

What's been happening?

Ms. Mary Padovani, Olivia's mom, who is a nurse, came to speak with the children about the importance of hand washing. She and her children had prepared a coloring book as a take-away reminder for the Sunshine Roomers. Thank you, Ms. Padovani!

Family Day and Open House

Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to this event with their help and treats. It made it really special.

End-of-Year Show

We celebrated the end of the year with our best show. Music, dance, drama and the visual arts combined to make the celebration extra-special. We then had a special moment to congratulate each child for all their efforts and to wish them a great future. Thank you for coming and celebrating with us.

Language Arts



Kindergarten

The kindergarteners continued learning about poetry. This month, they focused especially on acrostic poems, which they had learned a bit about in the beginning of the year. They practiced writing acrostic poems by using their names.

The children have also continued reading more and more books; we've just about run out of books! They get more and more excited with each new level they reach and are enthusiastic about reading more.

To finish up the school year, they have been reviewing the skills they have learned throughout the year, especially sight words. They also had some loose ends to tie up, such as completing their Father's Day Acrostic Poems and Memory Books, which the children have been ecstatic about. We hope they will look back on these books with fond memories in the years to come.

Finally, the kindergarteners have been practicing an important developing skill: summarizing and re-telling stories.

Spotted Kittens

The Pre-Ks have been continuing with poetry as well. Like the kindergarteners, they worked on acrostic poems. They also reviewed patterns in poetry. They even came up with their own, creative, group poem about their class getting lost in a museum where everything comes alive and is chasing them.

The children made another "Friendship Quilt" as part of the curriculum on character building. We noticed, with pleasure, how much more skillful their artwork is, and how they are able to find more words to describe their friends in a positive way.

The Spotted Kittens have also been excited to work on their memory books, which hopefully they will look back on when they're older and smile.

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

June 2010

Page 2

Announcements

The Seed will be

CLOSED

July 5, 2010

Independence
Day

(observed)

June Birthdays

Rachel

Jake



ART

How time flies when you are having so much fun! What a month June has been for Art!

The Sunshine Roomers began the month by finishing their name and group banners for Open House. We made a Spotted Kittens name banner, A Bald Eagle name Banner, and a Rainbow Butterflies banner. The Open House was a great success due to all the AMAZING artwork my little artists created! Great job, Sunshine Roomers! BRAVO!!

Once the Open House was behind us, the students began preparing for their end-of-year show by making costumes for their dance routines and plays. They also made props and the backdrop.

The Sunshine Roomers worked extra-hard on their Father's Day gifts this year. They wrote original poems about their dads and then decorated a frame to hold the poem. They decorated their frames with acrylic paints, glitter and stickers. They also included pictures of themselves inside the frame.

For our last week of school, the children engaged in free paint, free draw, play dough, drawing with sidewalk chalk outdoors in the play yard, water painting on pavement and more.

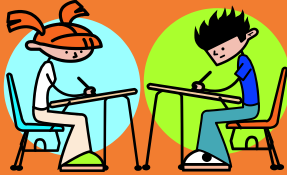
The year has been such a pleasure! I enjoyed working with every single one of the Sunshine Roomers! I will miss you all and hope you will all come back and visit Miss Erica! Thank you to the parents for all the generous donations. I appreciate all of your thoughtfulness! Remember to keep on painting, creating, imagining—and there is always time to doodle! Good luck next year and remember: you are all artists with amazing imaginations!!!!

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

June 2010

Page 3

Handwriting



Prior to the week off, the children (Spotted Kittens included!) expressed interest in writing sentences rather than copying a list of words per week. So when we returned to school, the children buckled down and gave it a shot. This proved challenging, but worth it! The children were pleased with themselves when they completed these tasks. It truly helped them discover the difference between writing on blank paper vs. lined paper. They spent the first three weeks of June writing short sentences.

Groups of lowercase letters were reviewed: tall (b, d, f, h, k, l, t), low (g, j, p, q, y) and most frequently used (e, o, a, t, n and s).

The last week of school was devoted to finishing up handwriting workbooks and completing the covers of the children's handwriting books, which contain all of the worksheets completed in the last three months. Your child's collection of work displays much growth and progress.

We had lots of fun and learned so much in handwriting class. The skills developed will help your children throughout their lives. Excellent work, children!



Science

The month of June was devoted to a topic that is timely (given the warm weather): BUGS!

Ants, mosquitoes and ladybugs were all studied. The children shared much previous knowledge and made an impressive list of facts prior to learning some new information. The children discussed and learned what these insects eat, their lifespan, anatomy, habitat and—in some cases—the different types that exist (i.e., there are many types of ants, such as fire ants, leaf-cutter ants and carpenter ants). Some new vocabulary was introduced as well – carnivore vs. herbivore, colony, swarm, pronotum, elytra, thorax, abdomen and aphid. They also learned the structure of an ant colony and were especially fascinated by the extremely large queen ant. One day, some of the Rainbow Butterflies discovered a queen ant outside during playtime! Seeing this ant and comparing her to the other ants we usually see truly made this learning experience unforgettable!

We also learned that in the United States alone, there are 400 types of ladybugs. Ladybugs come with different numbers of spots, are red, orange or yellow in color, and have different diets! Luckily for us, on the day of our ladybug lesson Justin discovered a ladybug with four spots! We hadn't seen a 4-spotted ladybug in any pictures we viewed during the lesson, so it was exciting to see. Great job, Justin!

We studied so many different topics in science this year, yet day after day the children have spent many hours digging and searching for bugs outdoors, so it was the perfect way to end the year!

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

June 2010

Page 4



Drama

This month has been dedicated to play rehearsals for the show. The Spotted Kittens prepared *The Little Red Hen*; the Bald Eagles prepared *Arrow to the Sun*; and the Rainbow Butterflies prepared *The Paper Dragon*.

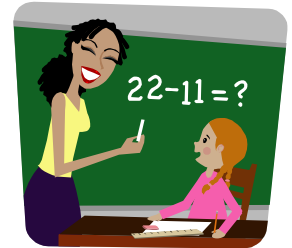
The children have been learning their lines and the basics of performance. Where to stand on the stage, where to move, when to come in, when to exit and even when to take their bows, are all movements that need to be combined with words. In addition, they need to remember when to say their lines.

Once the children were ready, they performed their plays for each other. Then, they performed the dress rehearsals for the children in the Blossom and the children in the Little Flower.

Finally, the day of the show arrived. And you know the rest of the story...

The children worked very hard preparing their plays, and it showed. But, most importantly, they enjoyed the process. Every time they had drama class, they all cheered, yay!

Congratulations to all the children for the excellent plays they put on!



Math

This month we learned subtraction. The children, who had just learned to add, had to switch gears and now learn to take away. We started by dramatizing stories that the teacher told, and then the children asked for their turn to tell their own stories.

The kindergartners practiced subtraction using Unifix cubes and small toys. Then they played store. They all received some pennies with which to buy objects at the cash register. How much money did they have at the beginning and how much did they have left after they bought the toy?

The Spotted Kittens learned subtraction by singing and dramatizing the songs "Five Green and Speckled Frogs," "Five Green Bottles" and "Five Little Monkeys." They also used small toys to practice subtraction.

Finally, the kindergartners, learned to identify which operation they would need to use (addition or subtraction) to solve a particular problem. Then they had to write the correct operation sentence. The children were thrilled to arrive at the last page of their workbooks, and proudly took them home.

To close the year in math, the teacher read *How Much is a Million?* and reviewed all the concepts the children learned throughout the year. Wow! It has been quite a year full of learning and fun with math.