

What's been happening?

Chinese classes have resumed thanks to Ms. Jian Ping Gao, Christopher's mom, who volunteered to come every Friday afternoon around 4:00. The children are reviewing what they learned with Ms. Haiying and are also learning a few new things, such as the birthday song in Chinese. How do children in China celebrate their birthdays? You can ask your child: you might find the answer to be unexpected. . .

For the celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Ms. Lourdes came to the Sunshine Room looking for two children who would like to accompany her in the presentation of this Mexican celebration. The lucky two were Callahan and Isabel. They wore traditional Mexican costumes and accompanied Ms. Lourdes as she showed the children where Mexico is on the map, explained how children in Mexico celebrate this day, and even danced to Mexican music. For lunch we all had tortilla chips. What fun!

Ms. Connie Conti, Robbie's mom, came to do a special craft for Mother's Day with the children. She prepared all the little details and the children had a great time creating their special "bunch of kisses" for Mom.
Thank you, Ms. Conti!

Coming up...

Family Day and Open House
Sunday, June 13 from 10:00 to 1:30.
Come with your family and celebrate all the great work the children have done throughout the year.
Delicious refreshments will be served.

End of the Year Show

This will take place on **Friday, June 25 at 4:00 pm.**
There will be singing, dancing and drama.
We are preparing a great show!
Refreshments will be served.



Language Arts

This month has been filled with poetry! All three groups have done similar activities at diverse complexity and skill levels.

Kindergarten

The kindergartners have continued reading more books each day. They have become very confident and excited about reading more and more challenging books. We have continued searching for sight words in the books and adding more to our list. The children even tell me words they think should be sight words because they know them so well.

We began learning about poetry by listening to various poems from books such as **Dirt on My Shirt**, by Jeff Foxworthy, **Where the Sidewalk Ends**, by Shel Silverstein, and more. We have exposed the children to a lot of rhyming poetry so that they can hear the patterns that many poems have. We work together to figure out the patterns that we hear by labeling rhyming lines with colors, shapes or letters. The children do also know that not all poems rhyme. We will get more into non-rhyming poems come June.

The children have also been able to write fill-in-the-blank sight word poems (big thanks to Mrs. Traver for sharing these poems with us!) that have helped the children practice sight words and get more experience with poetry.

Spotted Kittens

The Pre-Ks started out learning about poetry by listening to **Come Rhyme with Me** to help them listen to rhythms and rhymes, and poetry by Jeff Foxworthy and Shel Silverstein, as well as couple of other authors. They have also been working on fill-in-the-blank sight word poems, using words such as "the," "I," "a" and "see." We have worked on finding rhymes, rhythms and patterns in poetry as well. We will continue with poetry into June, when we will begin writing our own poetry.



The Sunshine Room Newsletter

May 2010

Page 2

Announcements

Closings

The Seed will be
closed for

Spring Break

Monday, May 24
through

Friday, May 28

And

Memorial Day

May 31



March Birthday

Nicholas Di Cioccio



ART

Happy May, everyone! We started off the month of May finishing our "top secret" Mother's Day gifts. Each group was given a different, special project to make for their mothers. We hope you enjoyed the gifts. We even wrapped the presents and made the cards ourselves.

In May, the Sunshine Roomers made cardboard puppets of themselves, using a variety of different-sized cardboard rectangles. They dressed and decorated their puppets with fabric and yarn, scrap materials, buttons and other embellishments. Come check them out—the close physical resemblance is amazing! They made themselves into a policeman, a pirate, and more!

The students also made original paintings using textured rollers exclusively. We created these rollers by using paper towel rolls and hot glue. The children rolled each roller in a tray of paint and layered each roller design on top of one another. It's amazing what you can create with paper towel rolls, hot glue and paint.

The Sunshine Roomers also finished their individual name banners and group banners for Open House/Family Day. The students chose what color they wanted to paint their name banner and then further decorated it with printed polka dots using corks and tempera paint.

The Spotted Kittens created an original butterfly tree using cardstock plus branches found in the playground. They used tempera paint and different colors of glitter to really make their butterflies stand out. The best part of the project was the fact that the entire Pre-k group worked together to create this beautiful butterfly tree! It's truly amazing how a little teamwork can help create such an amazing work of art! Way to go, Spotted Kittens!

And. . . there is always plenty of time in the Sunshine Room for play dough, free paint and free draw!

Come visit us in June! Family Day/Open House is just around the corner. Next on our creative list: Bird Houses!

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

May 2010

Page 3

Handwriting



Throughout the month of May, all the Sunshine Roomers have continued to hone their skills in writing lowercase letters. Each week, the children completed a worksheet with a different group of words related to insects, gardening and weather. It just so happens all of these topics connect with current and upcoming science investigations!

The kindergartners all continued to review lowercase letters and some uppercase letters in their workbooks. The Spotted Kittens were able to identify, from memory, “same-as” letters, which are letters whose shape is the same in both upper and lowercase: Cc, Oo, Ss, Vv, Ww, Xx and Zz. Very impressive!

At the end of June, each child’s collection of worksheets will be bound together in a handwriting book to take home. You will be able to see the progress and development of your child’s handwriting over a three-month period – March 23 to June 22. Look for it next month. The children have worked so hard and it shows!



Science

This month, the Sunshine Roomers completed a one-month gardening unit. It has been very interesting for them!

First, the children continued to measure, chart and predict the growth of their plants. Many of the children’s predictions were accurate; however, the children’s flowers didn’t even come close to meeting their predictions! When the children transplanted their vegetables and flowers outdoors on May 11, a few extra seeds were planted in the hopes that they would sprout. A week later, sure enough, the marigolds sprouted! Unfortunately, there is still no activity from the zinnias yet. The children were pleased to see that their lettuce began growing and that some of the bean plants and the radishes are still growing. It especially surprised the Rainbow Butterflies that their lettuce grew so much once planted outdoors!

The children all shared ideas about the differences between plants that were started indoors in pots and those that were seeded directly into the ground: how the soil was different, what effect the weather had and what we could do differently next time to ensure growth. It was agreed that planting all our seeds outdoors, rather than indoors, would possibly lead to success.

This month the children also took their lima bean plants home. Many of them have already shared changes they’ve observed. Olivia told us she moved her plant out of the bag and into soil and that she is waiting to see what happens. Anisha said that the leaves fell off hers! Several others noted, “The seed fell off.” In other words, the seed coat fell off and just the plant, which was once a baby plant inside of the seed coat, remained. How fascinating!

Lastly, the children learned about bees. During their free outdoor play, many of the children have been found digging for worms and pill bugs. They are always coming to show their discoveries to the teachers. What’s more appropriate than learning about the insects they are so fascinated by?

In June, the children will conclude their year in science discussing more insects, such as ants, mosquitoes and ladybugs. Stay tuned!

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

May 2010

Page 4

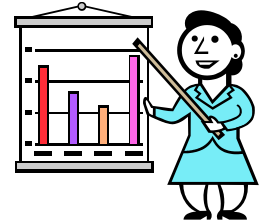


Drama

Drama classes have been devoted to planning and rehearsing for the **End of the School Year Show**. First, each group had to select the story they wanted to perform. Next, they had to pick roles. Then we had to adapt the story to our talented actors and to the stage. We then had to write the script and improve it as we tried to dramatize it. Then rehearsals could begin. We are now working with Ms. Erica to make our costumes, props and scenery. We are learning how the visual arts, music and dance enhance a theatrical performance, so we try to add them as well.

In helping the children choose a meaningful story to dramatize, the teacher had to consider the available roles according to the number of children in each group. So the Spotted Kittens will represent the classic *The Little Red Hen*, the Bald Eagles will perform the Native American legend *Arrow to the Sun*, and the Rainbow Butterflies will dramatize the Chinese legend *The Paper Dragon*.

You might wonder how is it that each group ended up with plays similar to the ones they did for their holiday show. We are still wondering, too. . . .



Math

Data, graphing, probability, addition: all this learning has been going on in the Sunshine Room during math time.

The teacher asked a question: How many children have pets? Who likes to play soccer? How many children are wearing yellow? Then we made a survey and kept track of the data. Once we gathered all the data, we were able to make a graph. By looking at the graph, we could easily tell the answer to the question.

The Spotted Kittens did their project by surveying how many children have pets and making a graph from the data they gathered. Their work is displayed at the entrance to the Sunshine Room.

The kindergartners practiced making their own surveys, collecting their own data and making their own graphs. They then learned an easy way of keeping track of data: tallying the tables.

From there, the kindergartners went into probability and chance. We flipped a coin ten times and kept a tally table of heads and tails. A good introduction to chance, since we never knew whether one or the other was going to come out. The children looked at dice to learn their characteristics. They then learned to distinguish games for which we need skill or intelligence to win from games for which we just need good luck to win. To exemplify this, we tried throwing the dice by turns to see who would get the highest number. It was just a matter of luck.

The next subject was addition. The introduction to addition was a blend of drama and math. The teacher told the children a simple story involving addition and asked them to dramatize it as it went. The children got enthusiastic and offered to make up their own stories as well. From then on, the subject of addition was a breeze. The preschoolers have been practicing simple addition of up to six digits, while the kindergartners have been exploring addition using the abacus, small toys, Unifix cubes, pennies and even dominoes. The theme culminated with the book **Domino Addition**, with the concept that the same result can be arrived at by combining different numbers.