

The Blossom Newsletter



October 2011

Art

Page 1



Spider web art activity

October was an exciting month for art. We talked about different colors that remind us of autumn, such as, orange, yellow, and brown. We made leaf collages and leaf stencils to show how leaves start to change color in the fall season.

We made so many Halloween projects! We started by making colorful, sequined Jack-O-Lanterns. We also made ghosts by using huge coffee filters and dipping them into watercolor paints. They look so spooky!

We also made bats by painting our hands black to make the wings. Your children really enjoyed this project! We used our pinkies to create the eyes for our bats.

We talked about patterns and made some beautiful Halloween pictures by creating a pattern of our own.

We used white and black paint and dipped Halloween sponges in the paint to create our lovely pictures.

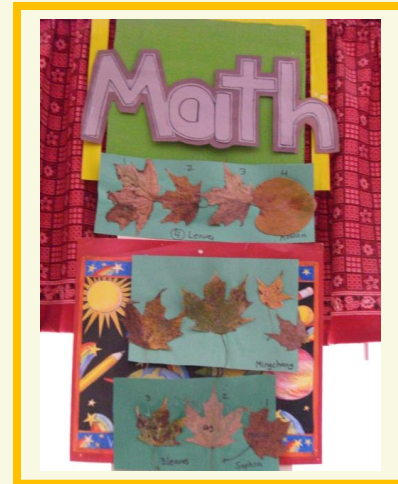
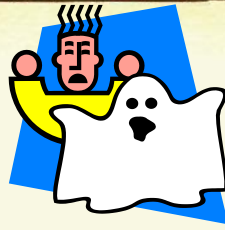
We also talked about different spiders and how all spider webs are not the same. We learned that spiders have eight legs and they have spinnerets that shoot out silk to make their webs!

Throughout the month, we have been utilizing our fine motor skills by drawing beautiful pictures, practicing holding our paint brushes when we paint, and using scissors when we cut. We will sharpen these skills throughout the year.

Stay tuned for next month. November brings Thanksgiving, which is one of my favorite holidays! Happy Autumn!



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



The month of October was very busy with many math activities.

We started the month with activities using fall leaves. We went on a fall walk, and discussed the color change that occurs in autumn leaves.

Questions began to arise, such as: How many colors of leaves do you see? Are they the same size or are some bigger or smaller than others?

Afterwards, they collected leaves and sorted them by color, counted them, and discussed their shapes. We took a close look at maple leaves and counted the number of points and the number of veins. By doing “fall math”, the children have focused on the concept of size, gained experience in sequencing, closely observed fall colors and more.

For our final activity, the groups of older children placed the leaves in sequence from smallest to largest and largest to smallest. The groups of younger children placed their leaves on paper and counted them.

This month, the children were also introduced to patterns. We discussed different patterns that happen to be all around us, from the clothing we wear to the repeating patterns found in nature and our everyday routines. The children worked in groups to place the leaves in patterns such as yellow-red-yellow-red...green-yellow-green-yellow...big-small-big-small, etc. These hands-on activities were displayed in math class along with our “Apple Graph”. The results of our graph showed that the Red Delicious apples were the overall favorite among the children. We will continue to work on patterns and create more graphs in a variety of ways throughout the year.





Yoga class

Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Mingcheng
Hannah
Molly
Luca
Alison
Penelope
Evan

ESPAÑOL

¡Hola! This month the children and their Spanish teacher took advantage of the good weather, so we only had Spanish class on rainy days. On those days we colored zapallos (pumpkins) naranja y negro (black and orange), to make Halloween pictures. You can see them in the Spanish corner. ¡Adios!

This month the children had a lot of fun playing outside in the beautiful weather. We played many games there, with two of our favorites being Duck, Duck, Goose and freeze tag. The children learned that in freeze tag they had to work together to unfreeze their teammates. They also learned to trust their teammates, knowing that when they became frozen their teammates would do everything they could to unfreeze them.

When the weather prevented us from going outside, we stayed indoors and went on magical yoga adventures. On one such adventure, Katie's room became a zoo where (learning and using the animal yoga poses) we magically became the animals. We were the monkeys high up in the trees, the elephants drinking with our trunks, the giraffes using our long necks to reach the highest leaves. We were the penguins waddling on the ice, the birds flying high in the sky, the lions with their mighty roar. We were the butterflies with two sets of wings, the sharks that live deep in the waters. Each group added some of their own animals to our zoo, (new ones each time we went) so it is almost impossible to list all the animals in our Yoga Zoo.

The children also had a lot of fun dancing to music. Some songs were a little bit tricky but the children enjoyed the challenge. One such song was *Keep Moving* and you had to move certain parts of your body while keeping the other parts still. Another song was *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. The children loved the music the faster it went.

One of the children's favorite things this fun-filled month was to act out songs. The children were ecstatic when we listened to a new version of the *Bear Hunt* and couldn't stop laughing when at the end of the song it turned out we were being chased by a little bitty bunny (we must have gone to the wrong cave). It has become one of the children's favorite songs. Another all-time favorite song is *We Are the Dinosaurs*.

We also had a lot of fun just putting on music and dancing however the music made us feel we should dance. The children danced slowly to the slow music and, when we put on music with a faster pace, their dancing also sped up, it looks like the children like moving to the beat of the music.

We have continued with our relaxing meditation at the end of our classes. It helps the children to relax and get ready for more learning and fun.



Language Arts

Page 4

To start out the month of October, we read the books *The Little Cloud* by Eric Carle and *It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles G. Shaw. These stories portrayed clouds to look as if they were another object in the sky. To encourage the children's vivid imaginations, they were asked to lie down on the grass, look up at the sky and mention what they saw. The children enjoyed sharing their ideas and thoughts with their group.

The following day, we did a "Spilt Milk" activity, using only white paint on blue construction paper to form a cloud. With the materials given to them, the children were asked to blot paint. When the paper was folded in half a new shape appeared! The idea behind the activity was to look at the cloud from a different perspective, as though its particular shape appeared to be something else. This activity brought the story to life and enabled the children to get creative with their imaginations.



"It looked like a firefighter hat but . . . it was really a cloud." Vincent M.

Throughout the month we read a variety of fall stories, which encouraged the children to point out the "autumn words" which are displayed in our classroom. To support their fine motor skills, the children have been tracing leaves and making leaf rubbings.

After reading a selection of autumn stories, we did an autumn activity. The children were asked to draw a story about fall, and their ideas were documented.

Red and orange play dough, along with orange shaving cream, have been utilized throughout the month to support the formation and recognition of letters.

Towards the end of this month we have recited many Halloween songs, finger plays and stories to celebrate the upcoming event!



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



Science

Science this October has been one sensory experience after another, filling our scientists with great expectations and enthusiasm.

Their science challenges began with a test of their sense of hearing, as they tried to guess the contents of small containers when they were shaken. They were able to guess the sounds of rattling beans, rice, crayons, cotton, paper clips, and other things. Other “hearing” activities the children enjoyed were listening to CDs with earphones, and guessing the name of the instrument that was played behind a screen.

Next they tested their sense of smell by classifying odiferous items as pleasant and unpleasant. Among the items they sniffed were perfume, onions, garlic, apples, bananas, soap, cinnamon, and toothpaste.

During their scientific investigation of taste, everyone got to taste salt and sugar to differentiate the two. As a very tasty activity, the children tasted and smelled lemons and made their own lemonade, which they drank with a

great deal of enjoyment.

For the senses of sight and smell, the children measured and compared pumpkins and apples with rulers, measuring tapes and magnifying glasses. After comparisons were made, everyone got to scoop out and wash the seeds of their big round pumpkin. Once the seeds were clean, our scientists planted and watched them sprout.



We wish you all a safe and happy Halloween.





At The Seed we celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, which is a big Indian Festival, and one that Ms. Lily, our math teacher, and many of our Indian-American students celebrate.

Ms. Lily presented and shared fun social activities with the children.

First, she shared her culture by reading a story about Diwali. Then she and the children discussed traditional clothing, and she brought in clothes that most people like to wear at the time of the big festival. The children were allowed to try on these traditional Indian clothes, and they were shown how to arrange a sari, which is a 5- to 9-yard long piece of fabric that Indian women wear. The children were very interested in this! One day Ms. Lily wore a sari to school and another day she wore a traditional Indian outfit called a salwar-kurta.

In preparation for Diwali, the children did some fun activities such as making a diya (a candle holder) out of clay. During Diwali, people light hundreds of small oil lamps to welcome the goddess Lakshmi, and also to symbolically clean the air. They place these lamps around the home, in the garden, and on the rooftops and outer walls.

Another activity is called rangoli (a Diwali pattern activity). The children used colored sand to make designs. In India, a rangoli is a colorful design made on the floor near the entrance to a house to welcome guests. At Diwali, we draw bright rangoli patterns to encourage the goddess Lakshmi to enter our home.

The Panda Friends crafted a beautiful Indian national bird called the peacock and the Panda Friends and Quacking Ducks crafted an Indian national flower called the lotus. Some of this work is displayed on the bulletin board for all to admire.

Ms. Lily (teacher) and Aadarsh (Seedling) teach the children about Diwali

