

the

2010-2011

SEED newsletter

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November 15, 2010 • www.awakeningseedsschool.org

Carnival Totals

We've finally finished distributing all of the raffle prizes and collecting the silent auction money. It was another banner year for the Seed Halloween Carnival! We ended up with a \$17,128.44 profit, which was almost the same as last year. The money will be designated for various funds, including the Seed staff retirement fund, scholarships, classrooms, and the APA general fund. One of the first APA purchases was a digital camera for each classroom. Thanks again to the APA and all of our parents for such exceptional support.

Spanish News

In October, we spent a couple of weeks observing the butterfly life cycle. We've now said our goodbyes and set our winged friends free. We mailed our hand-made butterflies off on their symbolic migration to Mexico. Any day now we should hear where they have landed! We also learned a little about Día de Los Muertos, comparing it with Halloween and

learning some poetry and games that have to do with both holidays. We'll continue building vocabulary and speech with games, poetry and songs throughout the year. Becky's class will be taking a field trip at the beginning of December to meet our new Head Start buddies. Please sign up to drive if you are available!

Thanksgiving Feast

The Seed's annual Thanksgiving feast will be held on Wednesday, November 24th at 11:30 a.m. We invite you all to attend this special gathering to share our gratitude for the bounty of our lives. Each class will prepare one part of the menu, and you'll receive information from your classroom teacher about what you'll need to bring. Also, it's really helpful if some parents help with the serving that day. Sign-up sheets will be posted soon for this task. Children don't need to bring a lunch that day.

Age Requirements for Enrollment Fall 2011

There has been discussion already about next year's enrollment. Last summer we changed the age requirements for enrollment in our preschool and kindergarten classes for fall 2011, so please refer to page 24 of your parent handbook for details.

Toddler 1s

Sarah/Meryl/Danielle

The toddlers have been exploring their senses the past few weeks. They played with the rice bin and made swirly designs with their fingers in cornstarch. Outside, the children are starting to notice the leaves falling and the wind blowing. Many of them are working hard learning to climb the steps to the slide and go down with little or no help. In the next few weeks, we will begin to work on our color book and props for our solstice dance. Check your parent handbook calendar for upcoming dates!

Toddler 2s

Jamie/Lyndsy

An oval is a long circle without any sides. Inside our green oval a dinosaur hides! Last week we learned about our last shape and created an oval dinosaur egg. The toddlers patted, rolled, swatted and smooched to create a texturized look. At circle we played a shape game and discovered how well we recognize our shapes. With a beautiful turn in the weather we also enjoyed exploring the big playground for natural shapes found in nature. A huge thanks to Lauren's family for donating some really cool blocks. Please keep those food items coming for the food drive!

Preschool 2.5s/3s

Carly/Melanie

As a class we worked very hard brainstorming ideas for our new study. We are very excited to be studying and exploring the world of Dr. Seuss! We read the Cat and the Hat and worked very hard on creating our very own versions of his hat. Next we will be stomping through the week by studying our feet with Dr. Seuss' Foot Book. Also coming up, we have our Thanksgiving Feast and our class is in charge of making fruit salad. If there are any parents that would like to come in and help us prepare our yummy fruit salad you are welcome to join us!

Preschool 3s

Kevin/Katie

With the garden planted and the senses study coming to a close, we nurture the addition to our morning routine, the Letter of the Week (LOW). Students build a list of words that start with the LOW and choose one as I call their names during attendance. Be sure to find the LOWs around the room as the weeks pass. Our donation for the food drive slowly grows and gives us a chance to practice counting each morning. Please refer to the list of preferred foods (low-prep) to learn how to help. Nutrition is our next topic of discovery.

Preschool 4s

Deb/Billie

Recently, the Preschool 4s went on a field trip to the to the Desert Botanical Garden to visit the Mariposa Monarca Monarch Butterfly Exhibition. During their visit, the preschoolers learned a new song ("Antennae, Thorax, Abdomen" set to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes), explored smells with their antennae and saw monarch butterflies up close. In class, we practiced saying proboscis (*prəˈbɒskəs*) and did an experiment with straws and "nectar" (it was really orange juice) as we learned to drink like a butterfly. In addition, we began shaping our own version of a chrysalis out of newspaper for a large-scale butterfly mural that illustrates the metamorphosis of the caterpillar.

PreK

Emily/Tatiana

In a room full of writers, Marshmallow the Tyrannosaurus Rex was born. The pages of his story were created and illustrated by PreK minds while they reviewed their knowledge of storylines and dinosaurs. Our Word Wall continues to grow, giving students a daily opportunity to practice their reading and spelling skills. We jumped in our circle with the letter of the week (J) and used string to measure classroom toys. The welcoming weather invited us into the garden, where we decorated our sprouts with handmade signs. This week we look forward to making "Me-a-Sauruses" and diving into the letter D.

K-1

Kerri/Michelle

Counting cans of tuna and graphing the number of Ramen noodles that we've collected each day for the food drive have kept us busy each morning. This week 1st graders continue to practice subtraction facts while kindergarten students begin addition. Our measuring unit also continues with weights and volume. We're working on family trees and writing stories about family members as part of language arts and social studies. Tomie dePaola is a favorite children's author in our class at this time of the year. We've already read about [Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs](#), and we will meet Tomie's baby sister and cousins during read-aloud this week.

1st/2nd Grades

Becky/Dina

The long awaited cool weather has us motivated to spend more time in our outside area tending the seeds that we have planted, planting more seeds, digging in the dirt, squishing mud between our fingers and socializing with each other. We are learning about the First Thanksgiving and reading stories about various Native American tribes in our country. We are thankful for the food donations that you have brought. We look forward to our next Westchester Care Center visit on Friday, November 19th. We'll cheer up the residents by singing songs and doing art projects related to Thanksgiving with them.

Mark Your Calendar

All-School
Thanksgiving Feast
Wednesday, November 24th
11:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Holiday
Thurs/Fri, November 25th/26th
no school

Celebration of the
Winter Solstice
Friday, December 17th
7:00 p.m.
McKemy Middle School
Tempe

Quote of the Week:

Kevin: That's "cray-cray"
Maddy: What's that?
K: that's how Erica says "crazy"
sometimes. Do you know who Erica is?
M: No
K: That's the girl I'm gonna marry. She
sometimes says "cray-cray".
M: Is that because you didn't marry her
yet?

3rd/4th Grades

Aimee/Kaylee

Do you know how you learn the best? Do you need a quiet room or do you prefer music? Do you find it easier to remember things when you see them, hear them, write them, feel them, or while you're moving around? These are important questions to consider if you want to make the most of the time you spend learning about something. The third and fourth graders are participating in a program called "The Mind That's Mine" that was developed to help young children think about their own learning. We are becoming experts on how our minds work best!