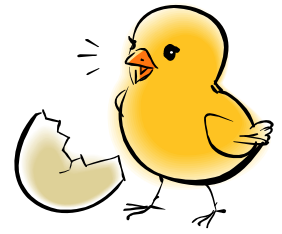


Desert Dawn Newsletter



April 2009

With the coming of beautiful springtime weather, the children have been enjoying many outdoor learning activities. One of their favorites is gardening. They especially love to see the flowers blooming in the garden and outside the Goats' Room as well. If you have a garden at home, your child may prove to be very helpful in its tending after caring for plants at school. Our first annual Family Picnic, Silent Auction, and Art Walk proved to be a huge success. Thank you so much to all who donated items and time to this event. We especially would like to thank Samantha Faraci for her time and work in organizing the function. The children were visited by two of their favorite friends in April. Richard the Magician and Paffy the Clown both performed for them. Other presentations are planned for May.

Music

The students have been singing some of the classic children's rhymes and jingles. Songs like *Five Little Monkey's* and *Five Speckled Frogs* help to strengthen their counting and math. The songs are often brought to life by felt board stories or puppet plays. Other songs like *I'm a Little Teapot* and *Itsy Bitsy Spider* help develop tracking skills. *Old MacDonald Had a Band* enables the children to join in the rhythm with instruments.

Art

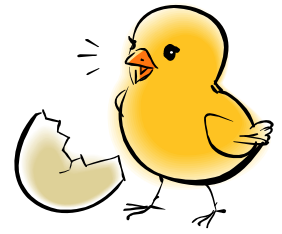
Art class too has been blossomy with colorful flowers and springtime creatures. The month began with pastel bunnies and bright eggs as the Spring Party neared. The little artists decorated their party bags and created colorful windsocks. Yellow sunflowers filled the room. Butterflies were done in collage. There were butterfly mobiles and egg carton caterpillars too. The lovely weather was perfect for easel painting on the patio.

Ponies

Math activities have kept the Pony group busy learning. They get to use their creativity as they draw and color patterns made with color cubes. They outlined their hands and feet and filled the outlines with rods to help them understand the concept of measuring. Using unifix cubes, the children found equalities to demonstrate how numbers are added to form new numbers. They also add and subtract using pennies and number cards. Graphing is another fun math activity. All of these methods help to make abstract concepts concrete for the child. The Ponies continue to develop their language skills by writing in journals with key words and writing and sharing daily news as a group. Afternoon classes include French, Drama, and Literature. Fun art activities often accompany stories. Coloring rainbow fish was a logical follow up to *Rainbow Fish: Tattle Tale*. *A Grand Old Tree* and *Be a Friend to Trees* both inspired Earth Day Projects. The Pony children are growing into good little students as the year goes on.



Goats



The Goat Group has focused on the beauty of spring with such themes as birds, Spring Holiday and April showers. Beginning with *Chicken Little*, the children listened to the story and made stick puppets to act it out. *Little White Duck* and *Five Little Ducks* led to learning about farm birds, making bird feeders and singing songs. The group went on to learn about eggs, animals born from eggs, and what is inside an egg. *The Egg Tree* and *The Little Red Hen* rounded out the week with the making of birds, decorated eggs, and even bird nest doughnut treats. Baskets, bunnies, and chicks were the subject of Spring Holiday week. Jelly beans were used for math class and spring crowns were made to wear. The children had great fun at the Spring Party. The month ended with the theme of April showers. Although showers never came, that did not stop the children from creating a bulletin board, colorful umbrellas, and studying other weather phenomenon's. *Rainy City Umbrellas* and *Cloudy With a Chance of Meat Balls* were two of the favorite stories for literature study.

Bunnies

The Bunny group had a busy month with many sense themes to explore as they learned about music sounds, touch and texture, smells of the garden, and taste. The children loved dancing, hearing musical stories, and making their own shakers. They even had an outdoor parade. The Spring Holiday was cause for the making of bunny ears and faces, marble painted eggs and Easter lilies. Getting back to their sense study, the children made texture turtles and body collages. To learn about the sense of smell, the Bunnies explored the garden, made scented flowers, and potpourri sachets. They heard the book, *Growing Plants* and planted their own bean seeds. The sense of taste proved to be a popular subject with the tasting of popsicles and jelly sandwiches. They learned the difference between sweet, salty, sour, and spicy flavors. The Bunnies also have been enjoying their outdoor learning, music and movement, story time, and centers.

Other News

Openings are still available for the fall session. Receive a \$50 tuition credit by referring a friend or family member who registers.

Thank you to Barbie Prinster for donating and operating the popcorn machine during our Family Picnic.

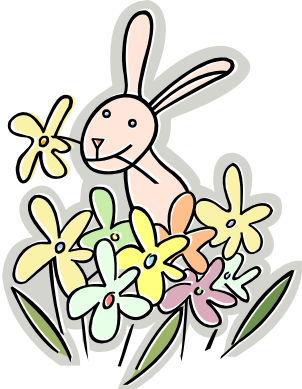
Thank you to Mrs. Bartee for the French Word Game

Thank you to Jaime Bratcher for the puzzles and puppets.

Thank you to Amber Correa for donating books.

Thank you to all parents and grandparents who donated items and helped out at the Spring Party.

Dates to Remember



May 15

May 20

May 22

May 25

June 5

Wildlife Zoo Presentation

Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser 3:00 – 9:00

Hubbard Swim School Water Safety Presentation

Closed for Memorial Day

Magic Show

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