

# The Blossom Newsletter

February 2011

## Art

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February proved to be a very creative month in the Blossom. We started by creating personalized hearts for Valentine's Day. Next, we created lanterns, rabbits and goldfish for Chinese New Year. After both holidays passed, there was still plenty of time to use our imaginations to create original artwork. The children began by making mono prints (a type of printmaking using ink and pencil), dip painting (where children discovered an unusual way to mix watercolors to create new colors on a paper towel), string painting (where students design a painting using string and tempera paint while learning about line and composition), and "Mouse Paint" taken from the popular children's book where three curious mice discover the primary colors and learn that by mixing them they can create new ones!

Our multi-cultural project of the month was creating Khamsa hands, which are a sign of good luck in Morocco. These hands are usually adorned with precious metals such as gold, silver and bronze. To decorate our hands we used glitter, tin

foil, beads and jewels. Come and see our work in the glass cabinet located in the front entryway of the Blossom.

The children also created two AMAZING bulletin boards. Each board is based on a beloved children's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle, and *The Rainbow Fish*, by Marcus Pfister. The children recreated their favorite characters by using everyday items such as egg cartons, brown paper bags, and paper plates. They enjoyed incorporating literacy into their artwork.



The children all worked extremely hard this month. Please come and see the wonderful displays of their art!



*The Seed: Where Children Blossom*

# Math

We started the month of February with a Valentine math project. The children created their own patterns inside hearts, using different colored pieces of paper. Some children used “AB” patterns and some used “ABC” patterns. They did a wonderful job using their pattern skills!

Next, we talked about the basic concepts of fractions, using hands-on-activities. We cut apples in halves, thirds, and quarters. This activity included problem solving. For example, the children needed to figure out how many apples they would need to serve all eight children in class if the apples were cut into fourths. This was both fun and delicious.



Our pre-k groups continue to work on counting by 2's, and forming groups of 10 objects. The children are also learning to count by 10's.

Next month, we will start to work on non-standard measurements while continuing to work on fractions!



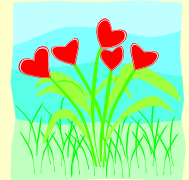


# Yoga and Movement

February has been a month full of movement. We started with the celebration of the Chinese New Year, dancing to songs such as “Dancing Dragon” and the “Lion Dance Song.”

It was the children’s idea to include the solar system theme inspired by their work in science class. We have gone to space in a rocket ship powered by many of the yoga poses we have learned, such as rock, tree, table, chair, boat, owl, cobra, lizard, butterfly, flamingo, starfish, lion, elephant, monkey, giraffe, downward dog, cow, cat and many others to take us to the stars and back.

## ESPAÑOL



During the month of February, the Spanish students drew lots and lots of CORAZONES ROJOS (red hearts). Valentine’s Day was a day to remember all the family members and friends we love. “Un corazón” for each loved one became “muchos corazones”.

During the week of Chinese New Year we wished FELICIDADES = HAPPINESS to our friends celebrating this important occasion.

Now we are waiting for spring with all its colors.

# Announcements



For the month of February, the children enjoyed decorating Chinese New Year pictures using red and yellow for good luck.

Valentine's Day was in everyone's minds as the children were asked to draw someone special in their heart. The children dictated something about who they drew in their heart and why, which we documented next to their picture. We extended this activity with a variety of Valentine's Day books and songs to celebrate this fun holiday. Cardboard hearts were available to the children to trace, decorate and write words such as: love, heart and Valentine's Day.

We also created a Valentine's Day list poem:



Everyone in each group was asked to think about what Valentine's Day meant to them. Encouraging the children to share their ideas generated many new wonderful thoughts and ideas, which were shared with each group and written down by the teacher to form a Valentine's poem.



We continued to practice Zoo-phonics, handwriting skills and letter recognition. In conjunction with those activities, we continued reading books that contain many rhymes, and the older groups have even begun to write their own rhymes, which are currently displayed on the bulletin board. The children are excited to find out how to spell words and write them down.

The concept of opposites has also been introduced to the children. We will continue to work on these concepts and next month we will also begin discussing feelings and friendship.



# Science



This month the children began an imaginary journey into our solar system, a mindboggling experience for our young space scientists.

Going beyond the Earth's atmosphere has led the children to talk and teach each other about all the planets. It's amazing to discover how much they already knew about the subject. By now many of our young scientists have chosen their favorite planet and talk about taking a voyage to it one day.

To support the interests of our space travelers, we have been helping them expand their knowledge with our historic wooden adventure space set, which has scenes of a Voyage to the Moon, a Lunar Module, Blast-off to the Moon, Earth Mission Control, and Mission Moon Golf. In class we blew up balloons representing the solar system, provided books devoted to each planet, and photographs of space scientists and space ships.

See you with more space news in March. Have a great month!



*Edna Jones 1100 West 1100 Street*



*The Seed: Where Children Blossom*