



# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Es Una Fiesta in Toddler 1

Toddler 1 had a very busy month in May. The children are enjoying the warmer weather and playing outside for a longer time. The children enjoyed a nature walk down to the pond and looked for frogs, fish, spiders and ants.

For the first week in May, Toddler 1 celebrated Cinco de Mayo. The children learned a few words in Spanish focusing on colors such as rojo(red), verde(green), azul(blue) and amarillo(yellow). The children decorated som-breros and used their fine motor skills to glue on tissue paper squares. The Toddlers got creative and loved painting their Mother's Day gifts. Each one was as unique as the child!



The following week Toddler 1 enjoyed Flowers as the theme. The children had a chance to plant some Zinnias, paint with Dandelions and play with flowers too. The children used their handprints to make flowers and enjoy a sensory experience. Their flower collages added a nice splash of color to the room. The children learned math skills as they sorted flowers into small, medium and large. One book they enjoyed was The Tiny Seed.

Next came a favorite unit, Farm Life. The children built vocabulary and language skills as they identified farm animals and mimicked the sounds. The animals were placed on the flannelboard as the children sang Old McDonald. The children glued spots on a cow then practiced numeracy by counting them.

## Infant 5 Are Busy Bees

During the month of May the Infant room would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Tristan.

To start off the month, the infants worked with flowers. The teachers sang a song about how flowers grow and read a book called Pretty Flowers. The babies made flowers with their handprints and footprints with the help of their teachers and experienced the feel of fake flowers to play with. The infants made their moms a gift for Mother's Day and practiced waving goodbye to them as they left for the day.

The teachers sang a song called "It's Your Special Day" and read a book called I Love You Through and Through.

Next the infant room focused on Bumblebees. The infant room teachers read a book called Winnie the Pooh and the Big Fat Bee, and sang "I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee." The teachers assisted the babies using their fingers to paint their own bees. Introducing a new toy to the infant room, they played



Pond Life was the next theme. The children enjoyed working together to paint a turtle shell. When it dried, they were able to wear the shell and pretend to be a turtle. One song that proved to be a favorite was Five Green and Speckled Frogs. The children had an opportunity for role play as they explored the frogs, turtles and duck toys in the room.

Finishing May and starting June was a Bird theme. The children were able to work on their spatial awareness as they built their own birds. They were very creative and came out cute! The children also played with birds and worms in the sensory table. They were able to sort them by color and work on their social interaction skills.

Our themes for June will be Fathers and Families, Bugs, Transportation, and Food.

with a stuffed animal bee. Lastly, the infant room learned about bugs. The teachers read Lucky the Ladybug to the babies and sang songs such as "A Fly is on my Toe." The teachers assisted the infants by making dragonflies using their fingerprints. New toy rubber bugs were briefly introduced for the babies to play with.

For the month of June Austin will have his 1st birthday!!! We will enjoy a beach theme and the infants will make a present for their dads for Father's Day.

## Discovery Zone Learning Center

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May 2011

### Important Dates:

- ☺ 6/1 Picture Pick Up 4-6
- ☺ 6/10 Preschool Graduation 3:30-5
- ☺ 6/15 & 16 NECPA Accreditation visit
- ☺ 6/15 Last Day of School
- ☺ 6/16 Camp Discovery Begins

### Inside this issue:

Preschool 12 News	2
Infant 6 News	2
Toddler 2 News	2
Preschool 10 News	3
Toddler 2 Continued	3
Preschool 13 News	3
Preschool 11 News	4
Toddler 2 News	4
Center News	4

# Preschool 12 Goes Grocery Shopping

Happy Mother's Day from Preschool 12! The children started the month with a theme on Mothers. Fine motor skills were enhanced as they created their Mother's Day cards. The preschoolers then exercised their creativity as they made a "Hand-y" folder and a picture of their mom. Science skills and vocabulary were developed as the children planted, watered and decorated their flowered plants for their mothers. The children practiced their listening and singing skills as they learned a new song, "Hug and Kisses."

The second week in May was all about Caterpillars and Butterflies. The children enhanced their knowledge of science and vocabulary by comparing and contrasting caterpillars to butterflies. Preschool 12 learned the developmental stages of a caterpillar egg, to a very hungry caterpillar, to a chrysalis, to a beautiful butterfly. Fine Motor skills were practiced as the children

created beautiful butterflies. More science skills were enhanced as the children compared and contrasted healthy and unhealthy food after listening to the Very Hungry Caterpillar. In the Math Center, the children practiced one-to-one correspondence as they placed magnetic pompoms on a circled outline of a butterfly shape.

During the third week of May, Preschool 12 learned all about their hearts as they enjoyed a theme on Healthy Heart Awareness. Science and vocabulary skills were enhanced as the children discovered where their heart is located. They learned that the size of their fists is the size of their hearts. In the dramatic play center, Preschool 12 practiced their social relations skills while exercising good manners as they took turns pretending to be a Cardiologist while using a real stethoscope. Gross Motor skills were challenged as the children engaged themselves in jumping with a jump

rope during our Jump for Heart fundraiser.

To end the month of May, Preschool 12 engaged themselves in shopping for groceries during our Grocery Store theme.



Math skills were challenged as the children counted their grocery items, and paid the cashier. More math skills were enhanced as the preschoolers created coupons and matched them to their groceries. During circle time, phonological awareness was observed as the children identified the first letter of several food items. Fine motor skills were enhanced as the children engaged themselves in creating a grocery shopping cart. Lastly, Birthday celebrations goes out to Gianna G., Arianna E., Kyle D. and Jakob R. Our upcoming themes for the month of June are Ponds, Graduation, Father's Day and Ice Cream.

# Learning Flies High in Infant 5

Infant 6 hopes every mother had a great day on Mother's Day! In the month of May, the infants learned about flowers, caterpillars, butterflies, picnics, and kites.

The infants first made sunflowers by pasting yellow construction paper triangles, as flower petals, around the brown center of the flower. Their second project was a butterfly handprint in either orange or red. For the Picnic theme, the children hand-painted a watermelon red and green, and they also got to smash applesauce (they

loved the fact they can eat it too!. Lastly, the children hand-painted kites.

The infants always work on their social/emotional development as they play with their friends, learn to self feed, and begin coping with stranger anxiety. The infants enhanced their physical development by locating partially hidden objects, developing their sense of touch, and recognizing body awareness.



Infant 6 welcomed Raymond D. in early May.

We sang Happy Birthday to Kaeleigh, who turned ONE on May 4th, and Jack on May 23rd. Infant 6 will learn about the beach and ocean in June. They will also work on a project for Father's Day. As the weather gets warmer over the next couple of weeks, please remember to change your child's extra clothing in cubby to summer clothing. Also remember to label all of your child's containers and bottles.

# Toddler 2 "Springs" Into Learning

To start off the month of May, the Toddler 2 classroom enjoyed a theme on Spring.



At circle time each child was given the chance to go fishing for flowers. Afterwards, the class had a discussion on the different parts of a flower and what a flower needs to grow. At project time, the children put dirt into a cup and made heads out of planted grass.

While making ladybugs the children counted the legs as they glued them on. Fine motor skills were enhanced when the children created their own tissue paper baggie butterflies. Gross motor skills were worked on when the children played a game of jumping over flowers. The children discovered a tree frog on the playground and this corresponded so nicely with our theme on Spring!

During the second week of May, Toddler 2 learned about "Gardening." Science was explored when the Toddlers investigated the insides of various kinds of seeds. While using their imagination and language skills the children pretended to plant the artificial flowers using different types of gardening tools.

During circle time the children sang songs with movement pertaining to the Garden theme. Toddler 2 had another sensory experience when they taste tested several kinds of vegetables and fruits such as: Carrots, onions, apples, squash, tomatoes, and peppers. Gross motor skills were enhanced when the children participated in a flower race. Toward the end of the week the children planted green beans in baggies and learned that plants need water and sun to grow.

The third week of May was learning about "Bees." The children engaged in a instrumental drawing to the music of "The Flight of the Bumble Bee" while using the primary

## Preschool 10 Has Healthy Hearts

It's been a rainy May but Preschool 10 has been learning away! This month the class celebrated Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day, Spring, healthy hearts and kindergarten preparations.

The month started out by celebrating Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day. The class made their mothers picture frames and put their pictures in it, they came out wonderful. Preschool 10 practiced Spanish for Cinco de Mayo. The children worked on Spanish numbers, ABC's and days of the week. The class worked on their fine motor by cutting out a sombrero and then gluing different sensory items on them. The children also practiced penmanship by writing why they love their mothers.

The next week, the class learned about Spring. With all the rain we have been getting the class made a rain catcher to

track how much rain we got in a week. The children got to use their hands and plant flowers and watch them grow. They also worked on fine motor by cutting out umbrellas and writing why they love spring.



Healthy heart was a fun week for the children. They learned about hearts and what they do. They got to find where their heart beats and feel them. The class talked about exercising and got to exercise in the classroom. The children learned about the food pyramid and made their own as a

class. Then on Friday, all the Preschools got together in the court yard and celebrated "Jump Rope for Heart" by dancing to music, jump roping, jumping from heart to heart and blowing bubbles. The children had a wonderful time while getting healthy.

The last week was kindergarten preparation. The class reviewed the alphabet and used their fine motor skills to write their first and last names. They worked on sequencing by using critical thinking. The class also worked on identifying colors and shapes and then drew their own shapes. The month of May was a very busy month. We want to wish Owen B. and Dominic B. a very happy birthday this month! In the month of June preschool 10 will continue kindergarten preparation, graduation, Father's Day and transportation.

## Toddler 2 Continued

colors of a bumble bee. If you get a chance please look at our bulletin board. The children worked hard at making their own bumble bee. Afterwards they were naming words that started with the letter "B" all on their own. To correspond with our theme we found a live bumble bee outside on the playground. Toward the end of the week the children learned a new song, "Bumble Bees Buzz." They picked up the tune very fast and sang it

everyday.

During the fourth week in May Toddler 2 did a theme on "Birds." The children enjoyed making pinecone bird feeders to feed the birds. Throughout the week at circle time, the children learned many facts about birds. Some of the children could name the birds when shown a picture. The children enhanced their language skills during play at the sensory that was filled with different types of

stuffed birds. Science was explored with two real bird nests that Jane brought into in the classroom. We finished up the week finger-painting a owl and making a bird puppets which all the children enjoyed.

Some themes we will explore next month are Ocean, Frogs, and Colors.

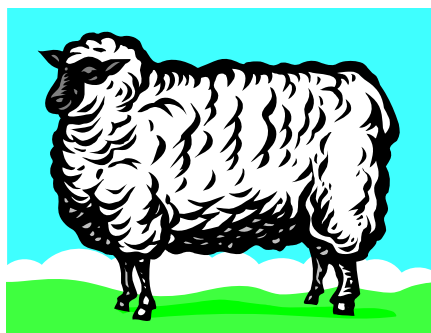
## Things are "Farmtastic" in Preschool 13

The month of May was busy for the children in Preschool 13 as they learned about transportation, occupations health and farm life.

The children were on the move for the first week of May. They enjoyed sensory experiences as they drove cars through playdough and shaving cream. They learned science skills and had an opportunity for creative expression as they painted with vehicles. Finally, social skills and sharing were enhanced as the children had to share a limited number of large vehicles.

We put the children to work as they learned about occupations. The children learned geometry, science and creativity as they pretended to be construction workers and build with the blocks. The children cut out nurses as they built fine motor skills. Math skills were enhanced through

patterning with tools. Finally, the children had an opportunity for role playing as the dramatic play center was changed into a doctor's office.



Next, was a week on health. Healthy eating and nutrition were discussed as the Preschoolers played with cooking utensils in the dramatic play center and with playdough and with a healthy food collage.

The children learned about germs and washing them away. The week ended with lots of heart healthy exercise in the "Jump Rope for Hear" program.

Preschool 13 headed to the farm for the last week of May. Children practiced visual discrimination and science skills as they matched mother and baby animals. Creating "Popcorn Sheep" was a tasty sensory experience. Farm puzzles helped to build math and problem solving skills.

The month of May promises to be exciting as the children learn about Preschool Graduation, Father's Day and the Beach.

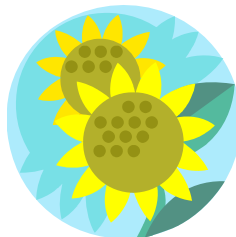
## Preschool 11 Blooms with Excitement

April Showers bring May flowers, or (in this case) more showers! In the month of May, Preschool 11 learned about Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Flowers, Heart Health, and Kindergarten Preparation.

The children learned about giving as they created handprint lilly bouquets for their Moms. Fine motor and creative expression were explored through card making. The children learned Spanish and Mexican culture as they celebrated Cinco de Mayo. The children created paper plate shakers and used gross motor skills as they shook them and danced at a fiesta.

The children learned science as they planted green beans and sunflowers have continued to take care of them. The

sunflowers will be transplanted later this summer for all of DZLC to enjoy. Preschoolers learned more science and vocabulary as the discussed the parts of a plant and ordering the life cycle of a flower.



Preschool 11 got healthy with a week on Heart Health. The children created Heart Health tips such as drinking water, getting sleep and exercising. Nutrition was discussed as Preschoolers explored the food pyramid and had opportunities for sorting. On jFriday 5/20 the children participated in "Jump for Heart" and raised \$400 for a good

cause. Thank you to all the families for participating.

Preschool 11 ended the month of May with 2 weeks of Kindergarten Preparation. The children were provided with experiences to practice cutting skills, shape, color, number and letter recognition. They also practiced following directions and problem solving. The children particularly enjoyed creating self portraits.

June promises to be a fun month with themes on Graduation, Father's Day and Sports.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Jess who will begin in Preschool 11 on 6/20. Best wishes to Ms. Maureen on all her future endeavors.

## Toddler 3 Heads Under the Big Top

Toddler 3 began the month of May with a theme on "Spring." The children engaged in a science experiment when a white carnation was put into colored water of their choice and the flower slowly turned that color. Science

was again explored when the children planted their very own green beans. They loved watching them sprout and to see the finished result. Sensory

was enhanced when the children played with "clean mud" in the sensory table. The children really seemed to enjoy touching the substance. Toddlers also made a delicious treat of fish in the water when they put blue cream cheese onto an English muffin with fish gum-



mies on top!

For the second week of May, toddlers learned about the world of the "Circus." Spatial awareness was improved upon when the children made their own clown faces. Shapes were discussed through this activity as well. Sensory was enhanced when the children had their faces painted with various animals that they chose for themselves. To end out the week, gross motor skills were encouraged when the children took turns jumping through a "flaming hoop."

Next, in celebration of Jump for Heart, the children engaged in a theme all about "Movement." Gross motor skills were enhanced through ribbon dancing and an obstacle course. Fine motor and creativity were expressed through tricycle paintings and decorating their own baseball caps. The week ended with the a discussion on the importance of staying active and the children's participation in the Jump for Heart activities.

For the last week in May, the children explored different books and activities in correlation to "National Children's Book Week." Some of the books the children read with their teachers during this week were: Goldilocks and the Three Bears, If You Give a Moose a Muffin and Kitten's First Full Moon. Cognitive thinking was improved upon when the children created their own class book. The children loved drawing pictures of different things and explaining to the teacher what they had drawn. Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they played with playdough and tried to create their own moons. Shape recognition is something the class has been working on. Many of the children tried to make their own crescent shaped moons like the ones we have been discussing and identifying at morning circle each day. To end out the week, the children each were able to make their own moose bookmarks to use at home when they are reading.

## Center News

Thank you to all who participated in "Jump for Heart." Together we raised \$400 for The American Heart Association.!

DZLC continues to go through the accreditation process. The final step will occur on 6/15 & 6/16

when the NECPA validator will observe DZLC and review our records. Please see Robin, Christine or Stacey if you have any questions about this process.

Please remember to change the extra clothes in your child's cubby to reflect the warming weather.

Please make sure to update your child's medical records each time s/he visits the pediatrician. Health forms can be found on the parent board near the tuition box.