



Discovery Zone Gazette

Preschool 10 Takes off with Transportation

All of the showers in April and all of the sunshine have brought... May flowers! Last month's theme of our bulletin boards carried into the month of May, with our hand-print flowers and our bright yellow sunshine. Along with our theme of flowers, Preschool 10 also celebrated Mother's Day and Cinco De Mayo. Then it was onto transportation and bugs, bugs, bugs!

The theme for the first week of May was Cinco De Mayo and Mother's Day! To celebrate Cinco De Mayo the children learned how to count in Spanish and practice their writing skills by choosing a number, writing it and then spelling it out. They also learned how to write it in Spanish. Preschool 10 cut out and decorated sombreros, made pita chips, and played with dry rice and beans. The rest of the week the children prepared gifts for their mothers. Preschool 10 loved decorating and writing messages in cards for their moms.

The second week of May, our class learned about flowers. The children practiced adding and subtracting by using flower petals and also got the opportunity to observe flowers and grass in the sensory table. The children made handprint flowers, cut them out and wrote their

names on them for the classroom bulletin board. To practice cutting, the children cut green construction paper into many pieces to make grass for the bulletin boards. The children also created a large sun in honor of the letter of the week.



Transportation was the theme for the third week of May. The children identified a type of transportation and practiced writing it as well as sorted the different types of transportation in three categories, land, water, and air. To practice cutting, the children cut out hot air balloons and decorated them. For math enhancement Preschool 10 created sail boats with several different shape cut-outs and counted the number of tire tracks they painted using toy cars. While exploring boats, the children practiced how to use life jackets and built Lego boats and tested if they would sink or float using the water in sensory.

The theme for the final week of May was bugs. After reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," the children put the 4 stages of a butterfly in order using print-outs and counted the number of spots on different pictures of butterflies. While on the playground, they hunted for bugs and observed

them, counting the number of legs as well as observed if they had wings or antennae. The children enjoyed marching around the room singing and acting out "The Ants go Marching." After marching, the children created ants using paper cut outs and even used pictures of themselves as the faces, which decorated one of our bulletin boards.

June is going to be a busy month! To prepare for kindergarten, the children will go over the basics, math, writing, colors and literacy. Preparing for graduation for 14 of our students will be the following week's theme. Celebrating our father's and the beginning of the summer will finish the month of June. Our class is very excited about graduation and enjoying the summer!



Discovery Zone
Learning Center

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2010

Important Dates:

- Special: 6/30 Magic Show
- 6/18 Camp Begins

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Preschool 12 Expresses Emotions

Preschool 12 started the month of May honoring the most special person in our lives... Mothers. During circle time, Preschool 12 practiced listening and using vocal cords as they sang a special song, "I Love My Mommy So." Then they increased their fine motor skills as they made special projects to surprise them with. The children even learned how to sign, "I Love You" in sign language. In dramatic play, they pretended to be a mom. The children wore aprons, made delicious pretend food, and even practiced math skills by sorting and matching placemat settings. The preschoolers were also very careful in the science center where they planted and watered their special Zinnia plants all by themselves. Preschool 12 also learned about the different parts of a plant and how water and sun are very important to its growth.



The following week in the science center, the children were amazed to learn how butterflies actually come from a caterpillar. They learned the life cycle of a butterfly from an egg, to a caterpillar, to a cocoon/chrysalis, to a beautiful butterfly. The children also practiced spatial awareness skills as they manipulated their pretend caterpillars through, around, under, over, on, and off leaf cutouts. In the math

center Preschool 12 practiced their patterning skills as they made colorful caterpillars. In the language and literacy center, the children identified pictures that sound like the letter "B" as in butterfly and "C" as in caterpillar. Preschool 12 also made an incredible project. The children converted a caterpillar cocoon/chrysalis by opening it and turning it into a beautiful colorful butterfly.



For the third week in May, Preschool 12 practiced enhancing their creative art skills as they manipulated art supplies to make beautiful flowers. The children sponge painted a pot of marigolds and practiced their math skills as they counted how many leaves they glued onto it. Preschool 12 also dipped coffee filters into several different colored tinted water cups and created beautiful flowers out of it. The children pretended to act like flowers by sipping up water through a straw just like the flowers sip up water through its roots. In the science center, they learned some gardening skills. The sensory table was full of rice, plastic seed cutouts, gardening tools, plastic cups as planters, and a watering pitcher. The children practiced socialization skills as they learned how to take turns sharing with one another.

During our last week in May, Preschool 12 started the week with a Special. We had Eric Girardi, a Yo-Yo performer and juggler entertain us. It was incredible to see how he managed to manipulate different objects in several amazing routines. The children were in awe, and so were the teachers. We then began our Feelings week. The children sang a feelings song, "Where is [happy]?" etc. Preschool 12 then practiced their fine motor skills and made happy/sad stick puppets. Preschool 12 friends were also able to see their several different facial expressions in mirrors. They even took turns identifying different emotions such as, scared, angry, tired, surprised, etc. The children also agreed that they were not scared of the green monster in the book, "Go Away Big Green Monster." Then they played a memory matching game where they matched pictures of two of the same emotions. The children also drew pictures to fast/slow music and then compared/contrasted the two.

Happy Birthday wishes this month to Gianna G, Emily P. and Jakob R.

Enjoy this beautiful weather with your precious children.

Toddler 4 Gets Dirty Gardening!

Toddler 4 is getting ready to swing into summer! This past month has been so much fun. Together as a class the toddlers have had the chance to really enjoy some wonderful outside time.

As the month of May began, the children learned about caring and families for Mother's Day. During circle time the children listened to stories about mothers. They also talked about their mothers and how much they love them and all the wonderful things they do. During project, each child, with the help of their teacher, made beautiful hand prints out of plaster and paris to give to their mothers. This also included a poem just to remind them how much they are loved. Also this past week, they children had a fiesta for Cinco de Mayo. The children got to enjoy the day and together they danced to Spanish music, made mini sombreros and taste tested avocado.

For the rest of the month, Toddler 4 had a great time learning about earth, nature and all the beautiful things that live here on earth and what they need to survive. To begin the week, the children and I went over different landscapes, they learned about oceans, mountains and rain forests. Each child was able to do their part in keeping the planet

clean by tossing a can into a blue recycling bin. The class also sang songs such as "This Land is Your Land." During project time, the children worked on their gross motor skills by squeezing eye drops that had colored water on them onto coffee filters to make earths.. The children put together amazing collages, and also painted with pine needles.

Staying with the "Keeping our Earth Beautiful" theme, Toddler 4 explored the world of gardening and flowers. Now that the weather is warmer and the path is done around the pond, the children have had the chance to go down to the pond and walk around and explore different plant life, leaves and any animals that we could find. In the class room, the children were introduced to items you would use and wear in the garden. Such as a sun hat, gloves, shovel and more. The children really had a fun time using their self help skills putting on and taking off these items. Though out this week, Toddler 4 made sun flowers using their finger tips, planted a small garden in our room, learned about what veggies you can grow in a garden, and even painted using flowers.

To finish out this month, Toddler 4 enjoyed working with birds.



. The children went bird watching around the pond and then made bird feeders using pine cones and bird seed. They talked about colors as they placed birds onto a tree, made hand print doves, and used their sensory skills to touch feathers and place them onto birds. At circle time, the children enjoyed listening to stories about birds, what they eat, where they live and how they help the earth. Using gross motors skills, they climbed, jumped, and crawled through an obstacle course, had a lot of outside play, and enjoyed a yo-yo special.

For the month of June, Toddler 4 will get active with sports, make a gift for Father's Day, play on the "Beach" and so much more. Just another reminder for parents please remember to bring in a water bottle or sippy for your child on those hot days.



What's all the Buzz in Toddler 2?

The Toddler 2 classroom started out the month of May with a theme on rocks. Throughout the week, the children enjoyed several rock stories and pictures. The children went on a "rock walk" to discover all the different kinds of rocks that you can find outdoors. During the rock walk, the children went down by the pond to find as many rocks as they could. On the walk, the children learned that a very big rock is called a boulder and a very tiny rock is called a pebble. Toddler 2 found a stream where the children got the chance to throw rocks into the water. They learned new vocabulary words as they threw their rocks and listened to the "kerplunk" and "splash" sounds that it made. Each child had the opportunity to sing a song about a rock that they found outside. The children practiced their math skills this week by sorting rocks by shape and size, and doing a cooking project which made a very tasty "sedimentary rock" treat. The children got a chance to experience a little more of nature rather than just rocks this week as they examined ant hills, saw the roots of the trees outside and found a fresh water mussel in the stream. They learned what kind of foods ants eat, how trees get water in their roots which make them grow and how the fresh water mussel has a hard shell. Toddler 2 learned a lot about rocks and nature this week!

The second week of May was all about bees. The children in Toddler 2 got to show their artistic side as they made a musical drawing using the primary colors of a bumble bee, which you will find on our bulletin board! Another art project you'll be able to enjoy on the bulletin board are the bees that the children made by coloring them yellow and then placing the stripes where they thought they should go. The children learned



a new song this week called "Bumble Bees Buzz." Their ability to follow directions was enhanced this week as they did several games and art projects which required them to use their listening skills as well. Toddler 2 learned what a bee hive is and how bees make honey. Each day, the children read a new story about bees that they really enjoyed. During this week, Jane brought in a bird for all the children to enjoy. After the children got a chance to examine the bird closely at circle, they got to watch her set it free and fly away. The children always enjoy when Jane brings in animals or amphibians from nature!

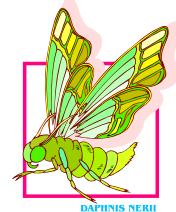


During the third week of May, Toddler 2 did a unique theme on clothespins. They started out by doing a painting that involved using a sponge clipped to a clothespin as their brush. Their artwork is up on the bulletin board. The children really enhanced their fine motor skills as they practiced pinching the clothespins to hang their socks up on a "clothesline" in the classroom. The children also got the chance to enhance their gross motor skills during a clothespin relay and an activity involving throwing clothespins in a pail. Toddler 2 worked on hand-eye coordination as they played an egg toss and practiced banging pegs in play-dough. Later in the week, the children enjoyed "snappy snacks," which included picking up apple slices and pretzels with clothespins. They also learned a new song this week called "Snap, snap, snap."

Toddler 2 ended the month of May with a theme on gardens, which was perfect timing for the season! During circle time, the children learned new songs about worms, rain and sun. The week started out with some planting activities where they got to plant sunflower seeds, and a few different kinds

of vegetables. They also learned how you can improvise and plant seeds from a plastic sandwich bag, which you may be able to see over the next couple weeks hanging on the window in our classroom. The children used soil and water to plant the sunflower seeds in the egg carton that we left outside on those super hot days! Throughout the week, the sensory table was filled with soil, plastic flowers, and several gardening tools so that the children could really get an idea of what it is like to do gardening. Our class also took a nature walk at the beginning of the week, where the children had the chance to throw rocks in the river (since they enjoyed it so much in the beginning of the month) and dig for roots of plants or even small trees. As always, they enjoyed several books on gardening, seeds and planting, which the children all loved to hear about. Toddler 2 enhanced their math skills this week as we did several activities involving counting seeds. In the middle of the week, Jane found a rare Luna Moth outside one of the preschool classrooms, so we all got to enjoy that during morning free play and circle time. During outside play, we let the moth go and watched it fly away. The children loved having the Luna moth in the classroom! The week ended with an art project involving footprint flowers. During the entire week, the classroom was filled with flowers, plants, roots and several books about all of those things.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming month of June, as we explore more themes pertaining to the changing season.



Infants Go For a Stroll

During the month of May, the Infant Room focused on Mother's Day and different kinds of bugs. They started off by using their fingerprint to make the wings of a dragonfly. Next the babies used the tips of their fingers in order to make the body for the ants. Lastly, to finish up the



month they made bumblebees by using fingerprints with black and yellow paint.

Since the weather has been nice, the infants have been able to go out in the stroller for plenty of walks. Water buckets were experienced the last week as the weather

got hotter. The babies played with different types of toys such as ones that sunk and others that floated.



Toddler 3 Learns the Bunny Hop

Toddler 3 started the month of May learning about "Spring." The children played a, "Color Touch Game," with spring colors to enhance their color recognition. The children also participated in a familiar song, "Baby Bumblebee," as well as learned a new one, "The Ants Go Marching." Fine motor skills were enhanced when toddlers made spring paintings. Toddlers engaged in several sensory experiences when they made ducks footprints and played with "clean mud" in the sensory table. The children really enjoyed getting their hands "dirty!" Gross motor skills were enhanced when the children played a game called "Watch Out for Puddles!" Lastly, the children made dandelions and worked on cutting with scissors. This was the first time in the classroom the children had been exposed to using them and everyone enjoyed the experience. We will work on that in the months to come as well.

For the second week of May, toddlers participated in activities that were all about the "Circus." Spatial awareness was increased when the children played "Pin the Nose on the Clown" as well as put together their very own clown faces with various facial features. Eye/ hand



coordination was enhanced when the children threw bean bags into an elephant's mouth and had a bean bag toss. The class also learned a new song "Walking Through the Circus" which also aided in increasing gross motor skills. Vocabulary was worked on when the children picked out different animal crackers and discussed which animal they had chosen and the different attributes of that animal. They also enjoyed a tasty treat of the animals as well! Scientific knowledge was increased when the children learned about the power of air through a balloon activity. The children collectively created a circus train to play with in the classroom. Lastly, toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they played with circus animals in the sensory table.

For the third week of May, toddlers explored "Pond Life." Color recognition was worked on again when the children participated in the song "Fishing in the Sea." Fine motor skills were enhanced when the children caught various pond creatures with their nets in the sensory table. Vocabulary and science skills were enhanced through a pond book that the children explored with different pictures of things that exist in a pond. To enhance this even more, the classroom took a trip to the pond to look at some of the items we had discussed in the book. The children loved taking

a walk and exploring the stream and the many other signs of nature that we spotted along the way. Children were able to express their creativity and work on their fine motor skills when they created their own "Rainbow Fish," and "Turtles." Hand eye coordination was increased when the children played a game with frogs and "Lily Pad Jumping." The classroom was also able to engage their imagination when they participated in a "Seafood Restaurant," complete with a menu featuring some of our classroom's favorite foods.

To end out the month of May, children learned all about "Bunnies." Gross motor skills were enhanced as the children participated in a "Bunny Hop" and pretended like they were, "baby bunnies." Toddlers learned a new song entitled "Five Little Bunnies," that helped increase math skills. Cooking and math skills were also increased when the children made a "Blackberry Treat." Fine motor skills were worked on through two art projects: "Cotton Bunnies" and "Rainbow Bunnies." Lastly, the children made carrot paintings and taste tested a bunny treat of carrots.

Toddler 3 would like to wish Arianna and Bailey E. a "Happy 2nd Birthday!"

Happy Birthday

Toddler 1 Investigates Insects



Toddler 1 had a very busy month in May! The class enjoyed our special Mother's Day luncheon and shared pizza and salad with our mother's who could visit. The first week of May, the children learned about flowers. They planted some Zinnias and discussed how plants need soil, sunshine, and water to grow. Toddler 1 worked on their math skills by counting with the "Five Little Flowers" poem. The children became really good at separating flowers into small, medium and large. One book the toddlers enjoyed was Grow Flower, Grow.

The second week, the children had a blast learning about insects.

Our class went for a walk outside to search for some insects and also looked for toy insects around the room that were hidden. Two favorite songs were "I'm Bringing Home A Baby Bumblebee" and "This Little Ladybug." The children used a potato masher to make bee prints and counted how many insects were on a leaf.



Next Toddler 1 did a two week theme on Farms. The children loved singing "Old McDonald" and using the flannel board with it. The toddlers spent many happy minutes playing with barns and farm animals and using their imaginations. The stuffed animals were a hit, espe-

cially the cow that mooed! The children practiced sorting skills by deciding which animals lived in the pond, the coop and sty. A favorite story was Barn Sneeze. The children learned all the sounds that farm animals make and enjoyed imitating them as well.

In June, Toddler 1 will do a summer literacy unit on Frogs, Ponds, Space and Watermelons. Thank you to our parents for sending in water bottles and hats on these warm days of summer!



Preschool 11 Is Too Cool For School

Preschool 11 started off May with a Fiesta! We took a week to learn about "Cinco De Mayo" and "Mothers Day". During this week the children learned about the traditions of the Mexican Independence Day known as Cinco De Mayo. We read stories and did several activities. One of the children's favorite activities for this theme was "marble painting." The children counted out ten marbles and placed them into a big bin, then they dropped several drops of paint into the bin and shook the marbles all about, the end result looks like fireworks! For Mother's Day, the children worked on cards using their fine motor skills to write their names and their creative art skills to decorate the inside. They also baked several batches of muffins that they worked very hard on mixing up for our Mom's to enjoy on Mothers' Day morning.



The next theme was a one week theme on "May Flowers and Insects." During this week, the children learned about several different types of bugs and flowers that they would see in May. They used gross motor skills and went on several nature adventures looking for new flowers and insects. We did an activity with working on sequencing science skills by putting the part of a flower together. They also worked on their math skills by



counting the number of spots on a ladybug. During this theme, the children's favorite story was *Planting A Rainbow* which we read several times during the course of the week.

The third theme of May was a theme called "Back to School Basics." During this week, the children worked on skills that would help them prepare for Kindergarten. They practiced fine motor skills such as writing their names, first and last if they were able to. They practiced listening skills with a game of sound bingo and worked on gross motor skills while swinging on the swing, walking across the balance beam and dancing to music in the gym. The children also focused on using scissors while doing a project where the needed to follow the directions given to them. The teacher gave them a specific color paper, a shape to trace and then they were asked to cut it out. This project focused on many different Kindergarten readiness skills that we have been working on all year to master.



Finally Preschool 11 wrapped up May with one of our favorite themes of all "Language and Literacy." During this theme everyday is based on a specific story. This works on allowing the children to make connections with the stories through many different activities. A few of the stories we learned about this week were *Mr. Nicks Knitting*. Following the story

the children made yarn creations which allowed the children to use their creative side and focus on their fine motor skills with cutting and gluing the yarn. *5 Little Speckled Frogs* was another great book the class enjoyed. After this activity, the children worked on adding and subtracting skills with frogs and flies! Finally Preschool 11 read the story *If You Give a Pig a Party*. The children worked on their rhyming skills and worked on building their gross motor skills by playing keep it up with balloons.

A few reminders for the month of June. Graduation will be held on Tuesday June 15th at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to join us in the celebrations and accomplishments of our soon to be Kindergartners. Summer camp is here and I will be leaving for the summer as of June 17th, Miss Danielle from Preschool 10 will be filling in for me until September. Thank You all for a wonderful year. Enjoy the Summer!



Center News

Summer is here! Please remember to send your child in with the appropriate clothing. If you wish to have sunscreen applied to your child, Please supply ONLY the spray on sunscreen (not rub in), and a signed permission slip to you child's teacher.

It is vacation season! Please remember to prepay for the week (s) your family will be absent. Also, please let a DZLC staff member know about any absences your child may have

