

Math

April showers bring May flowers! The children started to see different varieties of flowers everywhere. Therefore, we decided to count the petals of flowers. We read the book *I Can Count the Petals of a Flower* by John & Stacey Wahl. Afterwards, the children had an opportunity to draw their own flowers and count the petals of their flowers.

This month the children also learned to count ordinal numbers: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth. They are learning these numbers in different ways. For example, now they know what it means to be sitting or standing in first place, fifth place, and so forth. We also read the book *Seven Blind Mice* by Ed Young. The children were asked to retell the story using ordinal numbers. For example, which mouse was the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh (last) one to go?

We are continuing to review the work that has been done throughout the year. We will also continue to learn more facts about math by doing hands-on activities and playing math games.



Art



April has come and is nearly gone. With it has come the wonder of life renewing itself. From the art room we have been appreciating the different shades of green popping out on the trees, and the variety of colors presenting themselves from the early spring blossoms that adorn the earth. We have been enjoying free self-expression at the art table using tools and materials of interest to recreate the beauty we have been witnessing outdoors.

Every child has chosen what aspect of spring nature to focus on. Some concentrate on the graphic art of the flowers and others like to show their own representation with the shades of color they are beginning to see more frequently. Either way, the kids are displaying an awareness and appreciation of the change of season.

Due to the mildness of the weather, the children have been requesting, very often, to enjoy our art time outside, so we have been taking our drawing class to the pavement with sidewalk chalk. The kids love to have the freedom to draw wherever they like, and are very grateful that the rain cleans up after them. We always maintain the same rules of respect and sharing that we follow in the Art Room.

With May approaching the Art Room will be saying farewell to Ms. Amy and wishing her love and good fortune with the up and coming birth of her son.... May the Art Room at the Blossom continue to flourish with love and creativity!

Announcements

The Seed will be **CLOSED** for Spring Break
Monday, May 24 through Friday, May 28
and
Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

April Birthdays

- Isaiah
- Allie
- Brendan
- Chendi
- John

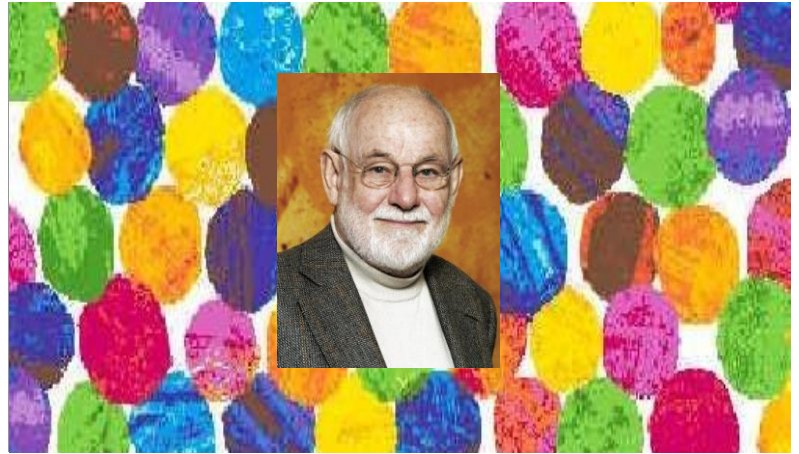
Thanks. . .

To everyone who made the recent Scholastic Book Fair such a success.

It was a pleasure watching the children pick out books for themselves, and to see their parents, grand-parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings, showing such unqualified support for reading.

Because of your great generosity in purchasing books for your little loved one(s), we were able to choose a lot of really nice books for Katie's Library.

Thank you, one and all!



Language Arts

Out of all the books we have read throughout this school year, the children have been extremely impressed and inspired by Eric Carle's books. We decided that in honor of Eric Carle we would create a large project for Open House inspired by his book illustrations. Eric Carle's art is outstanding and easily recognized. His art work is created using a collage technique, with hand-painted papers which he cuts and layers to form bright and cheerful images.

The children had so much fun creating this project. We have made Eric Carle-like stories in the past; but this project took our imaginations to greater distances. It is our first language arts activity this year that allowed every child in the Blossom to leave his or her mark of creativity. We usually do projects by groups. This month every group worked together to create this project. We are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and concentration that was needed for this activity! We also enjoyed reading all the Eric Carle books that we own while we worked on this project! 😊



Science

During this green and colorful month, our scientists in the Blossom honored our planet by learning about nature and celebrating Earth Day.

How do seeds grow into plants? How do seeds find new places to grow? To answer these questions and many more, the children turned themselves into “real” explorers by:

- checking and reading books about plants and flowers
- going for a “nature walk” in the school play yard, where they learned to recognize a maple tree, pine tree, a magnolia tree, and dandelions
- measuring leaves and observing colorful flowers in the yard
- learning about gardening tools
- planting seeds: The Curious Caterpillars and Playful Puppies had fun planting herbs like cilantro, rosemary, and parsley; the Friendly Ponies and Jumping Unicorns planted lettuce; the Starfish and Sea Lions enjoyed planting wildflowers, alyssum, and cosmos



To celebrate Earth Day, the children first learned important lessons about how to keep the earth clean and healthy. Our scientist were taught the rule “reduce, reuse, recycle”. **Reduce** means *using less* like water or gasoline. **Reuse** means using again, rather than throwing things away like plastic bags, boxes, and jars. **Recycle** means making something new out of something old. These and more concepts helped the children to increase their scientific vocabulary.



On April 22nd, the children celebrated Earth Day outside, where they enjoyed a beautiful day while engaging in the following activities:

- ⊕ Using a colorful parachute and a soft globe of the earth, they sang the song “We’ve Got the Whole World”
- ⊕ They went for a clean-up walk
- ⊕ They recycled materials such as aluminum, paper, and plastic
- ⊕ They enjoyed a picnic, where they shared their ideas about how to be a friend of the earth
- ⊕ They participated in an Earth Day Parade, playing instruments and encouraging all the children in our school to help the earth now and in the years to come.



Thanks to all the children for making April a month to remember and for pitching in to help us make our planet a healthier place to live.

We wish you all a wonderful and safe Month of May!



Yoga and Movement

During the month of April, we have continued to take advantage of the beautiful warm weather. The children have been very active playing outside, learning to pump on the swings and riding bicycles. In class we are still focusing on playing fun outdoor games and activities such as: "Duck, duck, goose", "Red light, green light, one, two, three," and "What time is it, Mr. Fox?"

Outdoors, the children have also formed tunnels using their bodies, played "Follow the leader", and we have even had races! These fun games encourage movement, teamwork and listening skills!



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Spanish

In Spanish class, the children are reviewing colors in a painting project.

Osos (bears) come in several colors:

Negro (black)

Blanco (white)

Marrón (brown)

Los patitos (ducklings) that the children are painting are amarillo (yellow)!

