

# The Blossom Newsletter

May 2011

## Art

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May was a very busy month in the art room. We started off the month by making our **Mother's Day** projects. The children used their own **handprint** to represent the stems of their potted flowers.

Next came the exciting task of creating **name banners** for the Open House. The children began by choosing a **background** color. Next, using a variety of **art materials**, they **stamped, dripped mixed colors** and **created patterns** to individualize their banners. Next, they chose either a **primary or secondary** color to stamp their name onto their banners. Lastly, we added their **cardboard puppets** to one end of the banner. The students worked very hard on their name banners. We hope you enjoy them at the Open House as much as we did creating them.

In the month of May the children also learned about artist **Jackson Pollock**. They learned that this artist created a type of painting called "**Action Painting**". When someone **action paints, they drip, pour, splatter**, and even **mix paint right on the canvas**. In action painting, the paintbrush barely touches the canvas. To achieve this specific technique, the students used string, marbles, sponges and paintbrushes to create their own action paintings. We had a lot of fun painting like Mr. Pollock!

The children also created one-of-a-kind **compositions** using the **technique** known as **Collage**. When creating collages, the students choose a variety of **shapes** in different sizes and colors. By placing these shapes together, they create a picture. Their imaginations ran wild. Some of them made tractors, flowers and people. Others made city skylines, houses and animals.

For our **multicultural** project, the children created **Japanese Kokeshi dolls**. Dolls are considered an important part of many Japanese Festivals.



The Kokeshi doll is made out of a long round piece of wood, usually from the dogwood tree, and has a large, round head. Kokeshi dolls have no arms or legs, and their faces, hair and clothing are all painted with bright colors. The children created their own version of a Kokeshi doll by using **recycled** paper for the head, and paper towel rolls for the body. They then used collage paper and tempera paint to add the hair, face and clothing to their dolls.

Please come to the art room and see how hard we have worked this month!



*The Seed: Where Children Blossom*



# Math

It's hard to believe that we are so close to the end of the school year. I am very proud to see how much the children have progressed and continue to progress.

The first two weeks of this month, we continued hands-on work with "money math" and measurement.

The next two weeks we discussed time concepts. We talked about the calendar and learned songs about the days of the week and the months of the year. Our daily routine involves singing these songs. We talked about terms like yesterday, today, tomorrow, before and after. We also introduced the clock: the numerals on the clock face, the long (minute) hand and the short (hour) hand.



As an extension of the time theme, we read **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** and **The Grouchy Lady Bug** by Eric Carle.



## Counting flower petals

In their spare time, the children started to work on their math books.

And yes, we have not forgotten to spend time outdoors and enjoy the weather as weather permits!

Next month is The Seed's annual Open House and Family Day. We are all very excited and are working very hard. We welcome all of you to come to see your child's hard work.



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# Announcements

**Save the date!**

## The Seed Day Care Center

### Family Day & Open House

Sunday, June 12, 2011

10:00a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Delicious Refreshments

2084 Baldwin Rd. & 2175 Crompond Rd.  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

914-962-9622

[www.TheSeedDayCare.com](http://www.TheSeedDayCare.com)

Additional parking available at French Hill School



*Happy Birthday!*

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## Yoga and Movement



With spring now here, and with the children inspired by their work with seeds in science class, they wanted to act out the life cycle of a seed.

Starting out as tiny seeds, the children began to their journey. They used their hands to imitate rain and sun as roots slowly formed. Next the children, as shoots, happily pretended to make their way out of the ground, where they sprouted leaves. Then they pretended to be little sprouts growing into big flowers. Using their imaginations, they told their friends what kinds of flowers they had become: roses, sunflowers, even “princess” and “Batman” flowers. Our pretend garden was unique and full of imagination and fun, as the children bloomed.

We have continued our work with the “ABC’s of Yoga for Kids” by Teresa Anne Power. The children are continuing to see and try new yoga poses, such as swan, rag doll, queen and king, slide and flower. The children continue to enjoy hearing the poems that go with each pose and picking out the rhymes.

The children have also continued to enjoy meditating, giving their bodies and minds a short rest.

## ESPAÑOL



During class the Spanish students worked to embellish their art projects for the Open House while using Spanish words for colors, numbers and objects.

# Language Arts

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In celebration of Mother's Day we read a variety of books such as **On Mother's Lap, Guess How Much I Love You!** and **Mama Do You Love Me?** The children enjoyed listening to these books and sharing their own stories about their mothers.

This month we also continued to learn our letter sounds using Zoo-phonics, rhyming, and singing our spring songs and finger-plays. We have also continued to practice our handwriting skills, and the four pre-k groups have even started sounding out and writing simple words and rhymes. These children are really starting to show an interest in how to spell words!

The children exhibited much excitement for our finger-painting activity.

The idea was to mix up two different colors to see what new color would appear. We used, yellow and red to make orange; blue and yellow to make green; and red and blue to create purple. The children loved guessing what color would appear when the two colors were all



mixed together! Next, the children were asked to use their pointer finger to write letters and/or words in the paint. Afterwards, a piece of paper was placed on top of their creation. We used our hands to rub over the paper, and when we peeled the paper off, the finger paint picture appeared! Everyone had so much fun!

Throughout the school year we have documented the children's work and activities by collecting and/or photographing what they do. Many of the activities that have been mentioned in previous newsletters will be displayed on the day of the Open House. The children have worked so hard and are so excited to show their work to their families and friends!



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# Science

In science, the children learned all about seeds, their names, shapes, colors, and their importance in our diet and their essential purpose for our planet Earth. Among the seeds they examined carefully were corn seeds, bean seeds, pumpkin seeds, lettuce seeds, carrots seeds, tomato seeds, cucumbers seeds, and many others from our seed collection.

Once everyone knew all about seeds, we were ready to explore the next theme that everybody was waiting for: plants! Our scientists found out that a plant has a stem, roots, leaves, flowers, fruit and/or seeds. They learned that plants need water, sunlight and soil to grow.



Since all the children were very curious about plants, they were very impressed when they learned about rainforest vegetation. As a result, they painted their own beautiful tropical rainforest, where they played with their



favorite bugs and wild animals.

Next our scientists will be exploring the fascinating world of bugs.

We are planning some magnet activities for everyone to have fun during The Seed's Open House and Family Day, along with some other science surprises.

Don't forget to come to the science room on Open House Day!

