

the

2010-2011

SEED newsletter

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Art Auction Thanks

The silent auction was a huge success. We collected \$2,045 for our capital improvement fund. Thanks for your support. A few pieces still need to be picked up and paid for, so if one of them is yours, check in with Kristen.

Earth Day Celebration

Check out this link for information about our Earth Day celebration on Thursday, April 21st: <http://www.awakeningseedsschool.org/event-flyers/earth-day-at-the-seed/>

Another Baby Seed

A much delayed congratulations to Sharry and Dan Veres and big sisters Ingrid and Anya for the addition of baby brother Anton Daniel to their family on March 16th. We hear the big sisters are a big help!

PE News

This year has flown by so fast I can barely believe it's already April! The Seed students

have grown so much and I feel lucky to have been a witness to their learning experiences. Sarah's class has begun working together to shake and bounce balls off of the parachute! Children in Jamie and Carly's classes have been using their huge imaginations to explore movement through imagery and music. Kevin, Deb and Emily's classes have so much energy! They love to move fast and have become pros at throwing and catching. The kindergarteners have impressed me with their ability to come together as a team to get through obstacle courses. The kids in Becky and Aimee's classes amazed me by their willingness to try new skills recently as they explored tumbling. I love every moment I spend with the students at the Seed and am touched by their courage to try new things as they teach me new things as well!

Toddler 1s

Sarah/Meryl/Jessie

Excitement filled the classroom as the children observed the garden soil. They saw tiny, baby

seedlings sprout up from the wet soil. Each child had a chance to spray the garden soil with a butterfly spray bottle. By the end of the week, we had swiss chard, okra, basil, radishes, and daisy seedlings. The seedlings were transferred to the big garden where we will watch them become much bigger. While digging in the soil, we found more grubs. As we looked for more seedlings, we found many more creatures such as spiders, ants, and beetles. These creatures will be joining our hall garden very soon!

Toddler 2s

Jamie/Lyndsy

Last week the toddlers were up to their elbows in paint, tissue paper, and glue. The result of their hard work was a giant Pteranodon worthy enough to fly over our dinosaur land mural. Sprouting up next will be some flowers and a slippery waterfall that will empty into a body of water. Speaking of flowers, seeds became a hot topic at the lunch table so we decided to plant some beans, peas, sunflowers, and hollyhocks. Exploring what a seed is, what it needs to grow, and how it relates to the world around us is on the agenda next.

Preschool 2.5s/3s

Carly/Emily

Whales seem to be a favorite topic of the class. The kids have been fascinated by the two types of whales in the ocean which are the baleen and toothed whales. The class also loved learning that whales breathe air just like us. We worked very hard on our paper mache whales and they came out cute. This week we will be focusing on the size of these

massive creatures and we will be measuring out the largest whale, the blue whale. We also have some cooking activities planned to go with our science lessons and math.

Preschool 3s

Kevin/Katie

To sink or float? That is the question this week. Students will explore buoyancy and water displacement as they learn the ways of watercraft. We'll get in the garden to look for more food to feast upon. It sounds weird, but if you would check your hairbrushes and combs and bring long hair to school, we could use it to safely deter our strawberry snatching rabbit. The letter of the week is K, with a "kick-out" leg. The students are motivated by the opportunity to earn extra fun time, one asterisk at a time. Be sure to ask your student how that works.

Preschool 4s

Deb/Billie

The preschoolers are exploring the flora of the rain forest and the special adaptations of plant life. Words like epiphytes (EP-uh-fites), lianas (lee-ANN-uhz) and BUTTress are stretching vocabulary while also being really fun to say! Recently, Klara told us about the orchid, an epiphyte that grows in the canopy of the rain forest. Maggie amazed us with facts about the great kapok tree that grows up to 200 feet tall and has buttresses to keep itself upright in the forest's thin soil. Jace shared information about the red-eyed tree frog and Jonas told us about the quetzal that lives in the canopy and lays blue eggs.

PreK

Emily/Danielle

Mushy, juicy mangoes moved us into a look at poetry, and a cooking project with this hippo treat: mango sorbet. We learned that hippos like to play with crocodiles, get cleaned by nibbly fish, and sometimes take a liking to tortoises. We drew pictures of this animal in our journals and to represent our mental images of a hippo poem. We've enjoyed addition and measurement projects in math, and have begun marking interesting pages in books during reading time. We are looking forward to a look at flamingoes this week, and a bird house art project with Tatiana.

K-1

Kerri/Michelle

Our colorful neighborhood of semi-custom A-frame homes is on display in the hallway along with a written description of each decorated dwelling. The K-1 kids are putting the finishing touches on the pueblo model we've been constructing in the classroom. Next week we will begin individual presentations on animal dwellings that each student chose to research at home after choosing an animal, collecting data and making a diorama as a homework project. Symmetry and subtraction continue to be the latest focus for our math studies. Our 1st graders wrote a fractured fairy tale version of "The Three Little Pigs" that we will perform for our buddy readers on Friday, April 29th.

1st/2nd Grades

Becky/Dina

The children in our class nurture their well being by not only growing vegetables in our gardens but also harvesting and eating them. It brings a smile to my face to see several of the children lined up at snack time for steamed vegetables and even asking if there is enough for seconds. Recently Stefanie Pace happily left school munching on parsley that she had grown in her own cinderblock garden. Working in a garden gives children a fun way to exercise, get fresh air and connect with nature. It helps them understand where food comes from.

3rd/4th Grades

Aimee/Kaylee

The hard work in our outdoor classroom is paying off! We are seeing our first sprouts push through the earth in our newly planted beds. After some weed burning and harvesting of our winter gardens, we revamped our outdoor space. Our previous garden design was fun to look at but difficult to water, so we made a new plan. One morning of digging and rearranging was all it took to create new high-bermed beds that successfully hold in water. Soon those little sprouts will grow into large watermelon, zucchini, and yellow squash plants. Look for harvests during our summer session!

Mark Your Calendar

Seed Earth Day
Celebration

Thursday, April 21st

Appreciation Week

Mon-Fri, May 2nd-6th

Teacher Work Days

Thurs/Fri, May 26th/27th
no school

Quote of the Week:

When Arya Sebastian, age 5, shared a picture of herself riding an elephant in India, Ryan Sar, age 4, exclaimed, "You looked so adorable as a baby (riding on the elephant)! I can't wait for you to see the baby picture of me, riding on a jaguar!"

Please join us

Thursday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m.

to dedicate Gwen's Castle

on the Seed playground

in memory of

Gwendolyn Grace Anderson Van Kirk

September 27, 2005 - June 11, 2010

