



Desert Dawn Newsletter

March 2009

Springtime in Arizona is truly a glorious season, even when it comes unexpectedly early. The lovely tepid temperatures and an abundance of sunshine made activities such as gardening a joy. Gardening provides an excellent hands on scientific experience for young children to learn about the life cycle of plants. If you have a garden at home, you may already enjoy working in it with your child. We are pleased and excited about an event taking place for the first time this year. On Saturday, March 28th, we will be holding our first Family Picnic, Silent Auction, and Art Walk at Desert Dawn. We hope to see all of you and your families there from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM taking part in our celebration.

Art

As you might imagine, the beautiful weather has inspired our young artists to create such colorful pieces as spring wreaths, rainbow mosaics, and paper plate flowers. Of course, shamrock green was everywhere to be seen in St. Patrick's Day artwork. But nothing says springtime like birds, butterflies, and lady bugs. Using such mediums as watercolor, feathers, tissue paper, crayon, and tempera paint, they were produced. The students also enjoyed doing collage, rubbings, and string and sand painting. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day the children learned special songs and are also working on silly songs for April Fool's Day. The Pony group has created a "Band as a Whole." They made instruments to play and explore different rhythms and beats as they collaborate to form a band.

Ponies

The Ponies, the oldest group, have been working on projects that relate to special days, music and growing plants. The little gardeners expect to harvest spinach, carrots, and lettuce soon. They also planted squash, watermelon, beans and flowers. The children are working on sounding out words for daily news and journal writing. Reading books for check out is going well. They are learning to use basic math principles to solve word problems. Graphing activities, adding and subtracting, comparison study, and playing games about money values and addition were all recent math lessons. The group also enjoys French class and learning sign language. In the afternoons, the children turn their attention to music, story time, and special projects. For the birthday of Dr. Suess, they listened to *Horton Hears a Who* and *Horton Hatches an Egg* and created their own Suess style animal. There were many stories relating to St. Patrick's Day, like *The Leprechaun's Gold* and *Looking for Leprechauns*, and activities including making a pot of gold and a leprechaun as well. The Ponies heard stories and learned about farm and zoo animals, too. They loved seeing the presentation provided by the Wildlife World Zoo.



Goats

The Goat group began making rabbits long before the spring holidays as they learned about "R" words. After hearing *Let's Make Rabbits*, the children did just that in the form of a collage bulletin board. Rainbows were soon to follow as stories were read, songs were sung, and rainbow headbands were made. The study of rain was the source for water play and experiments. Everyone loves Dr. Suess stories and especially during "S" week. There was no better time to make spider masks, sing spider songs, and play spider games or to sort snakes, shells, and stones. During transportation week the children learned about various forms of travel on land, in the sea, and in the air. They had fun constructing paper planes, floating boats, and making sidewalk roads and ramps. Besides all of this, the Goats write in journals, do math lessons, create artwork, and cook.

Bunnies

The Bunnies, the youngest students, began the month by learning about the desert that surrounds them. They made paper plate tortoises and giant snakes. Shamrock hats and paper leprechauns were a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. With spring just around the corner the Bunnies created watercolor raindrops, flower collages, and ducklings. The study of weather introduced them to glitter raindrops, umbrella painting, and pinwheels spinning in the wind. The little ones also love cooking class, dress-up, and imaginary play.

Other News

Friday, March 27	Pizza Lunch
Friday, March 27	Therapy Dog Demonstration with Brian Haggit
Saturday, March 28	Family Picnic, Silent Auction, Art Walk (11:00AM-1PM)
Friday, April 3	Magic Show
Thursday, April 9	Spring Party
Friday, April 10	No School - Good Friday
Friday, May 15	Wildlife World Zoo
Wednesday, May 20	Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser
Monday, May 25	No School - Memorial Day

Special Thanks

Thank you for your referrals. Earn a \$50 tuition credit for every new student you refer to us.
Thank you to Stacy Mowery for donating our new tuition lock box.
Thank you to everyone who donated to our Silent Auction.
Thank you to all who have donated paper to the school.
Thank you to Brian Haggit for bringing your therapy dog to show the children.
A very special thank you to Samantha Faraci for organizing and working countless hours on preparations for our Silent Auction.



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