

The Blossom Newsletter

April 2011

Art

This month, the children of the Blossom learned about artist **Georgia O'Keeffe**, who liked to paint pictures of flowers. She peeked into the flowers and showed us **what she saw inside**. She also **stretched her petals** to the edge of the page. The children made flowers all by themselves. First, they made a fist with one of their hands and place it in the center of their paper. Using their other hand, they traced around their fist and create a large center for their flower. Next, they opened their fist and laid it on the paper with thumb tucked in to make a petal. They used their other hand to trace around the "**petal hand**," repeating this step until their entire page was filled with petals. The students had to make all the **important decisions** about their flowers: They chose what colors and petal shapes their flower would have. They chose a color of glitter to highlight their flowers. Sometimes the choices were easy and sometimes they were hard. The children even **looked at and discussed flowers painted by Georgia O'Keeffe**. They learned a very important lesson in creating their flowers. Sometimes, **to find true beauty, you must take a closer look**. Things are not always as they seem.

We continued to add more flowers to our Georgia O'Keeffe garden. This time our flowers were **3-dimensional**. Using recycled paint cans and paper plates, we created one-of-a kind "**pop-up**" flowers.

We also learned about the **lotus** or water lily, which is a sacred flower of **India**. The lotus is regarded in many different cultures, especially in Eastern religions, as a **symbol** of purity, enlightenment, and rebirth.



Page 1

Children's flowers inspired
by
Georgia O'Keeffe

We created our lotuses by painting paper towels with watercolors.

The Very Bright Builders and the Curious Explorers worked together in groups to create sunflowers inspired by artist **Vincent Van Gogh**. Vincent Van Gogh liked to paint flowers too, just like Georgia O'Keeffe. One of Vincent's favorite flowers was the **sunflower**. The children worked together to create their very own sunflowers. **They learned important lessons about working together, communicating, sharing and compromising**. When we learn to communicate and compromise, beautiful things **BLOOM**.



For our **multicultural** lesson of the month, the children created peacocks. **Peacocks** are the national bird of **India**. The peacock represents **grace, joy, beauty and love**. The peacock is a large and majestic bird. In India, people believe that whenever the peacock spreads its tail, it indicates that rain is coming.

Come visit our garden and see how hard we worked! It does not matter if it's cold or rainy outside. The art room is always in bloom no matter what the weather!!!



The Seed: Where Children Blossom

Math



This month, we worked on standard and non-standard measurements. We measured different items such as stuffed bears, dolls, books and a table using non-standard tools such as Unifix cubes, blocks, Popsicle sticks, hands, and feet. The children also measured the math corner and each other by using the double and quad block units. Next, we compared the double units with quad units (how many double units equal one quad unit and how many square units are equal to one double unit?) The children were excited to discover how tall they were by using the blocks, cubes, and sticks to measure their height. One fun activity was measuring their long jump. We measured their jump with a length of yarn. They compared their long jump with those of their classmates to find out whose jump was the longest and whose was the shortest. It was so much fun for them to jump and "see" their distance.



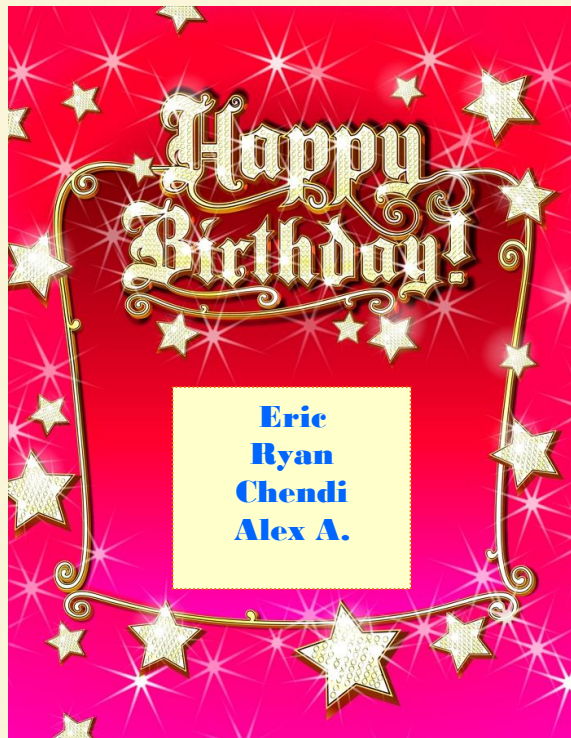
Next, we introduced standard measurement units using a ruler and measuring different objects. The children will continue to work on measurements next month as well.



Measuring Jazmine

During the last two weeks of April, we started to work on the theme of money. We discussed the purpose of money for obtaining food, toys, clothing, and for giving to charity and so on. We talked about how to save money and how to make our money grow. Coins such as pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters were introduced to the children. They compared coins and learned about the value of each coin. We played a cashier register game, buying and paying for things. We worked on coin-rubbing activities to make an impression of the coins. In the graph corner, we created a "flip graph". We flipped a coin and graphed the number of heads and tails.

Announcements



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



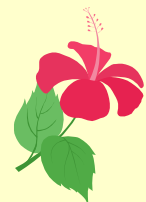
Yoga and Movement

In the hope that, with the coming of spring, nice weather would follow, the children “became” a picnic. They practiced some of their favorite yoga poses such as table, chair, and banana. The children also learned some new poses like the apple pose and sandwich pose, and they enjoyed taking turns to tell their friends the type of sandwich they were pretending to be. Using their imaginations, the children made up the cup-of-milk pose and the water pose, because everyone needs a drink with their sandwiches!

We have also started using *The ABC's of Yoga for Kids*. The children enjoy learning the poems that go with each pose. We have practiced the airplane pose, alligator pose and the thrilling challenge of the new bridge pose, which the children are enjoying immensely.

After a fun time in yoga and movement, the children have been learning to let their bodies rest, using a form of relaxation called meditation, in which we concentrate on our breathing. The children have also enjoyed marching like dinosaurs along with the song “We Are the Dinosaurs.”

ESPAÑOL



During Spanish class, the children counted the petals of a flower in Spanish. The children also finished decorating their **flores** with

Language Arts

Page 3

In celebration of springtime, we have continued to sing our spring songs and finger plays. The children practiced their handwriting and pencil grip by tracing with spring-themed stencils. In mid-April we read the story **What Pet to Get**, by Emma Dodd. The children really enjoyed this particular silly story, which inspired us to use our imaginations and say which pet we would choose if we could pick any animal we wanted! These ideas were conveyed through the children's individual drawings, and their thoughts and ideas were transmitted into words that the teacher documented. The children really enjoyed this imaginative opportunity and their drawings are now displayed in the language arts area.



The older children have continued to practice writing "Spring Words". These words include spring, plant, grow, bloom, rain, flowers, birds, warm, grass and seed. Some of this wonderful writing is displayed on our writing wall, as well.



To encourage and promote writing, we have also used other media as alternatives to the traditional pencil-and-paper way of practicing letters and writing. These have included our handwriting without tears wooden shapes, play dough, individual whiteboards with markers, and even shaving cream. The shaving cream activity was by far the children's favorite! They really enjoyed drawing pictures, forming letters, writing simple words and even their names using shaving cream.

Our "Ladybug Letters" and "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" games have been fun and helpful to promote identifying and matching upper- and lower-case letters, repeating words and turn-taking skills.



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



Science

Hi everyone!

After exploring the solar system so successfully, the children found a new exciting investigation, called "Mission: Our Planet Earth". During their voyage over the planet earth, our scientists learned all about deserts, mountains, caves, and volcanoes, all formations found on our planet. Our scientists were also introduced to the climatic changes that are happening constantly on our planet. Everyone got to be a weather watcher and place a sticker on the science weather board according to their observations. They learned to describe the seasons and seasonal temperatures.



Cleaning up our environment