

Nature with Emily

Nature Pictures

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

We are already off to a great start in Nature class, exploring Children's Country Day, learning to make scientific observations, and caring for the gardens. I have enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces and meeting so many new friends during the first month of school.

Maps and Exploration

In our first week of school, we learned about maps, and what they are used for. Students drew their favorite parts of Country Day on their own map as we explored. We continued getting familiar and comfortable with the school grounds later in the week by going on a digital scavenger hunt where we took pictures of our finds to display in the Nature room. Students also learned what makes something a part of nature and participated in a mystery bag game. Pre-1 students spent some time exploring the garden and also learned what makes something a part of nature. The toddlers spent time getting comfortable being with me and had the opportunity to feel and smell a variety of nature objects including a 7 foot tall corn stalk.



Observation and Harvest

In our second week of nature we became scientists and learned how to make observations. We used a frame to focus on a small portion of the garden and the woods. Students made drawings of their finds in a notebook. Later in the week we harvested basil from the garden and made our own yummy pesto pasta (see recipe below). In pre-1 we learned how to use magnifying glasses and tape measures to explore the garden. In the toddler class, we also spent time harvesting in the garden and looking for worms.

Apples



We also explored apples. We learned about different kinds of apples and spent time sorting them. We tasted different types of apples to determine what their favorites are. We did an apple dissection to learn about the different parts of the apple. Later in the week we made apple breakfast cookies.

A New Snake at School

In other news, we got a new nature class pet! A Kenyan Sand Boa just joined the Country Day family! Students are beginning to meet our young male snake and will help with the naming process.

Here are a couple recipes we enjoyed this month:

Pesto

3 cups basil 1 cup olive oil
2 cloves garlic 1 cup Parmesan cheese

Put basil in a food processor and blend well with 1 tbsp. olive oil. Blend in garlic. Blend in cheese and then olive oil. Enjoy!

Breakfast Cookies

1/4 cup softened butter 3/4 cup brown sugar
2 eggs 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1 cup wheat flour 1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon 1 tsp baking soda
1 cup uncooked oats 1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup chopped apples

Combine butter and sugar, and then eggs and applesauce. Add dry ingredients. Fold in apples and cranberries. Spray cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 13-15 minutes.

-Emily

Sign Language and Music with Sylvia

It's great to be back teaching Sign Language on Tuesdays and Music on Thursdays. I'd like to share some of the areas we'll cover throughout the year.

Sign Language

In **Sign Language** the children will learn a variety of signs during group time. One of my main goals is that they develop an understanding of what it means to be deaf and that they realize that being deaf makes you no different other than you communicate with the visual language of Sign Language. They'll experience the beauty of the language as we read stories in sign, play games and sing songs in sign. Each month we practice the signs for a different topic as well as review the signs that we've already learned.



Sign for Pig

The main areas I cover will be: Animals, colors, numbers, the alphabet, family, foods, signs related with the seasons, basic phrases and deaf awareness. In September the children had fun learning the signs for farm animals as well as some signs for fall. They'll be bringing home some hand-outs soon that show some of the signs we've covered. For those children who are returning students, it's been fun to see how they have remembered a lot of signs from last year and are becoming more comfortable in signing simple sentences.

Your child may also tell you about my 2 puppets named Anna & Robby that come quite frequently to Sign Language. They always love it when I bring them as they are puppets that can "sign".

Music

In **Music** we'll be exploring music through a variety of activities. Each week the children will learn new songs and sing with string instruments such as the piano, guitar, autoharp and violin. We'll also do a lot of movement and dance and occasionally use the percussion instruments. Quite often the sign language we learn on Tuesday is reinforced with songs on Thursday. In September we sang about apple trees and farm animals. The children especially enjoyed singing "2 Little Apples Hanging on a Tree". We also sang & signed the animals in the song "I went to Visit a Farm One Day". Two other favorite songs with a lot of movement were "See the Ponies Galloping" and "Sammy".



Feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions about the Music and Sign Language programs.

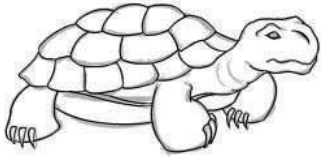
-Sylvia

Bunny Class October News

Class Pictures

The school year is off to a great start in the Bunny Class. We began September learning about our classroom routines and meeting all of our new classmates. Friendships are starting to be formed and we are seeing more smiling faces every day. Cubby and hook locations are now easier to find.

Animals



Visiting Country Day animals has been one of our favorite activities. We enjoyed bringing leaves and pretzels to the goats. The ponies have been showing us how fast they can run and the burros like to greet us when they see us walking by. The chickens did a great job of cleaning up the crackers that we dropped when we enjoyed an outside snack time. The bunnies have been

busy digging tunnels in the ground.

Watching our tortoises (Snoopy & Charlie Brown) has created curiosity and questions within the Bunny Class. We love watching them take a bath in a shallow dish of water and take care of their bathroom needs. We learned about the vegetables that they enjoy and which foods are considered treats for tortoises. Most importantly we learned that tortoises are unable to swim and this is the big difference between tortoises and turtles. We learned that the lights are important to help them stay warm. We even made our own tortoises.

We found our helping hands and joined Seth for Animal Adventures. We picked leaves for the goats and fed oats to the llamas. Gracie the goat came out of her pen and enjoyed eating a pine tree while we pet her. We pet a chicken and watched the chickens search for bugs.

Gardens

We have really enjoyed visiting our Country Day gardens. We visited the pumpkin patch and we were very excited to find several pumpkins growing. An animal has been visiting the corn and we are guessing it is a squirrel. The Fairy Garden has been a fun garden for us to explore with a variety of plants and beautiful flowers. Our butterfly garden has been filled with butterflies, and caterpillars have been found all over our outdoor environment. We have been busy picking yummy fruits and vegetables from our gardens. We even enjoyed veggie pizza that was topped with Country Day fresh vegetables. Some of our favorite garden treats were raspberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and green beans. One of our painting projects involved painting with corn on the cob.



Apples

We ended September learning all about apples. We enjoyed making apple crisp, applesauce and apple cider. We painted with apples and made apple trees. We learned about the different parts of an apple and participated in an apple taste test. We located all of the apple trees at school and helped pick up apples that had fallen on the ground. We fed our apple peels and cores from baking to the burros.



Mark your calendars...The Pre-1 Halloween party is coming up on October 26th from 5:00-6:00 PM. Please send back your RSVP when you get a chance if you haven't already done so. Let us know if you have any questions and we are excited to see you there!

Our fall weather has been a little unpredictable. Please continue to send weather appropriate clothing for your child. We will happily remove layers if the weather changes during the day. Please send in warmer clothes for your child's extra clothes box if you have not already done so.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work on your family pages. Our class has really enjoyed looking through the book. Please continue to send in your pages if you have not already done so. We will add them to our book as they arrive.

Thanks you so much for all of your support and helping us make this an awesome start to the school year! Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you might have.

-Angie and Deidi