

What's been happening?

Summer Camp has been going full blast in the Sunshine Room. Each day is full of active learning, play and fun. The children who moved into the room have adapted very well to the new environment, while the "old hands" have been great friends and mentors.



Thank you to all the families who attended the performances of *Strega Nona*! All the groups (or should we call them troupes?) put on a great performance.

We hope you all enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt the children prepared—did you find the treasure?????????

Coming up...

Summer Session Three:

This session will be dedicated to dance and Ms. Randi will teach the children Latin American dances. Since the children are learning Spanish, they will also be singing songs in Spanish. The show will take place on Friday, August 13 at 4:30. Don't miss the piñata and refreshments at the end!

Summer Session 4:

The children's art will be displayed in a museum format throughout the last week of the summer. Come by at any time and

Literature and Drama



As you know Summer Camp Session One was especially devoted to literature and drama.

First, the teacher read the book *Strega Nona* to the children and asked them if they wanted to turn it into a play and perform it for their families. The children responded immediately, positively, and enthusiastically. But they had a question: How were they going to make all that pasta? We consulted Ms. Erica, who told us not to worry, that she would figure it out (and she did!).

The children knew from the first who they wanted to portray—whether it was the main character, the person with the stomachache, or someone else. The children with the most drama experience were given the main roles, and the less experienced actors had parts with one or two lines.

Rehearsals began once all the roles had been assigned. This involved not only remembering lines but also learning how to move, where to stand, when to enter and leave the stage and, most difficult of all, "pasta management".

The drama experience included making props, picking out costumes and practicing the play. As we went along, we also enriched the experience by reading several other books that Tomie de Paola has written about *Strega Nona* and *Big Anthony*: *Strega Nona: Her Story*; *Big Anthony: His Story*; *Strega Nona Goes on Vacation*; *Strega Nona's Harvest*; *Strega Nona's Magic Tricks*; *Strega Nona Meets Her Match*;, and *Big Anthony and the Magic Ring*.

Wanting to add some singing to the show, we chose "On Top of Spaghetti", which the children sang very well after the play.

We learned about the history of pasta, how pasta is made today, and where Italy is. To cap it all off, the children made Italian cookies to serve for refreshments on the day of their show.

Our newest performers had a great time and enjoyed the thrill of playing before an audience. They were tickled to have their parents come and watch them perform.

Our future first graders were disappointed to find out that there were no plans to perform more stories about *Strega Nona*. This turned out to be one of those great "teaching moments": As budding writers as well as budding actors, the children were asked to think about a play of their own. What play could they write? What would it be about? How would they stage it? Now it is their turn to become playwrights!

Announcements

The Seed will be
CLOSED
August 30 through
September 6



July Birthday

Christopher R.



Fourth of July Parade

ART

What busy Campers we have been this summer in the Sunshine Room. In art, there is always so much to do. The summer started with the Sunshine Campers preparing the set and props for their play, *Strega Nona*. The children painted large pieces of cardboard for Strega Nona's house. They also created flowers and a large pasta pot for the play.

The children have been doing a lot of free painting this month. Sometimes it's just fun to paint whatever comes to our imaginations☺

The Sunshine Campers also made original butterfly buddies this month. Using tempera paint, cardboard, googly eyes and pipe cleaners, we created one-of-a-kind friends.

Another art activity this summer was spin art paintings. How fun to see paint twirl and whirl around to create new colors!

Our favorite projects this month were creating our very own fish tank and underwater bulletin board scene. We used the book, *Commotion in the Ocean*, by Giles Andreae, as our source of inspiration. Each child decided which character from the book they wanted to recreate for their bulletin board. Special materials such as glitter and tissue paper were used to enhance our underwater friends.

The Campers also created a "Welcome to Camp" flower garden. Using paper plates and cardboard scraps, campers created a very colorful and original paper flower garden.

Finally, each Camper started creating individual works of art for the Museum Art Show exhibition in August.

Come check out all the amazing projects we finished in the Sunshine Room. We hope you enjoy viewing our artwork as much as we did making it!

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

July 2010

Page 3

Water Play



July has brought us many steamy days. Luckily for us, we have our water table and sprinkler ready to go every afternoon! The kids have really enjoyed playing and splashing around at the water table, as well as watering the plants all around the play yard.

Sprinkler time has been a special time because of all the fun games we have been playing in it. The kids jump in the sprinkler and “break” it or “magically” turn it off when they jump through it. They move in closer to investigate what’s happening and—voila! The sprinkler turns back on, splashing everyone in the face! Squeals of delight can be heard across the play yard.

The children have also had a chance to “sing in the rain” or “take a shower” when the teacher holds the sprinkler above their heads.

They have also observed the effects of water pressure – someone using the water indoors or flushing a toilet affects the height of the sprinkler, and the children ask many questions as to why this happens!

Sports, Games, and Other Activities



The children have had lots of fun learning new games this summer. Summer Session One was mostly focused on getting to know each other with some icebreaker games and learning how to play on teams. The children also learned great games to play during afternoon playtime.

The first week we played a lot of games for getting to know each other, such as “Elbow Tag,” “People to People,” and “Wizards, Elves and Giants,” as well as others. The children loved these games and worked very cooperatively together. They even initiated playing these later on in the day.

The next two weeks the children learned the basics of kickball, softball and soccer. These also helped the children learn how to play cooperatively.

During Summer Session Two, the children played kickball following all the rules. They also learned the starting position for running, and ran all different kinds of races. They even had a relay race. While some children are fast forward runners, others are great frog hoppers, while yet others are great sideways runners, giving all an opportunity to shine.

The game of hopscotch is great for coordination, and we also added the learning of different types of hopscotch around the world, making it a multicultural learning experience. On carnival day we had a blast. We also learned to jump rope, and improve ball skills with different games.

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

July 2010

Page 4

PARENT PARTICIPATION

CAREER DAY

Career Day was an interesting and educational experience for all!

Mr. Jim Molloy, Calvin's dad, works as a detective for the NYC police. He showed the children his badge and walkie-talkie. He also showed a device that allows him to check whether a driver's license is false. He explained how he became a detective and why: because he wants to help people.

Steven Zwick, Dylan's dad, discussed his job as a banker. He asked, "What do you think a banker does?" and received the response, "Take people's money!" Well, sort of! He explained he helps people organize and keep track of their money. He then asked the children to name each coin and give its value. The Rock 'n Rollers really knew their stuff! He also gave each child a gold dollar coin and a backpack!

Dawn Moore, Ashli's mom, talked about working with color. She sells all different colors to different companies that manufacture makeup, nail polish, and body care products like soap. Each child got to feel a sample of the color of their choice (in powder form) and got to take home different shaped/colored soaps made by Ashli and her mom. The soaps smelled delicious, like strawberries!

Thank you, Mr. Molloy, Mr. Zwick and Mrs. Moore for your time and generosity! We had so much fun!



Scavenger Hunt

Session Two was about learning to read maps, tell direction and creating scavenger hunts.

We introduced the session by completing mazes. We compared mazes to using maps to find our way places. Using books, maps and globes we learned how to read maps by looking at the key and following other signs on the map.

To incorporate technology into the lessons, and share modern ways that people use to find their way around, we went on the computer and explored Google Maps. We even got a close-up look of a satellite photo of The Seed Day Care Center and saw Ms. Kristin's yellow car in the parking lot!

Ms. Kristin created a couple of scavenger hunts for the children to learn how to read a map, practice using a compass, problem solve and create their own scavenger hunts for their families. The children also applied what they learned when reading sample city and island maps, and when looking at a compass that did not have the cardinal points.

At the end of the session the children were able to help their families through scavenger hunts that they created to find a treasure at the end. They also got to make a road map of a community, which they will be able to play with using toy cars throughout the summer and during the school year.