

# The Blossom Newsletter

March 2011

## Art

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Some self-portraits

March proved to be a very busy month in the Art Room. Besides celebrating St. Patrick's Day by making a shamrock with recycled green paper and green glitter, the children had the opportunity to learn about some artists and art techniques.

We began by learning about artist **Helen Frankenthaler**. Mrs. Frankenthaler is still alive today and lives in NYC. She created a style known as "color field" painting. We created our own color field paintings by pouring and dripping paint onto paper, just like she did.

We also learned about the concept of **symmetry**, creating butterflies with wings that are exactly the same.

**Self-portraits** came next: the children began by looking into the mirror and deciding what shape their head is. Next, we added ears, a neck and shoulders. We discussed skin tones, and how different these can be from one person to the next, mixing tempera paint till we were able to capture the skin tone for each individual portrait. We discussed **facial features** and where these are located on our faces. Finally, we added special decorations and hair to our portraits to complete our work. It took two weeks to complete our portraits, and we are very proud of what we accomplished!

We also had time for **marble painting**. Taking ordinary marbles and dipping them in different colored paints, we placed a sheet

of white paper in a tin tray and rolled the marbles all over the paper to create an original painting.

We learned about **composition**, or where items, colors and shapes are placed in a painting.

For our final project of the month, we always include a multi-cultural lesson. This month we learned about the **Native Americans** of North America, and why they wear moccasins. We learned the importance of moccasins in Native American culture and made our very own moccasin art. First, we traced around our own feet.



Next, we created **patterns** using beans, which resemble the beaded designs found on authentic moccasins.

In the art room this month we experimented with play dough to strengthen our hand muscles.

As always, there was plenty of time for free drawing and painting.

Please come and look at how hard we worked this month in art. We hope you enjoy our work as much as we did creating it!



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# Math

During the month of March we continued working on fractions and fraction art. Our pre-k groups were asked to fold a circle in half. They found that the circle was divided into two parts, and then they folded the circle in half again. They discovered how the circle was made up of four parts. Finally, they were asked to fold their circles one last time. This time, they unfolded the circle and saw that there were eight parts in their circle. They then cut out the eight parts of their circles. With these eight sections they created their own "fraction art"—a fraction mouse, fraction pizza, fraction snake, and fraction dog, for example.



Pizza cut in sixths

Our younger groups worked on a pizza theme. They were asked to color the paper plate as a pizza pie. I sectioned the paper plate pies into sixths and they cut it in six pieces.

They learned that one pizza cut into six pieces is still one pizza, and two halves make one whole! The project was finalized by arranging and gluing the pieces on paper.



Ms. Lily and math class

For St. Patrick's Day, we talked about the shamrock (four-leaf clover) in detail. The children colored a shamrock green and cut it into five parts: four leaves and a stem. Then they put it back together—like a puzzle—and glued it on paper.

In the graph corner, we created an individual group chart: "How many letters in your name?" This chart shows the number of letters in their names, and how many names contain the same number of letters, along with whose name has the most or least letters.

During this last week of March we have started to work on non-standard measurement. We will continue these activities in April.



# Announcements



Sebastian  
Aadarsh  
Aidan R.  
Alex S.  
Gabriella  
Helen

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March has been an exciting month for the children.

We started the month off with trust games. The children were asked to take turns being a sculpture and a sculptor. The sculptor would gently move the sculpture's arms to make poses.

The children also enjoyed making a forest, using the tree yoga pose, and counting the trees in different languages such as Spanish and Chinese.

Next, in celebration for St. Patrick's Day, we went on an adventure to Ireland, using our yoga poses such as dolphin, banana, tree, flamingo, owl, duck, swan, and horse to make the airplane or boat move. Once in Ireland, we went on a search for the leprechaun and his gold.

We have been learning Irish step dancing, a very popular form of dance in Ireland. As we were learning the steps, we also learned how to count out the steps in Gaelic, which fascinated the children.

## ESPAÑOL



Now that spring is here, we looked at flowers and counted them. In Spanish class we learned that one flower = *una flor* and many flowers = *muchas flores*.

Next in Spanish class we will do art, our favorite part. Soon you will see *flores* everywhere.

# Language Arts

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The month of March has been a very busy one for the children. We began the month with a week dedicated to friendship and feelings. Several books were read to the children about these particular topics. Afterwards, the children were asked to discuss and explore the topic of friendship and feelings through role playing, puppet play, sharing ideas with one another, drawing pictures, and dictating their comments to the teacher. The children were asked to draw a picture of friendship and explain what a friend was. These pictures were later displayed to share with families and friends.

The children were also encouraged to share ideas about the correct ways to cope with anger and appropriate ways to calm down. They came up with some wonderful ideas, such as walking away, taking deep breaths, drawing a picture, talking about it with someone or even taking a walk! Being given the opportunity to explore the concept of feelings also enabled the children to understand that feelings change. We can feel happy, sad, angry, surprised, scared, worried, excited, tired, etc. Discovering all these different emotions and sharing ideas with one another generated new ideas and we all learned from each other.



Creating letters with wooden shapes

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, we read several stories about leprechauns. We discovered that if you were to catch a leprechaun he would offer his pot of gold in exchange for his freedom. Shamrock stencils were given to the children to strengthen fine motor skills and handwriting. Afterwards, the children were asked to draw a picture of what they felt lucky to have, and these responses were documented. The shamrocks are currently on display in the Butterfly Room. We introduced green play dough to support fine motor skills. We gave out roll-a-dough letter cards to encourage the children to make letters out of play dough.

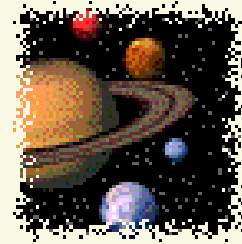
Stay tuned for more fun language arts activities in our April newsletter!



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# Science



"My space ship is going to Saturn!"

"I'm going to Venus!"

"Let's go to Pluto now!"

"Five, four, three, two, one, lift off!"

March has been filled with these and many other excited exclamations, making it clear that the children are very interested in the solar system. As this theme has been one of their favorites, every class is working on building their own space project: The Very Bright Builders are making a powerful space station while the Curious Explorers are having fun designing their own space telescope. The Sparkling Unicorns are creating an extraordinary space satellite,

They all have a secret and special mission that will be revealed on Family Day in June.



and the Bouncing Bunnies are building the Eagle space module that was the first to land on the moon. The Jungle Friends are making a special space probe and, last but not least, the Rubber Duckies are assembling a space ship.