

Nature with Emily

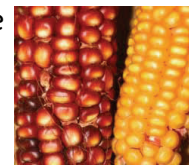
Nature Pictures

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

Billy Goat Class October News

Class Pictures

The Billy Goats have had a wonderful start to the school year. We spent the first week of school getting acquainted with one another and with our school environment. Because of the beautiful weather, we were able to spend the majority of our time outside visiting and feeding the animals, running through the apple orchard, and harvesting the school garden.

The following week, we continued to explore Country Day. We spent time playing in the llamas' pasture and Children's Park. Each child picked their favorite animal at Country Day and created a picture of that animal for our class book, Visiting the Animals at Country Day.

Vegetables

Recently we have been learning about vegetable gardens. During Nature, we harvested and tasted the various vegetables in our school garden. We used celery stalks as paintbrushes to create pictures that are displayed in our classroom. Our science experiment for the week was to find out what happens when celery is placed in colored water. We watched as the celery soaked up the colored water through its veins.



Billy Goat Reminders:

- *Shirley and Joy include a weekly note on the back page of the Peek at the Week. Please be sure to read for more detailed information about what activities your child did that week.
- *Remember to email Shirley at shirley@childrenscountryday.org if you are interested in sharing your family's pet with our class.
- *Mark your calendars for our Pre-1 Halloween Party that is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26 from 5-6 pm. Be sure to send in your family's RSVP by Friday, October 21.
- *As the weather continues to cool, please send in warmer clothing with your child.



We are looking forward to October as we will be able to enjoy the wonderful autumn weather while we talk about Apples, Pets, Trees, and Pumpkins.

Thanks to the parents and families that were able to join us for our "Apple Party." The Billy Goats were excited to share their homemade applesauce with their families during this time.

-Shirley and Joy