We started off by reading the book **Seeds, Seeds, Seeds**. We examined many different kinds of seeds and learned how to identify them by size, shape and color. We counted them and put them together in groups. Then we went outside and picked some yellow dandelions. Rocco found one that had turned white and was going to seed. How fun! Just what we were learning about! When we blew on the dandelion puff, seeds flew all over the table. We put the small seeds on colored paper and used magnifying glasses to see each tiny seed better. We took the paper outside and watched the wind blow all the seeds in the air.

We also did some planting. We have carrots seeds in a root container, tomato seeds in small pots, green bean seeds in plastic cups, and pumpkin seeds in wet napkins in a plastic bag in the closet. So far the only ones sprouting are the tomato plants!

Some of the other books that we liked were **Surprise Garden** and **Growing up Story**, a story about how children grow just like us.

Let's build a house!



We really like to paint!



“THE SEED IS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE. IT REALLY IS WHERE CHILDREN BLOSSOM.”

Jolly Ranchers

Jolly Ranchers, Jolly Ranchers how does your garden grow? Everything and everyone is blooming and coming into their own. With Mother's Day came the theme of nurturing and tending to those we love. We learned about baby animals and how their mommies take care of their needs. Patience is a big part of the waiting process and the Ranchers have experience a growth spurt in this area as well. We continue to look for sprouts of corn as we tend to our garden. Sorting and matching baby farm animal pictures with their mothers was a big hit. We utilized the white board and flannel board to play variations of **Are You My Mother?** We ended our week with the classic story **Dumbo**. The Ranchers were relieved when Timothy Mouse came to Dumbo's aid. Couldn't everyone use a friend like Timothy Mouse?

We are having a great deal of fun as we research, explore and discover "Life On The Farm" from different perspectives: that of the farmer, a frog and of various animals of the children's' choice. Our focus this week has been "Machines on The Farm". What amazingly fantastic imaginations are coming to life as we design our own tractor! We will continue our Farm theme through the month of June.

Songs we are singing: *Over In the Barnyard; Old Mac Donald Had a Farm; This Is the Way We Drive the Tractor.*

Books we read: **Are You My Mother?**, **Farm Babies**, **TRACTORS**, **Parts of a Tractor**, **Elmo and Abby Visit the Farm.**



Music and Movement

This month the Marching Mice Band added new pieces to their repertoire:

Tap Your Sticks aims at helping children identify rhythm and beat and to learn to incorporate movement to music. They also learn other skills such as recognizing left and right, up and down, etc. Another new game is *Country Classics Stop and Start*. This is sort of a “freeze” game. The children have progressed in their ability to recognize when they have to play or when they have to stop. *Old MacDonald’s Farm* is still one of their favorite pieces. The Marching Mice request to play this song often, wanting to have a chance to “be” different animals as they pick a different instrument.

These days the Little Flower children especially enjoy a song and game called *Inside a Circle*. They begin by making a circle of friends. The directions tell them to put their hands, elbows, feet, etc., inside the circle. But the part they like best is the part when they put their whole selves in. They all laugh as they cuddle together.

The children are just beginning to learn to play another piece with rhythm sticks from the *Multicultural Stick Dances* CD. The piece they are learning is from Puerto Rico and so far it is one more way to have fun being part of the Marching Mice Band.

What a tower!

