

Chebeague Pre-K- Transitional K Newsletter – September 18, 2009

We started the week with the pre-K kids washing the carrots and potatoes harvested by all of the elementary children. These veggies joined the previously harvested beets for a delicious entrée of roasted veggies that Ann made for Tuesday's school lunch.

Later we used the sprouted bean seeds that are in clear jars for our journaling observations with Miss Sally. The seeds are sandwiched between white paper and the jar, which makes for easy observation of the transformation from seed to plant. Sally Ballard (Miss Sally) will be joining us on most Monday mornings to support them on their journal works. The second year children were thrilled to see her and welcomed her with a big hug.

Following are some of this week's lessons.

Practical Life

- Pouring work made more challenging by changing to small opaque pitchers

Sensorial

- Introduction of the geometric solids: sphere, cone, cylinder and cube. You can support your child by looking for these shapes in their environment.
- Geometric cabinet trays - the circle tray was demonstrated but the process is the same for all 6 trays: triangles, rectangles, polygons, curvilinear figures, and quadrilaterals. These help refine a child's ability to compare and discriminate in preparation for later works in geometry and for learning to write.
- At second circle on Thursday we took turns playing a game of tactile discrimination - objects in a bag to match to insets.

Language

- Mat Man - a song and shapes used to construct a person. They can then mimic this process with drawing utensils, as they are ready.

- Shrilly the Shofar maze. Mazes are put into acetate sleeves enabling the use of wipe off markers.

Music

- A new song we are singing at circle is the Roots Song
- In Tuesday's music circle we worked on voice play, and then sang and danced to Bach's Minuet in G
- Bach during quiet eating.

Science

- Three part matching - parts of a seed. This is both language and science, matching of pictures and words but the subject is a seed.
- Thursday we visited our Nature Classroom felt a stick in "feely box". We reflected that it is cylindrical in shape. As always we played the silence game. We heard a car, insects, and a bird.

Cultural/Peace

- Rosh Hashanah - We spoke of this initially at snack on Friday when we had apples dipped in honey and breadcrumbs to cast away any wrong doings of the year. For our peace circle I shared picture images of common symbols associated with Rosh Hashanah. Each child then chose two favorite symbols of which there were two cards and we played a memory game. I also shared an old cow horn from my husband's family that looks as close to a shear as I could find, and we all produced some sort of shrill sound from it (of course it was wiped off between efforts). As part of the close to our circle we shared a good deed done this past week that we want to continue doing this next week. This goes with the pomegranate symbol with the seeds representing all the good deeds from the past year with wishes to repeat them in the coming new year.

Calendar updates:

- Oct. 5 - Walk/bike to school day
- Oct. 8 - Early release - 11:30 (no school lunch)
- Oct. 9 - No school - teacher workshop
- Oct. 12 - No school - Columbus Day
- Oct. 19 - Rain date for walk/bike to school
- Oct. 20 - School photo day
- Oct. 30 - Island Commons field trip

Classroom reminders:

Still wishing for pictures of your child's special people or pets for the family tree in our peace center.

No hot lunch on Monday and Tuesday, September 21 & 22. Please bring sack lunch-milk will be available.



Sorting, counting, then associating object group with the correct numeral

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*



Seed sprouting observation with sequencing cards



Making patterns