

# The Sunshine Room Newsletter

June



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## What's Been Happening

And finally, the last month of the school year arrived. We counted 182 days of school (leaving out the days it snowed and more than half the students were absent).

Family Day was a great event, which all the children had been awaiting with great anticipation. They very much enjoyed reading their journals and stories to their families. Showing all their work and how much they had learned in all subjects made them feel very important.

The year's grand finale was a show with singing, dancing, and acting, and included a special good-bye ceremony. The children performed brilliantly in the show and it was truly a memorable and moving occasion!

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## Language Arts

My, how the time has flown! June already and the children have amazed me with their reading and writing skills! This month has been devoted to review and working on writing poems. The kindergarteners wrote a couple of acrostic poems which have helped them to learn about descriptive words and how to describe things. They also continued to read books that were related to topics we were learning in science.

The pre-Ks continued going over the letters of the alphabet to reinforce them before kindergarten.

The children also became acquainted with "Foundations," a literacy program used in public schools to teach phonics, much like the Zoo-phonics program we use at The Seed.

Finally, the children filled out their "memory books" filled with information about big events that happened to them this year, a list of their favorites, who their friends were and their plans for the future. Hopefully they will read these later on and look back fondly on their memories in the Sunshine Room!



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THE SEED DAY CARE CENTER  
where children blossom



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## Announcements

*Please return  
all library  
books. Thank  
you!*

*Thank you all for a  
wonderful school  
year. We wish you  
the best for the future  
and you can be sure  
that we will always  
remember you.*

*Lots of love,  
The Teachers*



Happy  
Birthday!



**Rees and Calvin**

## Art



We dedicated the first two weeks of June to finishing all our projects for Family Day. We painted the background for the display “Long, long ago”, which had dinosaurs and a volcano in it. For the display “Under the Sea”, the children used sand and seashells in addition to the paint. The “Butterfly Garden” display showed the different stages of the butterfly: caterpillar, cocoon and butterfly. The children enjoyed choosing what display they would collaborate with and what kind of animal they would paint. They used their social skills as well as their artistic skills to work as a team.

Another project the children got to work on were etched monoprints, which are featured in their art portfolios. Using the eraser end of a pencil, the children etched designs into black paint before transferring the designs to a white piece of paper by placing the paper on top of the paint and rubbing it with their hands.

After Family Day, the children dedicated themselves to decorating the frames for the acrostic poems they wrote for their dads. They all wanted to choose a color that they knew their dad would like.

Finally, we dedicated the rest of the month to preparing for the show. We made props and costumes, using plenty of imagination.

We hope you enjoyed the art displayed on Family Day: it reflected the hard work of the children throughout the year. They have certainly learned and developed their skills. We hope they continue to enjoy art in the future as much as they have throughout this year.



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Math

## Drama



Drama this month was dedicated to rehearsals of the plays the children performed during the End of the Year show. Although the plays might seem simple, there were many elements that the children needed to learn: timing (when to come in, when to say their lines), saying their lines (memorizing), placement on the stage (where to stand, where to move), and conveying emotion. After they had learned all this, they needed to continually remember to always face the audience and project their voices. Quite a task for young children, and they were up to the challenge. They liked drama so much that, during playtime, they read each other's stories and tried to dramatize them.

The children have really enjoyed drama throughout the year and have become great performers.



In the first week and a half of the month we continued learning addition. The children practiced adding with pennies and enjoyed making up their own stories about how they were spending their money. The kindergartners and also some of the pre-Ks learned how to work with the addition domino set, finding a domino with an addition problem on it and finding a domino with the answer to attach to it, and building a domino train. They loved the challenge!

The kindergartners especially were excited about learning subtraction, because subtraction is the 12<sup>TH</sup> and final chapter in their workbook! As when the children learned addition, most of the same manipulatives were utilized: counting bears, Unifix cubes, pebbles, counters, and pennies. The children were also taught how to use the See and Solve Manipulative Set, where they got to combine two skills: using numbers and symbols to write the subtraction problem, and placing rings on rods (the number of rings represents the written number). They loved challenging each other!

Subtraction also came in handy at morning meeting, when the children would count down the number of days remaining in the school year. They were able to perform two operations: the number of days until the last day of school (counting weekends) and the number of *school* days left until the last day of school (not including weekends).

We are so very impressed with our young mathematicians and are proud of all of their achievements in math this year!

## Upcoming Events



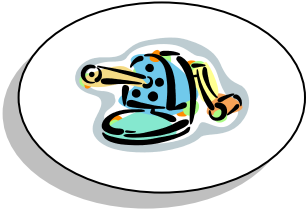
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## Handwriting



This month the children completed three more handwriting worksheets: weather words, school supplies, and “All about Me” (containing two sentences). During the last week of school, each child created the cover for their handwriting journal, which was presented to them at the end-of-the-year show to take home and review. The handwriting journal contains 11 worksheets, which is 11 weeks-worth of work! We did it! We completed our handwriting journals!

The kindergartners continued in their handwriting workbooks, but did not complete them in their entirety. It is recommended that your child continue reviewing in the workbook over the summer. “Use it or lose it,” as they say!

To the Sunshine Roomers: congratulations on a job well done in handwriting! You have learned so much and your handwriting journal and workbook are proof!

## Science



We were able to fit two more units into the last month of the year! The children were so excited to learn about dinosaurs at the beginning of the month! We learned how people discovered and still find out new things about dinosaurs, theories that scientists have about why dinosaurs became extinct. We looked at actual fossils and visualized the size of some dinosaurs by measuring on the black top. Special thanks to Kory (Oscar’s mom) for bringing in fossils for us to see—they were great and the children were very excited to observe them! We even got to watch some movies to help us learn more about dinosaurs.

The last couple of weeks were devoted to outer space. The children learned about our Earth and its layers, the sun and why it is important, our moon, the planets and the solar system. The children have done a lot of hands-on activities to learn about space, such as modeling clay into the three layers of earth, using Oreos to display the phases of the moon and observed the effects of the sun using construction paper.

