



# Classroom I Newsletter

April 2010

Spring has sprung and it has brought lots of positive energy to our classroom! The children have been working so hard throughout the year and now is when we can begin to witness transformations in each child. The children never cease to amaze us!

## The Latest



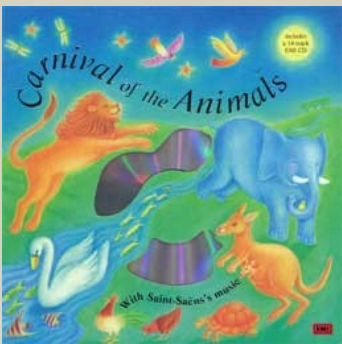
In celebration of community and sportsmanship, Mrs. Young did a unit on the 2010 Winter Olympics. This was great fun! We studied the origin of the Greek Olympics and discussed the significance of the Olympic flag. The five interlocking rings represent each of the continents (one ring signifies both North and South America). We learned that each participating country's flag has at least one of the colors of the Olympic rings, which interlock to signify friendship, community and respect. The children made a community collage' out of pictures they had collected of their favorite athlete or winter sport. We performed a mock medal ceremony in our classroom and we listened to national anthems from many countries.



In conjunction with our International Night, Mrs. Spencer educated us on the culture and traditions of China. Using our map of Asia, the children were shown the locality of China and its neighboring countries. We learned the history of the Chinese flag and a few customs of the Chinese New Year.



The children loved hearing about the Chinese dragon! They had the best time making dragon masks. We tasted delicious Chinese cuisine and attempted to use chopsticks! We now have a greater appreciation for the fine motor skills required in picking up a grain of rice with chopsticks! Mrs. Spencer read “Grandfather Tang’s Story” by Ann Tompert. This book introduces the children to tangrams. They enjoyed cutting out “tans” of their own and using their imaginations to create their own tangrams.



Mrs. Spencer also did a unit on music, teaching the children the proper terms for describing a composition. The children learned the names for different tempos, dynamic and pitch. We discussed the instruments that make up the four parts of an orchestra. Each day we listened to a poem and a piece of music from Camille Saint-Saëns' “Carnival of the Animals.” We listened for tempo, dynamic, pitch, and types of instruments. We tried to guess how the piece of music would sound based on the animal about which it was written. As our finale, an upper elementary student, Julia Radahakrishnan, entertained our classroom by playing a couple of pieces on her violin.

Just in time for Spring, and in continuation with her lessons on animal phylum's, Mrs. Kessinger did a unit on birds. The children learned the characteristics and parts of a bird. They learned that the shape of a bird's beak is indicative to the type of food it eats (seeds, berries, insects, nectar, fish etc.). Mrs. Kessinger showed the children how to make bird feeders by spreading soy butter and seeds on a bagel. In an attempt to observe the birds feasting, the children would hang their feeders on our Dogwood tree just outside our classroom window. We encountered one furry problem.....squirrels!! We observed more squirrels than birds dining on the delicious bagels!!



Currently, our classroom is studying dinosaurs which is always a favorite of the children! They are fascinated by the mysteries that surround these extinct creatures.



We are attempting to hatch “triops” in a small tank set up in our classroom. Triops are the oldest living creature on our planet. They are fresh water crustaceans and are related to the horseshoe crab, lobster and shrimp. They have been around since the Devonian period, some 350 million years ago! Their appearance has remained unchanged. Triops are sometimes called “living fossils” or “dinosaur shrimp.”

## Research Project

Before Spring break, Kelly Bradley (Bill's mother), led the older children in a statistics project. The project was a process of answering research questions using statistical techniques and presenting the work in written form. Mrs. Bradley chose the perfect subject to research.....M & M's!!

The experiment:

Everyone picked a single pack of M & M's from a box that contained 48 packs. The packs were supposedly the same. Each researcher opened his/her bag of M & M's, and observed, counted, and weighed the contents. Then, of course, each researcher enjoyed eating his/her data! The children then wrote their answers and made graphs to record their results.

Together, they made a colorful poster and were quite proud to share their work with the rest of the class. Each of the older children will receive a color photo copy of the poster to take home.

This project was done over several days and the children LOVED LOVED LOVED it! This is something that we will do with the older children every year. We have posted pictures for you to see on our “Inside Providence” section.

An enormous thank you to Kelly Bradley for orchestrating this fabulous project!

# Request

We are hoping to expand our “classroom library.” We would appreciate any used book donations.

## Dates to Remember

April 23rd- Earth Day! Look for details in “Thursday Mail.”

May 3rd- No school for elementary. Primary WILL have school this day.

May 6th- General Parent's Meeting @ 7p.m. in Haley Hall.

May 10th- No school for Primary-3rd year parent visitation from 9-11. This is a day that the graduating children are welcome to invite their families to our classroom for an open house. At 10:30, we will have a “Coming of Age Ceremony” to honor the graduates.

May 17th- Graduating children will go down the hall to visit their new classrooms.

May 20th- Last day of school.

May 21st- School picnic at Masterson Station Park.

## Thanks To You

Thank you to Rebecca Frazier for supplying us with cleaning products.

Thank you to all the children and parents that have brought us Spring flowers!

Thank you to Shannon's God mother for making the most creative snacks!

# Thanks To You (Continued)

Thank you to Mrs. Hiler for her ecological lesson on how we can all do our part in leaving a smaller carbon footprint on our planet.

Thank you to Willow Dickey (a student from classroom VII) for her wonderful lessons on dinosaurs!

Thank you to Genevieve Fontaine-Rodgerson for inviting us and organizing the most fabulous trip to Hagyard Equine Clinic!

Thanks for reading our classroom news!

Joan, Christie and Diane

“Let us give the child a vision of the whole universe...for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

