

# The Sunshine Room Newsletter

July



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## What's Been Happening

From the Independence Day parade, to baking cookies, to experiencing the "Mentos Geyser", the children have been having a great time in the Sunshine Room Summer Camp.

The oldest children decided they wanted to be called the "Pegasus Tamers," since they were fascinated by one of our library books about myths and legends. The group of younger children heard the suggestion "Shooting Stars," and instantly knew that was the right name for them.

One special event took place last Friday, when we videoconferenced with Ms. Kristin in Australia! While it was 10:00 a.m. here in New York, it was 12:00 midnight for Kristin. When we told the children that it was Saturday there, Roman sagely added, "And winter, too." We were all delighted to be able to talk to her.



## Literature and Drama

In choosing a work to perform for their show, the children were instantly taken with Pat Hutchins' *The Doorbell Rang*. Even as the teacher was reading it for the first time, the children were picking who they'd like to play. Of course, they are pros in drama and knew exactly what was coming. The initial script based solely on the story turned out to be too easy for them. So the teacher took advantage and incorporated the language of good manners into the dialogue and the "Sharing" song at the end. The children gave their input as to what props to add. All and all, they made the play their own with their personal touches and expressions. The "Pegasus Tamers" were ready for more, so their play turned into a musical. They performed the "Chicken Dance," transitioning beautifully back and forth from acting to dancing.

As the children prepared their performances, Ms. Halie shared her professional knowledge of theatre and stage with them, explaining the roles of sound technicians, light specialists and more. We invited the children from the other buildings to the dress rehearsals, something both sides thoroughly enjoyed.

Drama goes hand in hand with literature. The children were read a book by Pat Hutchins every day before rehearsal. They also read some books about cookies, such as *If You Take a Mouse to School* and *Too Many Cookies*, both by Laura Numeroff, author of the classic *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.

The children made delicious chocolate chip cookies for the reception after the show. This also had a literature component, since the recipe came from the book *What's In a Cookie?*, which describes the steps involved in making cookies while giving the background and history of every ingredient. This was a good segue into science, the theme of Session II.

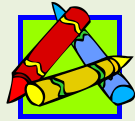
And... no one makes cookies like the Sunshine Room campers!

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THE SEED DAY CARE CENTER  
where children blossom



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## Announcements

Dance Show will  
be on Friday,  
August 12, 2011  
at 4:30 pm.



Please keep an eye on your parent file during the week of August 8 – 10 for an invitation to the dance show and a note about costume needs for that event.

We appreciate your help in making the children look their best for the show and, of course, your endless support by coming to watch the performance!

Happy  
Birthday!

Allie  
Christopher



## Art



We kicked off summer 2011 with a very timely art project: Uncle Sam hats in honor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! The children spent all week painting red, white, and blue stripes on their hats and stars on their hats' brims. Then Ms. Randi and Ms. Halie attached the brims to the tall portion of the hat and added elastic to go under the children's chins. The hats were then worn for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade that took place in our own play yard on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone looked very patriotic (and a bit reminiscent of Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat*)! ☺

Next, we made a rainbow handprint mural which decorates our big bulletin board.

Immediately after that, the children got right down to work painting the scenery for their play, *The Doorbell Rang*. Everyone had a hand in painting the refrigerator, kitchen window, cabinets, wallpaper and, of course, the door! Well done, everyone!

Two smaller projects were completed after the play was over: name patterns (made with crayons) and etched monoprints (made with black paint and the eraser end of a pencil).

The last weeks of July involved projects related to the session's theme: science. The children made color wheels (when spun, the colors seem to disappear and you see white!), bandanas (exploring pigmentation), and pan flutes (to go along with a study on sound). Everything was enjoyed at the science fair and the children got to take their projects home!

On the last day of July, the children got to play with fresh, homemade gak. Some of the children asked how to make gak so here is the recipe:

You need equal parts of white Elmer's glue and liquid starch, plus a few drops of food coloring. (Note: The only nearby store at which Ms. Randi has been able to find liquid starch is the Red Mills Market in Mahopac, located near the laundry detergent. The brand is Linit.) Simply mix the food coloring into the liquid starch, add the glue, and stir. The gak will initially have little "bags" of glue, so work the gak with your fingers to "pop" the bags so all the ingredients combine. Last step: have fun!

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## Sports and Games

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



We welcomed summer with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration! In art class with Ms. Randi the children made Uncle Sam hats. These decorative top hats were the perfect accessory for our parade around the playground. We marched with children from both the Blossom and the Little Flower and played a variety of musical instruments to celebrate the occasion. We had a lot of fun marching to the beat of our own drums and waving to teachers and parents who gathered to watch!



Tag, you're it! We started camp off this summer with a selection of tag games including Sharks and Barracudas, Fishy, Fishy, Cross My Ocean, and Pizza Party. We also spent some time playing old favorites like Capture the Flag, What Time is it, Mr. Fox? and Red Light, Green Light. The children had lots of fun learning new games and remembering old favorites together.

From tag games we moved on to baseball. The children spent a week participating in lead-up activities where they learned skills like how to run bases, throw underhand and overhand, and proper batting stance. At the end of the week, we had a baseball game. Batter up!

After baseball, the children learned about soccer. We played Soccer Bull to learn about passing and trapping the ball, and Line Soccer to practice footwork and goal keeping. The children enjoyed running after the ball and playing together with their friends!

The last week of July was spent on basketball. The children practiced chest and bounce passes by playing Bull in the Ring (a game similar to Monkey in the Middle). We had a basketball relay which involved dribbling, running, passing and shooting the ball. On Thursday, we put all the skills together in a game of modified basketball. Great job, everyone!

## Upcoming Events



June dance show rehearsal

Dance Show will be on Friday, August 12, 2011 at 4:30 pm.



June dance show rehearsal

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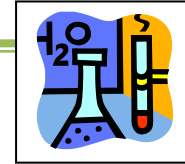


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## July photos



## Science



Session II was permeated with questions, hypotheses, research, and lots of experiments.

It all started with a classic volcano eruption, which we caused by combining vinegar and baking soda.

The second chemical experiment was making a lava lamp by mixing oil, water, food coloring and Alka-Seltzer in a water bottle.

We continued our science with the exploration of magnets, learning about attraction and polarity.

Crystal-growing was daring, but we were able to grow two different types of crystals using a kit. We also made rock candy (the most *delicious* crystal!).

We made shadows by utilizing an artificial light source and we made shadow puppets.

We continued with the subject of light by making a rainbow with a prism, learning that we can see colors when the light bends. The children also used kaleidoscopes.

The children found out that many things we eat have color added to them, by watching the pigmentation of candy spread on wet paper.

Their favorite experiment was the vanishing marbles. The teacher showed the children what seemed to be a clear container with water. However, when they placed their hands into it, they discovered it was full of “squishy” marbles! The explanation for why light rays pass right through the water and the spheres without being scattered is because Jelly Marbles and water have an identical refraction index.

Making sounds with different objects was fun, but can we see sound? The children discovered that they could see vibration, produced by sound passing through a medium such as paper clips bouncing on a drum.

Like “real” scientists, the children kept science journals, recording their experiments and what they learned each time.

The science fair was a great opportunity for the children to share their experiments and learning—and their fascination and amazement with the world of discovery science—with their families.

The grand finale of Session II was explosive! You can try it yourself: Put seven Mentos brand mint candies in a 2 litre bottle of diet Coke and run! . . . Because the soda erupts from the bottle much like a geyser does. We did this experiment twice, and the expressions of the children were priceless. (See picture to the left)