

May 2010



Ms. Jacque's and Ms. Nancy's Pre-K Newsletter



Classroom Curriculum

This month we conclude our last PYP Unit of Inquiry: All About Living Things, under the Transdisciplinary Theme: Sharing the Planet. Our field trips to the zoo and the farm were valuable front loading activities through which our children gained first hand experiences that helped trigger their inquiry around our central idea "All living things are interrelated and change over time". Many thanks to all the parents who chaperoned on these outings!

Children are developing greater understanding of the key concepts emphasized in this unit:
Connection: How living things are connected to each other.

Causation: How our action affect other living things.

Responsibility: Our role in taking care of ourselves and other living things.

Please help us reinforce these concepts at home, as well as the PYP profiles of Caring and Principled.

We will continue to emphasize the following vocabulary this month:

Vocabulary List

animals	ocean	caterpillar	shape	eleven	eleven
farm	fish	chrysalis	circle	twelve	twelve
cow	whale	butterfly	square	thirteen	thirteen
horse	octopus	bee	rectangle	fourteen	fourteen
pig	lobster	spider	triangle	fifteen	fifteen
sheep	sharks	ant	rhombus	sixteen	sixteen
cat	crabs	fly	star	seventeen	seventeen
dog	turtles	ladybug	oval	eighteen	eighteen
rooster	dolphin	dragonfly	heart	nineteen	nineteen
chicken	sea horse	zoo	number	twenty	twenty
duck	star fish	lion	one	more	above
goat	sea lion	tiger	two	less	beside/next
rabbit	pond	bear	three	equal	behind
turkey	insects	monkey	four	plus	around
farmer	egg	bird	five	minus	in front
tractor	tadpole	giraffe	six	half	around
barn	toad	zebra	seven	whole	in
	frog	elephant	eight		off
		crocodile	nine		on
		snake	ten		

Math

Counting:

- From time to time, practice counting past the "100 number barrier." Start from different numbers such 81, 92, 68...
- Counting backwards is good practice toward becoming a nimble counter. Again, try starting from different numbers: 10, 13, 15, 20...
- Sometimes practice counting by 2, or by 5, or by 10. This is known as "skip counting" and it is a useful skill.
- Try counting pennies in your family penny jar for a really big count. Can you think of a good way to help keep track of the total? Perhaps make piles of ten and count by tens.

Shapes:

- Build shapes and structures with miniature marshmallows and toothpicks. Encourage discussion about the shapes. Ask questions such as: **Which shape used the most marshmallows? Does each shape have more toothpicks than marshmallows? How many triangles did you make? How many rectangles?**

May and June Events

May 6	Parent-Student Share Day 10:45 - 12 noon (In the classroom)
May 9	Happy Mother's Day!
May 13	Happy Birthday Paula!
May 20	Happy Birthday Valentino!
May 24	NO SCHOOL - Battle of Pichincha
May 28	PK Parents' Celebration - 11:15 AM, ECC playground
June 4	End of the year outing - Details coming up soon.
June 11	ECC Field Day
June 13	Happy Birthday Grace!
June 18	Last day of 2009 - 2010 school year
June 20	Happy Father's Day!
June 30	Happy Birthday Jose Manuel

Notes



Thursday, May 6th is **Parent-Student Share Day**. All parents are invited to visit our class from 10:45 until noon. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to be part of their children's education and also form a realistic picture of what and how their children learn by visiting with their child in the classroom. ☺



Many thanks to all the parents who donated home-baked goods for the International Festival ECC stand. We appreciate your contribution and your baking talents!!!



On Friday May 28th, **YOU** are our guests!!! Please come and join us for our PK Parent's Day Celebration, from 11:15 to 12 noon, at the ECC playground.



We will need two mothers to volunteer on Field Day (June 11th). Please let us know if you would like to help us!

Ideas from "Our Turn to Talk"
STORYTELLING (ORAL NARRATIVES)

"There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories."

Ursula K. Le Guin

Storytelling is a wonderful activity to share with your children. Stories can be told anywhere and at anytime, because they are always with us. We can make them up as we go, or we can tell old favorites.

Listening to stories help children learn to visualize, or see the movie in their heads. This skill is so vital for learning to read. Equally, the ability to tell stories is key for later learning to write.

Storytelling has many purposes:

- To pass on a family/personal history
- To share the details of an event
- To celebrate
- To teach
- To simply have fun and use your imagination

Here are some ideas that might help you get started on your journey as a storyteller:

- Remember to have a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Feel free to base your story on a photo in a family album, or on a picture from a book.
- The hardest step to take when storytelling is the first one, once you are brave enough to begin, the story will form.
- Invite your child to help tell the story.
- Tell stories at dinnertime, bedtime, bath time and on car trips.
- Stories can be an account of your day/week/holiday/event
- Your stories can be totally fictitious and involve any characters you see fit.
- Your stories can be based on props (e.g. when driving past bundles of hay see if you can come up with a story that starts with "Once upon a time, there was a wee little mouse that lived under a large bundle of hay.")
- Invite other members of your family to join in on the telling of a story.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time (by appointment, notebook or e-mail) to address any questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

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