

The Blossom Newsletter

September 2011

Art

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Introducing Mirlinda Celaj,
our new art teacher.
Welcome, Ms. Mirlinda!

Happy September and welcome to the new school year!

We began this month with the celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival, creating beautiful lanterns.

We have also used our great imaginations to create watercolor pictures which you can find hanging in the Art Room.

We've also learned about different textures and created a layered picture with out handprints.

This month we have been focusing on practicing the different skills that we use in the classroom such as holding a paintbrush correctly, how to hold and cut with scissors, and the right way to hold our markers, colored pencils, and crayons. We're almost experts at these skills!

We have also created very colorful collages using different shapes, such as rectangles, squares, circles, and triangles, to name a few.

Later on in the month we will be experimenting with new materials and techniques.

We will also be starting our projects to celebrate Halloween and the change of season from summer to autumn.

Look in our folders and in the art room to see the children's wonderful artwork.



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



Math

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Welcome to the new school year! I (Ms. Lily) will be your child's math teacher this school year. I am very happy and excited to be working with all the children!

The children will be learning math concepts in fun ways, with various hands-on activities, puzzles, games and finger plays. They will also be working on fine motor skills as they learn to write numbers.

During the first week of September, we spent our time getting to know each other and making new friends. The second and third week, I started math class off by explaining to the children what math is and what we are going to be doing.

The children come to math with their new group-mates. We counted the number of children in the group and counted how many boys and how many girls there are. We discussed the concepts of more or less. Are there more boys or more girls in the group, for example.

The circle was also introduced, and discussed in detail. One activity was sequencing, cutting out different sized circles and putting them in order from largest to smallest. Next, we will talk about squares and rectangles.



Lily Patel, our math teacher

Last week we worked on something we call “apple math”. We discussed different varieties of apples, how they are different from one another, their colors, and shapes. The fun part was to taste the apples. Before cutting them open, the children were asked to estimate the number of seeds inside. After cutting the apples, we counted the seeds, and compared the actual number to the estimates on the chart and discussed whose guess was the closest. Our next activity will be to create a “favorite apple” graph.

In the reading corner, we have read the following books related to math: *Counting One Two Three*, *Chicka Chicka 1 2 3*, *My First Look at the Colors*, and *My Shapes*.



The Seed: Where Children Blossom



Dawn Quintin, our yoga teacher

Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Oliver C.
Matthew
John



ESPAÑOL

Felicitas
Castex, our
Spanish teacher



Spanish classes will start in October. September was devoted to letting the children get familiar with the daily routine and become acquainted with their group mates. So...*iNos veremos pronto!*

The children started September by making new friends. We played all kinds of games that promote learning about ourselves, our friends and working together. A game that helps us do that is one that the children worked together to make up. They call it “The Circle Game”: All the children make a circle and then a child goes into the circle and can say or show something they like to do. For example dance, jump, skip and hop.

Lately the weather has been so nice that we have class outside. We have continued to work on turn-taking and working together by playing “Pass the Basketball. The goal of the game is for children to work in groups and, as its name implies, to pass the ball to their teammates, therefore building teamwork. The children enjoyed playing outside working together to create new games and building a world created out of their imagination.

In Yoga we’ve begun to introduce a few poses, such as the easy pose, which helps the children focus on the coming task. We have “visited” a pond and the children have used the frog pose to turn into frogs and hop from lily pad to lily pad. They have become the trees that surround the pond and the butterflies that fly from leaf to leaf, laughing all the way.

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Language Arts

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To begin the new school year, we read the book *I'm Gonna Like Me*, by Jamie Lee Curtis, which is a story that promotes self-esteem. After the book was read, the children were encouraged to think of something they liked about themselves and share it with the group. Another book we read was *When I Was Little*, also by Jamie Lee Curtis. This story initiated a discussion about what babies can and cannot do, and what the Blossom children are currently able to do.

In another activity, the children were asked to figure out what a face is composed of. For example: two eyes, one nose, two ears, etc. Following this conversation, the children were encouraged to draw their own self-portraits. This activity supported self-awareness and also pre-handwriting skills, by requiring quite a bit of control over their drawing implement. After finishing their portraits, everyone was encouraged to share something about themselves.



Allison Forde, our language arts teacher

These sharings were written down and attached to the self-portraits.

Another topic of discussion was friendship. The children were asked to share their thoughts and ideas about the question, "What is a friend?" The ensuing conversation generated a lively exchange of ideas. The children were then asked to create their own picture of friendship. To support the friendship activity we read the following stories: *Franklin's New Friend*, *Rainbow Fish*, *A Color of His Own* and *Swimmy*. These stories send wonderful messages about sharing, being kind to others and teamwork!



The Seed: Where Children Blossom

Science

Welcome to another exciting new school year at The Seed!

During the past weeks, the children focused on learning how to introduce themselves, choosing a name for their group, and talking about the things they would like to do and learn about in science class. Some of the themes everyone was hugely interested in were: dinosaurs, farm animals, birds, trucks, space, trains, butterflies, bugs, and plants.

After everyone was pretty much in the routine, the children jump into their first science theme of the year, the Five Senses, a very important subject that will help them to be more aware of the world around them. They are learning how young scientists can explore safely and have fun being scientists, in science class, at home or anywhere they go.

The first sense developed this month was touch and as the days went on they became "texture scientists". Among the things they had explored we'll mention: cotton, rocks, sponges,



Ingrid Fernandez, our science teacher

cardboards, yarn, wood, rice, beans, peas, woodchips, sand, play dough, foam, and all kind of fabrics. As a challenging activity, the children were asked to sort items each day according to their consistency: rough, smooth, sticky, silky, soft, hard, flexible, bumpy, wet and dry.

The children were surprised in every class with the "Mystery box". Using only their sense of touch, they had to guess the name of the object they were inside the box. The game made the children's laugh when they didn't guess right and proud of themselves when they did.

