



Discovery Zone Gazette

Discovery Zone
Learning Center

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June 2010

Center Notes

- ☺ DZLC will be CLOSED 7/2 and 7/5 for the Independence Day holiday.
- ☺ The children will be entertained with shows on 7/12 and 7/26
- ☺ Please remember to call if your child will be absent.
- ☺ Thank-you to everyone who attended our Pre-school Graduation. We couldn't be prouder of the class of 2010
- ☺

Preschool 11 Gets Sporty

The month of June was a very busy one! Learning about sports, preparing some of our students for graduation and kindergarten, making gifts for our fathers and talking about the start of summer kept everyone busy. We are very proud of all the children on making graduation successful!

Preschool 11 started the month off learning about different sports. The children had fun learning about new sports and talking about their favorite sports. They even created their own sports team which they named Team Doom. The children made their own jerseys and chose a class mascot.



The next thing to do in the month of June was to get our graduates ready for graduation. All the children had fun learning the new graduation song together. The children decorated the graduation caps, made a welcome sign and a graduation sign. They all worked hard and as a team we are very proud of them. Together, they made graduation a success. A special thank you to all who attended to honor the children and their accomplishments.

The next week of June, Preschool 11 prepared for Father's Day. The class read many books and did a variety of activities talking about fathers and how special they are. The children enjoyed making cookies and wrapping them with a poem to show their

fathers just how much they are loved.

The last week of June was the beginning of summer. Preschool 11 talked about summer safety and some favorite summer activities.



The children enjoyed making a beach in a bottle, where they scooped different colored sand and seashells into a jar and made interesting designs. Preschoolers ended the month with the start of sprinkler days! You can find a list of our sprinkler days on the bulletin board under parent news. I am excited to spend the summer teaching your children! We have a lot of educational and fun activities planned!

Preschool 10 Goes on a Picnic

The Preschool 10 class was very busy in the month of June, preparing for Kindergarten and Graduation. It was hard work but we all enjoyed the ceremony. To end the month we celebrated summer.

The first week of June, the theme was kindergarten preparation. The children practiced the ABC's and letter recognition by using capitol and lower case letter flash cards. To have fun

with math, the class took a walk around the pond and collected specific numbers of a variety of items and used them to perform simple math equations. To practice colors, the teacher gave the children eight specific items and colors to draw. Everyone was impressed with their drawing abilities. To end the week, preschoolers practiced writing, focusing on spelling and writing first and last names.

Graduation was the theme for the second week. The children used stickers and paints to decorate a graduation cap. They also assisted the teachers in creating the welcome and graduation banners by painting, signing their names and coloring in the ringmaster. A class list was placed in the art center so the children could read through the names and make notes as to which friends were graduating this

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Preschool 10 Continued

year and who would be here next year. To end the week, each child shared with the class what they were looking forward to the most when they get to kindergarten, even if they were not going this year.

The following week our class honored their fathers. The children enjoyed creating picture frames for the Dads and using tissue paper to wrap them. Creating cards for fathers was a perfect opportunity to practice writing. To practice math, ties with different number of stripes were placed in the math center. At circle time on Friday, each child shared a special time that they spent with their Dad.

The theme for the fourth week of June was summer. Children played with water and

toys in the sensory table on Monday and had a blast with sprinkler day on Thursday. On Wednesday, preschoolers focused on sports by playing a sports memory game and cutting out balls and decorating them according to the sport that each child chose. During circle time on Thursday, we conducted one of our favorite activities, a class story. The story was about our class discovering that the playground had turned into a water park with different zoo animals running loose around it! To end the week, each child chose a food item to bring on a "picnic" and colored and cut it out for the bulletin

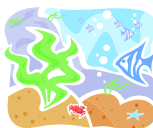


board, as well as enjoyed lunch by the pond on our class picnic.

To start the month of July Preschool 10 will celebrate the 4th of July by creating flags and eagles. The theme for the rest of the summer for Preschool 10 is "Around the World in 8 Weeks," in which we will choose a different country each week and learn about the animals, people and environment that is found there. The first stop is the Grasslands of Africa where we will learn about lions and many other animals. Next stop is the Rainforest of South America to swing with the monkeys. Then it is off to the land down under, Australia, for two weeks. First to visit the outback and then the fish of the coral reef.

Infants Go "Under the Sea"

During the month of June the infant room focused on Father's Day projects and ocean life. Within the first two weeks each child had different color footprints on a piece of paper, along with a poem that was framed specially for their father. The babies also made an octopus using their hand prints and crabs using both of their hands. They finished up the month by coloring clams with a pearl



in it.

The children also enjoyed time for gross motor development. The infants have been enjoying lots of tummy time to build muscles in preparation for crawling. With plenty of teacher encouragement the children have been able to spend more and more time on their bellies and practicing rolling.

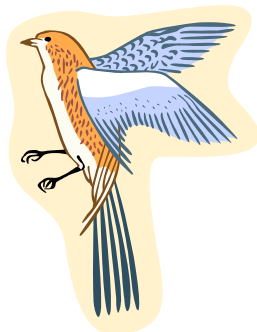
Language skills have been built through songs and books. The children enjoy

listening to a variety of songs but a classroom favorite now is "The Wheels on the Bus." Sandra Boynton books are also popular among the children with the imaginative rhyming text.

For the month of July the infant room will finish up ocean life and start focusing on transportation. The infant room would also like to give a warm welcome to Kyle H. and his family.

Toddler 2 Is For the Birds

Toddler 2 started off the month of June with a theme about birds. Throughout the week, the children have learned many facts about birds and looked at many different types of birds. During circle time, the children made pipe cleaner bird feeders, and then took a nature walk to go hang them on the trees near the playground. The children worked on following directions and creative expression as they made the face of an owl using a paper plate. All the children's art-work is on the bulletin board for everyone to enjoy throughout the day. Toddlers also enjoyed a sensory experience as they got a chance to feel several different



textures and then tell the teacher what he or she thought it felt like. Towards the end of the week, Toddler 2 decided to go for a morning walk to catch bugs. The children of Toddler 2 love bugs! We found several moths and a couple different types of bugs that were new to the children. The children took a closer look at them during circle time and then let them free during outside play. Since the children learned about so many different kinds of birds during the week, the children had the chance to go find pictures of birds located around the room and then share with their classmates which bird they found. During outside play, we gave the children "wings" by tying feathers to their arms and ran around on the playground. The children pretended to be birds while they let all their energy out!

During the second week of June, Toddler 2 focused on the sun. We added onto our song collection during circle time as the children learned a couple new songs about sun.

At the beginning of the week, the children created suns and sun puppets. The sun puppets were made using paper plates with the center cut out, and orange tissue paper. The children then had the opportunity to bring their sun puppets outside on the playground to run around with while they held them up to their faces. The children enhanced their thinking skills as they were asked to describe which kind of clothes you would wear in the summer sun as well as the other seasons of the year. They also played a game called "pass the sun" during circle time when they had to quickly or slowly pass the sun to their friends sitting next to them. To enhance gross motor skills, the children played a game where they got to jump over a large cutout of a sun.

As we entered the third week of June, Toddler 2 explored bugs. Going on a bug walk has become a regular routine for our classroom. With the right weather, we found some interesting bugs this week. Toddler 2

Toddler 1 Explores Pond Life

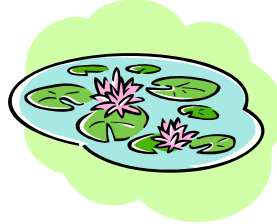
Toddler 1 is happy to enjoy the summer weather. We want to remind parents that since the beautiful weather is here, Toddler 1 will enjoy outside play more often. As part of our special events we have decided that sprinkler day will be held every Monday. Please bring in all necessary material for the children to participate in this activity such as water shoes, bathing suits, swimmies and towels.

To celebrate the beginning of the summer Toddler 1 started the month of June with a week on literacy, to further emphasize how important literature is for young children. The children were introduced to books on the ocean, ice cream and the beach. We were very excited to finally finish their illustration book in which the children were able to illustrate their own pictures of familiar books such as The Snowy Day and Old MacDonald. The children enjoyed a walk around the playgrounds where they were able to collect and discuss the different items with which to paint a summer collage. To end the week, all of the children contributed to making a beautiful sprinkler painting mural.

Next, Toddler 1 quickly hopped into a week on frogs. The children enjoyed learning about what frogs eat and their growing

process. The children got to witness the climbing skills of a tree frog as we watched them through a glass container. Later, the frogs were set free to convey the importance of protecting nature. Toddler 1 was happy to explore their imaginations as they played with plush toys and pretended to be frogs. To end the week, the children were happy to provide their fathers with their annual breakfast.

As the month moved along so fast we barely felt it. Ponds and their inhabitants was the topic for the third week. Our pond in the backyard was a great teaching tool that we were happy to explore. The children got a chance to watch a mama duck and her duckling swim around which was a highlight of the walk to the pond. To enhance the duck watching experience, the children explored their sense of touch as they used feathers to paint ducks. A big thank you to all the parents for bringing pond related material. It made the topic more realistic for the children.



Next, the Toddlers headed out of this world to learn about space. To encourage language and literacy skills, the children enjoyed books such as Zoom Zoom, What's Next Baby Bear and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Toddlers enjoyed getting messy as they played with goop and "moon" rocks (garden rocks). The children enhanced their creative sides as they used tissue paper and their hand prints to make rockets. It was great to hear the children verbalize what they had learned about space such as "moon, sun, clouds and astenoid." These were their exact words.

To end the month, the children explored all of their senses as they dissected and explored a watermelon. Next month Toddler 1 will attempt to make a special ice cream recipe. As part of our curriculum the class will start a series of number shape recognition activities which include counting the seeds on a watermelon and naming and identifying the shapes around the room. We want to encourage parents to carry on similar activities at home so that the children can get a better understanding of numbers and shapes. Toddler 1 is happy to welcome Ryan and his family to our classroom and we want to wish Ms. Nickie a Happy Birthday.

Toddler 3 Is "Dino-Rific"

For the first week of June, toddlers learned all about the world of "Bugs." The children developed their counting and number recognition skills at circle time with a ladybug matching game. We sang a classroom favorite "Baby Bumblebee" and went on a nature walk. The children enjoyed a sensory experience when they went on a "Worm Dig" in the sensory table. Children scooped and dug for gummy worms throughout the table. Everyone had a great time with this activity! Spatial Awareness was increased when toddlers made "Ant Creations." Lastly, fine motor skills were enhanced when the children made "Egg Carton Caterpillars" and "Walking Sticks."

For the second week of June, toddlers were hard at work making their Father's Day gifts and cards. We hope all the Dads enjoyed the surprise!

In the third week of June,



toddlers learned all about "Dinosaurs." During circle time, the children learned a new song, "Five Crazy Dinosaurs" and sang a familiar one, "I'm Being Eaten by a Tyrannosaurus Rex." Toddlers enhanced their scientific knowledge when they went on a "Fossil Find" and a "Dinosaur Egg Hunt." Fine motor skills were developed through a variety of different projects pertaining to dinosaurs. The children made "Dinosaur Skeletons," "Dinosaur Collages," and a "Dinosaur Egg." Toddlers enhanced their math and cooking skills when they made their very own fossils that they later used in the sensory table when they went on a "Dinosaur Dig."

Next, the children learned about "Summer" and worked on a new summer bulletin board. Cooking and math skills were enhanced when the children made special "Cool Fruit Shakes." The children enjoyed a dramatic play experience when the children went on a picnic. Vocabulary was enhanced when the children played a game of "Packing

a Suitcase for Vacation." Fine motor skills were increased when the children made pails and shovels. They enjoyed a sensory experience when they created hand-print crabs. Fine motor skills were again developed when the children made a sun for the bulletin board. Gross motor skills were enhanced when toddlers took part in their own car wash.

To end out the month of June, toddlers expressed their creativity through a theme on "Art." Fine motor and creativity were enhanced when the children made their own "Condensed Milk Paintings." The children really enjoyed cutting with scissors and to develop this skills even more, the children had the chance to cut freely to get a better grasp of the concept. Fine motor skills were developed again when the toddlers made "Star Paintings."

Toddler 3 would like to wish all our fathers a Happy Father's Day and a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Preschool 12 is "Buzzing" with Activity

Preschool 12 started the month of June with a theme on Bees. The children learned that bees gather their pollen and spread it around. After reading the story Bee & Me, the children realized the importance of bees. The children also learned the difference between bumblebees, which make honey and wasps which are pests. In the math center, the children learned a new shape called hexagon and were amazed to see how bees make their honeycombs in that shape. They even sampled some yummy honey with crackers and then sang a favorite song, "I'm Bringing Home A Baby Bumblebee." For fine motor development, preschoolers made bumblebee bracelets, honeycombs, and a black and yellow masterpiece.



During the second week, Preschool 12 was all about the Circus and Preschool Graduation. The class started the week off by listening to and singing the preschool graduation song. Then the children enjoyed a game of "Guess the Circus Animal" where they identified each animal while practicing the sounds they make. Next, preschoolers practiced fine motor skills and made cute clowns, cotton candy cone crafts, and a "Big Top" circus tent. In the science center, packing peanuts were in the sensory table along with small paper bags and scoops. The children filled bags and brought them to the math center where they fed elephants the peanuts according to the number written on

each elephant cutout. In the literacy center the children identified the clowns with the letter "C" written on them and then counted how many of them could fit into a "C" for car cutout. To build gross motor, spatial awareness and balancing skills, the class pretended to act like seals and performed some bean bag seal tricks. The children also pretended to be tightrope performers and walked on a balance beam "tightrope" outdoors while holding onto an umbrella. Then in the math center, preschoolers practiced seriating and counting circus balloons in three different sizes: small, medium and large.

The following week, Preschool 12 honored all fathers during the Father's Day theme. The class started the week singing "Hi Ho, It's Off to Work Dad Goes." The children identified some of their father's occupations through the Dad's at Work cards. Then they counted hammer cutouts and identified their different colors. Next, the class talked about playing ball with their dads and then used math skills as they compared big and small balls. Then the class sang the song, "Where is Big Ball?" To build fine motor skills, Preschool 12 made Father's Day cards, a #1 Dad Pencil Banner, and You're the Apple of my Eye craft. During center choice the children practiced math skills by matching up their fathers' jobs. Then the class played Dads at Work Memory Game and made some creative sculptures in the block center using wooden nuts and bolts. A class favorite book was Just like Daddy by Frank Asch.

The last week of the month was an Ice Cream theme. Preschool 12 started the week practicing social skills in the "Ice Cream Parlor" dramatic play center where the children pretended to make ice cream

sundaes for their friends. The children then practiced math patterning skills as they put chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream cutouts in several different patterning orders. The children enjoyed sampling the three different ice cream flavors and identified their colors, but they couldn't choose a favorite flavor because they were all so delicious. Next, Preschool 12 practiced observation skills as they played a game called, "Which Cone Has the Cherry Under it?" and then practiced estimating and counting skills as they guessed how many "scoops" (pompoms) are in an ice cream container. For fine motor development, the children made ice cream cones, yummy sundaes and thick shakes projects. The class also manipulated play dough to make ice cream scoops and sundaes. The children practiced matching and literacy skills as they matched an ice cream scoop with an uppercase letter on it to its matching lower case letter on its matching cone. A class favorite book was, Clifford and the Big Ice Cream Mess.

Lastly, it was a great pleasure meeting with Preschool 12 parents during our Parent Conferences. Over the summer please continue to encourage your child to draw/ scribble and illustrate a letter to grandma by asking them to "write" captions under their pictures using invented spelling. Then ask them to "read" it to you. This will help strengthen their fine motor writing control and prepare them for the Fall as we will begin to learn how to write upper and lower case letters and numbers.

Preschool 12 friends are happy to welcome Zachary W. and his family into our classroom.

Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Toddler 2 Continued

did several art projects this week to enhance their fine motor skills and creative expression. We painted dragonflies with corn syrup and food coloring, made tissue paper butterflies, created caterpillars while counting the circles involved in making the body, and also practiced spatial awareness while putting together ants. As always, the children in Toddler 2 enjoyed several books about bugs, from which they retained plenty of information. They learned about many different kinds of bugs, where they live, what they eat.. Throughout the week the sensory table was filled with shredded

paper, pictures of bugs and a couple plastic bugs. The children always enjoy sensory table fun.

We ended the month of June with a theme on sensory. During the week, the children experimented with all five of their senses. Each day we explored something different. During the hearing part of our theme, the children enjoyed a game of musical chairs. As they learned about seeing, they used their eyes to match colored eggs to colored paper. We used rice, shaving cream and play dough to experience touch. The children enjoyed a taste testing experiment to go along with the

taste portion of our sensory theme. When it came time to smell, the children smelled five different items on a cotton ball and were then asked to tell what they thought it smelled like. At the end of the June, the Toddler 2 classroom made a couple of changes. We said goodbye to 6 of our friends as they ventured off into preschool. We're all very excited to see what they will bring to their new classrooms and wish them the best of luck as they continue to grow.