

## 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**

## Burro I Class October News

Class  
Pictures

### September News

What a great start to the year we have had. It has been nice getting to know our new friends and families. We are very lucky to have such a great bunch of friends this year.

So far we have had a lot of fun exploring Country Day visiting with our animals and in the gardens. We have been spending quite a bit of time with our Burro Pals, Josie and Jenni, from grooming to making them special apple treats or just a daily visit. We sure enjoy their funny personalities.



This month we also focused on Apples, Vegetables and Fruit. It was a great way for the children to explore all of our gardens as well as see and taste the fruits and vegetables we grow here at school. We also sampled some family favorites that friends brought into share. A big Thank You to all of you that shared with us.

We have also been doing a lot of cooking in Nature class and in our own classroom as well. From salsa to pesto pasta made with vegetables and herbs from the garden to apple crisp and apple cider.

**Applepalooza** Thank you to all that came to Applepalooza, our first family night of the year. Applepalooza was a great success and we were so happy the rain stayed away for our big night. It was great getting a chance to catch up with all of you. We are looking forward to many more great family activities throughout the year.

### What's to Come:

**October 10-11** Picture Days

**October 20-21** No School

**Next month** we will be focusing on Trees, Leaves and Fall Harvest.

As the weather starts to change please be sure to dress your child appropriately. We think layers tend to work best during this season.

If you have any great talents that you would love to share with the class, please let us know.

Thank you for a great start to the year!

***-Denise and Kelly***

