

Chebeague Pre-K- Transitional K News – April 2, 2010

We started out the week celebrating our 100th day of school. Each child chose a baggy of items to count by laying them out in 10 groups of 10 and then each counted their collection with me. We practiced writing 0 at circle and later that morning Miss Sally helped them with more embroidery. They embroidered onto holey fabric with felt "button" shapes to sew on.

On Tuesday I shared a model of the Sun, Earth and Moon that I have had my eye on in the school storage shed. I felt they all understood that the earth revolved around the sun but even though we talk about the moon every month I wanted to give them a concrete experience. Entering into a new season seemed to be a good time. We explored the model and then took turns physically being the sun, earth and moon and moved around "in orbit". The moon had the hardest job orbiting around a fast moving earth, but they had fun. Some of our messing about led to them reversing the orbit of planet earth on the model and "becoming" babies again. For me this validated their understanding of what constitutes a year.

We will continue to review writing our numerals this week focusing on 0-5 with a dice game graph. They roll a die, and then write that numeral. The graph has a template for them to follow but the amount of guidance diminishes with each roll.

Our shelves are very full with each child having choices for self-chosen or teacher led works that meet them at their level of development.

Practical Life/Art

- Lacing - embroidery on holey fabric
- Pouring - using a sieve- beads and water
- Visualization matching - a work inspired by the book *Drawing with Children* by Mona Brooks. This was a circle time activity on Thursday.

- Elements of design image replication - we are revisiting the elements of design and trying out some of the drawing exercises (*Drawing with Children*)
- Happy Easter cards - sponge painting over a bunny stencil

Language

- Rhyming works swapped out
- We continue to read books authored by Dr. Seuss. We have been working our way through *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*.
- Three part matching of "things around the house".

Math

- Handwriting dice game graph 0-5.
- 100 board game - earning 10 bars with goal of earning a 100 flat
- Exchange game- goal is 1000 cube. This came out on Thursday and will be better explained with a future photo or at conferences.

Science

- Mammals - nothing new and their interest is waning. We talked about other animals to learn about and they requested amphibians. I will be on the lookout for salamander and or frog egg masses.

History

- The full moon - The sap moon
- April calendar, events of the month and an acknowledgement of Passover on Wednesday.

Music:

- Introduction to "ta" and "ti-ti", our quarter note and eighth note friends. When we do rhythm patterns we will call them ta and ti-ti to emphasize the rhythm. Gradually their formal names will be reintroduced.
- Our lunchtime listening has been Tubby the Tuba or Tubby the Tuba meets a Jazz band.

Peace

- We read a little book about Easter and since all indicated they celebrated Easter we shared with whom we might be eating an Easter meal.

Calendar updates:

April 7th ish: Parent Teacher conferences

April 9: Island Commons Field Trip

May 25: Arts Night 6pm



Team work disassembling our March calendar. They are great about putting the blue sticky tape along the edge so that it can be reused for the next month.



I counted 100 cotton balls



Graphing game - They put a disc on each of the 16 squares then draw cards to collect the discs (A1 to D4)



Making a food chain - strips with images: plant, insect, little fish, big fish, people, are cut and then assembled in order



Sock matching and then rolling together. Now he can help with the laundry chores.

*Thank you for sharing your children
Happy Easter
Miss Nancy*