

Desert Dawn Newsletter

May 2009



As summer's heat arrives, so ends another session at Desert Dawn, giving us pause to reflect upon the children and the remarkable progress they have made over the past year. At no time in an individual's life does he grow and develop as markedly as during the early childhood years. The Bunny group has done well in adjusting to their new learning environment, the school setting. The Goats have acquired many skills that will aid them throughout their education. The Ponies have become focused students with a new found knowledge of math, science, and language. We are very proud of their accomplishments. The children have enjoyed the lovely spring weather and the outdoor learning activities it has provided. Spring party time and Cinco de Mayo celebrations were fun for all. The children still enjoy the playground and gardening, too.



Music

The children are having a great time learning songs, fingerplays, instruments, and signing in music class. Besides singing such favorites as *I'm a Little Teapot* and *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, they also sing counting songs, like *Five Little Monkeys*, French songs, *Frere Jacques*, and dance, *Wake Up Toes*.

Art

During recent weeks the children have experimented with many different ways to paint. Sponges and potato mashers worked well to make interesting patterns and textures. Cookie cutter outlines and lots of circles formed compositions. Even salt and ice made paintings extraordinary. The children crafted collages of butterflies and patchwork elephants. They were inspired to create loving cards and gifts for Mother's Day, as well as make their own wrapping paper.

Ponies

The children of the Pony group have made great strides in math and language skills throughout the year. They understand basic math principles by engaging in games and other math related activities. They learn about patterns using color cubes, stencils, and rods. Number cubes are used to explore sequencing, graphing, and coins and bills. The students are learning to count to 100 by 2's, 5's, and 10's. Manipulatives have aided them in developing an understanding of the concepts of adding and subtracting. The ponies have studied all of the letters and their sounds. They have moved on to reviewing them. Leading up to Mother's Day, the children listened to *What Mom's Can Do*. They made special cards and gifts, too. The children have explored many different springtime themes. Bee and bee hive mobiles were fun to make, as was listening to *Tumble Bumble*. The group made butterflies for the bulletin board and heard *Bug Safari*. Other activities included the marking of Mickey Mouse stick puppets, hats, and Cinco De Mayo puppets. In addition to all of these activities, the children enjoy journal writing and key words, drama class, music, computers, and French Class. They also love working in the spring garden.



Goats



The Goat group concluded the month of April with a recognition of Earth Day. *Reduce, Recycle and Reuse* became their musical mantra as the children learned about ways they can help to make their planet a better place for the future. They heard the book *Paper Party* and used recycled paper to create artwork. They made recycled beads and bracelets and an earth pendant necklace. Pollution was also studied as they learned about taking care of our water supply. Earth theme stories, songs, cookies, arm bands, and headbands all helped to make it a fun and important week for the children. Monkeys, giraffes, elephants, and zebras were a few of the animals studied during "Zoo Week." Animal masks, puppets, and painted versions of animals with stripes and fingerprint spots were made. Zoo books were read and colored. The children also talked about different types of homes. Everything from blocks and milk carton cities to animal homes were made and discussed. The tastiest houses were the ones made out of graham crackers that they ate afterwards. The Goats have done a good job keeping daily watch on the garden to make sure the plants are watered. They have enjoyed seeing how flowers and vegetables grow.

Bunnies

The Bunny group has worked hard this year at learning various shapes and colors as they embark on their first adventure at school. These young children are off to a good beginning as they discover the joy of learning. The spring season was a good time to learn about their five senses. Outdoor exploration offered a pleasant way to use the sense of sight. They enjoyed outdoor easel painting, too. The sense of taste was a good reason for popsicle taste testing and painting with pudding. The Bunnies continue to review shapes and colors which were introduced earlier in the year. Lois Elhert Shape Books provide an excellent way for young learners to study shapes at home, too. Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day inspired many projects. Maracas, chili pepper puppets, cards, and special Mother's Day surprises were just a few. The Bunnies like interactive reading time and centers, too. Dress-up, kitchen play, puzzles, books, Noah's Ark, and a racetrack are among the most popular learning centers.

Other News

Spring has been a busy season for activities at Desert Dawn. The children were able to see first hand how a sheep is sheared as they watched their pet shed his warm winter outerwear in preparation for the hot weather ahead. During our Cinco de Mayo celebration the children enjoyed learning about the culture of their southern neighbors with piñata breaking and craft projects. Spring weather has provided ample opportunity for outdoor play. We are making the most of it before the extreme heat sets in. We still have openings for the summer session and the 2009-2010 school year. If you refer a friend, you will receive a \$50 tuition credit upon registration. We greatly appreciate your referrals. We invite you to visit our new website at desertdawnschool.com.



Thank you

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped Desert Dawn throughout the year. We truly appreciate all of your generous donations for the garden, playground, and classroom and your selfless donations of work and time on our party days. Our school is a better learning environment because of your support.

Thank you to Mrs. Correa for donating books

Thank you to Ryan Deonise for videos and puzzles.

Thank you Samantha Faraci for donating puzzles.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Greco for giving us a book about Greece and Rome.

Thank you Mrs. Jacob for the hand soap.

Thank you Mrs. Montgomery for gummy bears.

Special thanks to Michelle Sunkel for the excellent job on setting up our website.

Important Dates

Friday, May 29

Friday, June 5

Friday, June 26

Friday, July 3

Friday, July 10

Friday, July 31

Friday, August 14

Pizza Lunch

Magic Show (10:00 AM)

Pizza Lunch

Closed for Independence Day

Deb's Dragons Show

Pizza Lunch

Wild Life Zoo



Desert Dawn Private School

Early Childhood Education since 1987

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