

The Sunshine Room Newsletter

October 2010

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What's been happening?

October is an exciting month for many reasons: the children are now used to the classroom routine and are discovering how much there is to learn. They are finding out about beautiful seasonal changes and that (or maybe they already knew this) Halloween is so much fun.

Halloween has inspired art work, reading, writing, counting, math activities and science. From drawing Halloween pictures to writing "boo!" and discovering that they can write even more words, the children have been motivated to try new things and learn.

This month culminated with our Halloween Show. The children worked very hard learning the songs, dances and play for their performance. They enjoyed every part of the process and were up to the challenge. One day they put on their show for the Little Flower children. The next day they they invited some Blossom children to watch their dress rehearsal. Today is the Big Day, when the will perform for their families. We know it will be a big success!

Thank you for coming and for all your cooperation with the show.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Language Arts

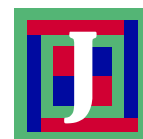
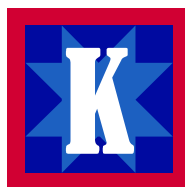


The children have worked their way through all of the consonants! They have learned the lower case letters, capital letters and the sound of each consonant, and continue to review them.

They have also enjoyed reviewing their sight words. Everyone loves having a turn to come upto the board to circle a sight word within a sentence or point to a sight word in the book or poem that we are reading.

In addition to sight words and learning our letter sounds, we have begun sounding out words and learning about word families and rhyming words. The children are catching on quickly and are applying what they learn in language arts class to their activities writer's workshop, which you may notice on some of the papers they are bringing home with them.

We continue to read more and more books each week and learn new sight words along the way. We will also keep reviewing our consonants a bit more and begin to learn the five hard workers: THE VOWELS!



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Announcements

The Seed will be
CLOSED

Veterans' Day

Thursday,
November 11

Thanksgiving

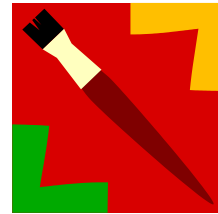
Thursday and
Friday
November 25 & 26



Picture day will
be

Tuesday,
November 16

ART



The children have been creating many beautiful works of art and of course this month there have been multiple Halloween-themed projects. Our artists have experimented with crayon and pastel resist. First, each child was given a "blank" piece of paper (their name was written with a white crayon). When painted on with watercolors, their names suddenly appeared! Similarly, with their Halloween pastel resist projects, the children observed black watercolor paint not sticking to their Jack-o-Lanterns, ghosts, witches, skeletons, spiders or haunted houses, and their drawings stood out against the new, dark backdrop. Several of the pieces now adorn the walls of the classroom!

The children really focused on the upcoming holiday, Halloween! After reading the book *Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate*, the children constructed their own gate using Popsicle sticks, and made their own Jack-O-Lanterns from orange construction paper. The children also made spider webs and spiders. The webs were made using a marble dipped in white paint and letting it roll all over a black piece of construction paper. Their spiders were made from their handprints. The children especially enjoyed this activity and getting their hands dirty. For the final Halloween activity the children made their own ghost!

The children were also a very big help decorating the Halloween bulletin board. Ms. Torri drew a haunted house and placed the children's pictures in the windows. The children drew things that they see on Halloween to surround the house: bats, ghosts, owls, scarecrows, mummies, spiders, pumpkins, and skeletons.

In preparation for the Halloween play, *Where the Wild Things Are*, the children made their "Wild Thing" masks and painted the backdrop and boat.

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Handwriting



This was another busy and educational month in handwriting class! The children have really nailed the routine and are following directions very well!

This month, the children learned the letters H, K, L, U, V, W, X, Y and Z. The letters were taught 3 at a time, and it seems each group had an “easy” letter. This really increased the children’s level of confidence and desire to continue! Their favorite letter, not surprisingly, was K, which has a silly story to help them remember how to write it. You have probably heard the story of “Karate K” at home, but if not, ask your child to tell it to you!

At the end of the month, the children reviewed all nine letters by writing them in sand, making for an educational sensory activity.

Next month the children will begin a unit of “center starter” letters. Stay tuned!

Math



Wow, what a month! We got SO much done in math class! We spent the first two weeks reviewing our September topics: directionality and classification. The kindergartners got their math workbooks this month and, to put it mildly, they LOVE to use them! They get disappointed when, after they’ve completed their weekly lessons, they have to wait until NEXT week to use their workbooks again!

The second half of the month was devoted to pattern-making: **AB**, **ABB** and **AAB** patterns were all created. The children used their bodies to make patterns (lifting arms up, down, up, down...) and Unifix cubes, creating a given pattern of alternating colors. They loved seeing how long they could make their patterns, which also helped deepen their understanding. While the kindergartners used their workbooks, the pre-ks were given worksheets about shapes and patterns, and were quick to finish them! This group just loves busy work.

In November we will continue to build with blocks every Wednesday, and return to the topic of counting!

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Drama



This month began with the reading of the story *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak. The children really enjoyed the story and wanted to dramatize it over and over again. The teacher thought it would be a good idea to present it for the Halloween show. So she made a few changes:

In our version, the main characters are a boy *and* a girl, the “wild things” wear their Halloween costumes, and the mischief at the beginning is resolved at the end.

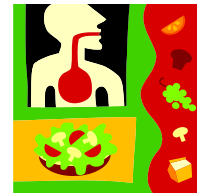
The children chose their parts and rehearsed in small groups. The big challenge was to put all the groups together for the final rehearsals but the children were up to the task. After a couple of times they were ready to rehearse with their masks and then do the full dress rehearsal.

It was a wonderful and fun process. It will be a great experience to finalize the project by holding the performance in front of an audience of family and friends.

Science



The children have finished their unit on the five senses; however, they are not finished using them in class! We continue to use our five senses to help us with our health unit, “The Human Body and Nutrition”.



The children are learning about the different parts of their bodies, the systems such as the digestive system, nervous system, muscles and skeleton and how they move and feel. They have also been learning about healthy foods and habits.

We even had a special guest: Ms. Madeline came in to class to share about her broken wrist. Everyone got to sign her cast!

