

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

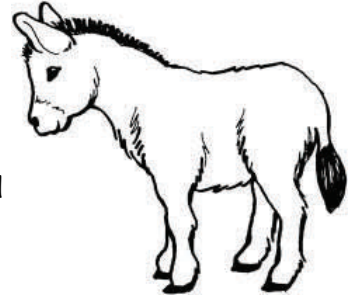
Burro II Class October News

Class Pictures

Welcome to the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year! We've had a fantastic start in the Burros II classroom. We started our school year by getting to know our friends, teachers and school grounds. One of our favorite activities was creating a book of mini-biographies and portraits. We really enjoy taking time to look at the book of our work and accompanying photographs.

Getting to Know Country Day

We continued getting to know our other school teachers including: naturalist Emily, music and sign language teacher Sylvia, and Seth, who leads our animal adventures each week. We also spent time getting to know our animal friends. We made mini snack bags full of apples, carrots and pretzels and fed them to the goats, bunnies, ponies and burros. After visiting the animals, each Burro student created a drawing of his or her favorite animal and developed a poem especially for that animal. We compiled another classroom book of our work and will be sending it home each day with a student to share with his or her family.



Gardens

We also focused on taking care of our school garden. We spent a lot of time harvesting different foods including: cucumbers, mini tomatoes, raspberries, purple beans and green tomatoes. We used a variety of vegetables to create a veggie skillet for snack and the green tomatoes came in handy for a delicious snack of fried green tomatoes. We also found some vegetables in surprising places; like the gourds and mini-pumpkins we found growing from the compost pile. We've kept them in our classroom and enjoying measuring and observing the bumpy gourds with magnifying glasses.

Apples



We ended the month with apples! The end of September was a perfect time for an array of apple activities including: apple picking, cider pressing, making apple sauce and apple pizzas, taste-testing apples, and creating apple-themed art. Each Burro painted an apple-man or apple-woman and then created a story about him/her. Each story included the apple-person's name, job, hobby and favorite color. So much creativity from all of the Burros!

The first month of school has gone by so quickly. We are looking forward to our upcoming adventures!

-Hillary and Shannon