

the

2010-2011

SEED newsletter

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Juice Alert

We are almost completely out of juice. If you haven't brought your contribution for the current month or past months, this would be an excellent time to drop off a few cans. Remember, all juice must be 100% fruit juice.

Water Safety Day

A huge thanks to Melissa Sutton and the SwimKids volunteers for providing such a helpful and informative morning about water safety on Friday. Parents, please keep the dialogue going with your child about this important topic.

Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week and Parent Volunteer Days will be combined into one big week devoted to appreciating each other. A description of the week's events was placed in your mailbox last week. Parent volunteers, please join us for a free breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Music News

We continue to learn about music through movement in the toddler classes using shakers, drums and other instruments. We have focused on "playing or shaking" and "stopping." With the preschoolers, we played a lot of the "big" instruments, like xylophones and drums. We also put books we received from the book fair (thank you for your donations!) to music, by accompanying the books with instrument play, or by acting them out accompanied by the piano. In the PreK through 2nd grade classes, used our new books in musical ways, and also played the Boomwhackers and Music Bingo, where we learned about musical notation. Our musical play for Aimee's class is moving right along; the script and songs are complete, and the kids are learning their parts. As I mentioned in February, their play is based on three Greek myths. The performance date is tentatively set for Thursday, June 2nd. I'll keep everyone posted!

Toddler 1s

Sarah/Meryl/Jessie

Our classroom garden is getting established in the outdoor planter box. The children are so excited to help when it's time to water with the hose. It will be even more exciting if our little plants actually produce a harvest. We were also surprised to find out that we have a bird nesting on the broom outside our classroom door. It's great to see this happening so close to us. The children can easily see the bird and we eagerly await the arrival of little nestlings. This week we'll be exploring and learning about gravity and motion with balls, ramps, tubes, and tunnels. If you have any long sturdy tubes, tennis balls, a hand held ball pump, or 2-3 inch PVC pipe, we could use them.

Toddler 2s

Jamie/Lyndsy

Last week the toddlers worked hard identifying and tracing letters of their last names. An unexpected discussion occurred when we said that everyone has both a first and last name. Many of them were convinced that the name on the paper was not "their name" because it did not start with the right letter! For example, Gavin's name should start with a "G" and not an "L" because his name is Gavin and nothing else. It was amazing to see them make this connection, and once they were convinced that the teachers were onto something, we all had fun adding a last name to our first names!

Preschool 2.5s/3s

Stephanie/Emily

The Preschool 2.5/3s are swimming away from the ocean and entering the fascinating world of creepy, crawly bugs. Our new alphabet

study will come alive with bug facts as we learn to identify different types of insects and arachnids. Additionally, we'll count legs, categorize bugs, and liven up our room with our own artistic bug creations. Many of us are learning to write and identify the letters of our names, using the Handwriting Without Tears materials. Our beets are ready in the garden, so at lunch we all tried the beets. Not everyone enjoyed fresh beets but we plan to do a cooking project with them this week.

Preschool 3s

Kevin/Katie

Last week students recorded observations about which objects sink, which float, and which do a little of both. The worksheets were made into a book, now available to read from the student library. We also made our own toys that could really move. The hovercraft students made from reusable materials floated across tables and floors. Students will paint their boats made of clay and record how many marbles they hold until they capsize. Miller's mom volunteered to take class and individual photos this Wednesday. There are two letters of the week, L and Y. My laptop survived the cola tsunami!

Preschool 4s

Deb/Billie

The jaguar, Andean bear, boa constrictor, scarlet macaw and the golden lion tamarin were just a few of the rain forest animals the Preschool 4s saw during their recent trip to the Phoenix Zoo. Our guide lead us on a tour of the Forest of Uco trail, told us about the layers of the rain forest, discussed the forest floor and demonstrated (with help from the preschoolers) how the scarlet macaw flies through the jungle. In the classroom, tree frogs and walking sticks adorn the trunk and leaves of our kapok tree. Ants, spiders and centipedes crawl around the forest floor and a very rare species of tie-snakes slither over vines and along the duct work in the classroom understory!

PreK

Emily/Danielle

Bits of paper and glittery party hat confetti littered the floor last week, as students put together a class alphabet book and celebrated

two birthdays. Each child snipped apart self-created sentences, arranging the words on the pages they had illustrated with cheetahs, whales, iguanas or flamingos. We continued a look at measuring: comparing heights and lengths, and using scoops to measure volume. Students enjoyed cooking and water play, and their third field trip: the Phoenix Zoo. This week we look forward to reflecting on our trip, a wrap-up of our study, and a focus on our mothers in preparation for Mother's Day.

K-1

Kerri/Michelle

We're still recuperating from a fantastic camp-out on the playground Friday night. Stuffed with s'mores and great camping memories, K-1 kids hit the sleeping bags with sticky marshmallows on their cheeks and campfire songs dancing in their heads. Thanks for playing for us, Jay. We enjoyed tent tours and a pajama parade with flashlight highlights. Most of the happy campers were asleep by 9:30 and up with the sun on Saturday morning. This week we'll rock on with earth science investigations about earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis as we leave home (so to speak) and move on to learn about the earth's natural phenomena.

1st/2nd Grades

Becky/Dina

"Thou canst not stir a flower without troubling a star," Francis Thomson once wrote. This quote reminds us that we can all make a difference to our earth by being mindful about recycling, using less water when showering and brushing our teeth, and not throwing garbage on the ground. Planting flowers and vegetables is all part of the plan to keep the earth beautiful and us healthy. Our rainforest study constantly reminds us about the importance of remembering that Earth Day is every day. We celebrate the rainforest, which is so full of life, and feel sad when animals become extinct.

3rd/4th Grades

Aimee/Kaylee

Today we discovered edible pea pods nestled amongst our sweet pea plants. Careful

Mark Your Calendar

Appreciation Week

Mon-Fri, May 2nd-6th

Teacher Work Days

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

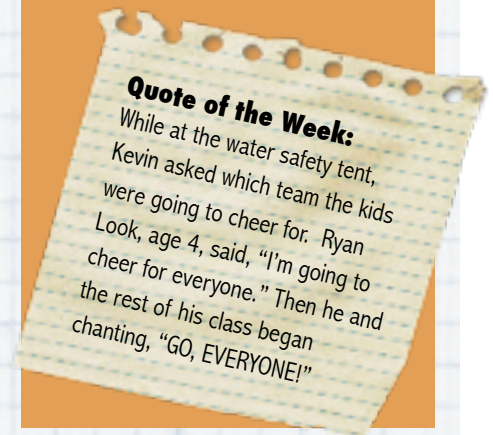
Memorial Day

*Monday, May 30th
no school*

Awards/Graduation End of the Year Party

Last Day of School

Wednesday, June 8th



fingers gently caress each pod that they spy. If it's fuzzy, the fingers move on to find another. Once a smooth one is discovered, cries of "I found one!" are heard throughout Roxaboxen. Next, the pod is examined to see if it is fat enough to be considered ripe. Thin ones get passed over, giving them more time to develop. Fat ones are snatched off of the vine, carefully pried apart, and gobbled up by veggie-hungry children. Nothing is as appetizing as produce from your own garden.

May Birthdays

Miles Brown	Anya Veres
Conrad Boltz	Amelia Nevin
Antonio Quinones	Liam Shovelin
Mariah Smith	Klara Phillips
Kenner Hancock	Mia Welker
Alejandro Hidalgo	Suki Querfeld
Ava Simms	Jordan Clark
Delani Hita	