



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Remember...

Week of March 9... Watch for Parent-Teacher Conference signup sheets

March 17... Summer Registrations in cubbies

April 10 & 14... Closed

March 14... Nature Explore Families' Club at Colonel Densmore Park, 10:30AM-Noon

Coffee and Conversation

9:15-10:15AM, Courtyard Lounge, call 476-8304 for information.

March 18... Childhood Obesity, speaker Carla Lester

Reusables...

Children love to create with the wonderful reusables that are brought to school. Remember, we need these items to be **small and clean**. There are some items that we **cannot use**: toilet paper rolls, egg cartons and milk jugs; please feel free to recycle these items at home. Our teachers do not have time to sort through unusable recyclables. Thanks for your help.

Reminders/Requests...

Remember to turn in your nutrition packets. We have had a great response so far. Even though the deadline has passed (or if you chose not to fill one out) we would appreciate their return.

Thank you...

...to the Bolles family for supplying child-sized bowls and lids for all of our preschoolers to experience what it is like to grow sprout wheat in their very own mini-greenhouses! When the wheat grass comes up, the lids will come off and the children will have the fun of seeing how fast and tall wheat grows!

ALL EMERGENCY weather closings of LPS announced on the radio and TV will be observed by our program. If LPS is not in session we will follow the Catholic School weather closing announcements.

Bookshelf

All You Need for a Snowman, Alice Schertle

Annie and the Wild Animals, Jan Brett

Barn Owl, Sally Tagholm

Beaks!, Sneed B. Collard III

Birds, Nests and Eggs, Mel Boring

Counting on the Woods, George Ella Lyon

Grandpa's Quilt, Betsy Franco

The Keeping Quilt, Patricia Polacco

Me On a Map, Joan Sweeney & Annette Cable

One, Two, One Pair!, Bruce McMillan

Papa and the Pioneer Quilt, Jean Van Leeuwen

Quilt Alphabet, Cline-Ransome

Quilt of Dreams, Mindy Dwyer

Sheep in a Jeep, Nancy Shaw

The Skin You Live In, Michael Tyler

To Be an Artist, Maya Ajmera & John D. Ivanko

What Time Is it, Mr. Crocodile?, Judy Sierra

All about quilts: children experience patterns

text by Donalyn Katt, teacher

In preparation for our field trip to the International Quilt Museum we learned how to weave while talking about how cloth is woven together to make material for our clothes.



First, we weaved on a big piece of cardboard paper squares and triangles and experimented making our own nine patch design with rubber bands spaced apart. Later, we used these weavings to make our own nine patch quilt square by picking and placing the nine weavings together.

When each child was done, a photo was taken of the quilt square they

each designed. Eti D. asked if we could take our weavings to the museum but we decided that it might be hard for us to keep track of all the weavings. That's why we decided that it would be easier to take the photos. We also took construction squares and triangles and experimented making our own nine patch design. Later, we learned a song about weaving during music and movement that you may hear your child singing (and/or signing) and it goes like this:

Weaving, weaving low to high (weave hands back and forth)

Weave your way up to the sky. (weaving hands go up)

If you ever had a question (roll your hands around each other)

Would it be yes or no? (say yes palms held up and No ... palms face down)

If you ask your intuition (roll your hands around each other)

Then you will know. (point to your brain)

Left: Parker B. and Leo T. prepare pieces to attach to their quilts. Below (clockwise from top): Kai Y., Lewis A., Jack P., Parker B., and Addie E. experiment with different shapes and patterns to create their designs. Right: Lily R. shows her finished nine patch design.

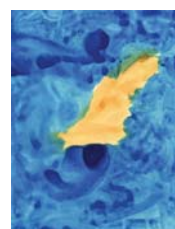


Children have fun with colorful food

text, photos by Tami Britton, teacher

Kendra and Michael (Leighton S.'s mom and dad) shared another fun snack with our class. They learned to make fruit kabobs.

The children loaded up coffee straws with mandarin oranges, grapes, strawberries and, their favorite, maraschino cherries. They also had a chance to dip their kabob in a yummy fruit dip.



Easton M., age 5



Griffin F., age 4

Preschoolers create watercolor quilt art

text by Laurie Flynn, teacher

As we prepare for our class field trip to the International Quilt Museum, our group has been looking at books about quilts.

We noticed the wonderful colors, shapes and patterns in these pieces of art and then we used watercolors to make some of our own amazing paintings. The children took turns sewing and lacing the pieces together to make the quilted art projects on the walls in the South Room.



Paige S., age 3



Scoie D., age 5



Kendra talked to the children about how they should eat a variety of foods with a rainbow of colors. The children also played a fishing game where they used magnetized fishing poles to fish out fruit cards and then place the card in a colored bucket that matched the color of fruit that they fished up.

Kendra also read them a book called **Strawberries are Red** by Petr Horacek. Children had colors that they held up to match the color of fruit on each page of the book.

Left: Leighton's mom, Kendra, helps the children prepare their kabobs. Right: Kaitlyn L. eats a fruity rainbow kabob. Below left: Kendra (with Leighton to her left) encourages the children to learn more about color in their foods with a fun fishing game. Below right: The book, **Strawberries are Red**, is used to help identify colorful foods.





Dots and lines appear in children's artwork again

text by Kristi Reitz, teacher

Our art specialist, Ann Watt, has been working with us to create some special pieces of art work. She reintroduced the concepts of dots and lines, starting first with the idea of the 'dot' and continuing with how connecting those dots will make 'lines'. She also demonstrated that a line can be any length or shape as long as it is made without lifting the pencil from the paper.

The children recently applied dot stickers and masking tape (lines) to matte board. They painted over the board, then removed the dots and lines to see that their form was still there. They also added oil pastels and told their stories. Look for the finished products on our bulletin board in our room.

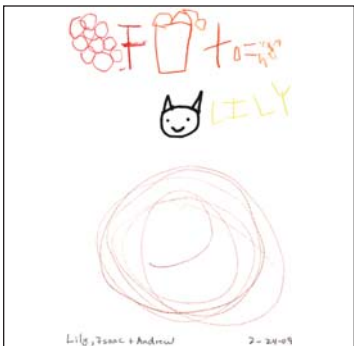
Transforming Corn

text, photos by Holly Murdoch, teacher

During outdoor time Andrew joined me in the greenhouse to try grinding corn with a manual coffee grinder. He loved watching the transformation of the corn kernels to what he called "dust" as he turned the grinder and periodically checked his progress in the little catch drawer. I found it significant that Andrew worked so peacefully for 20 minutes. He loved transforming the corn, and working the grinder with his own power seemed satisfying and calming for Andrew. While he worked he talked, quietly sharing a steady stream of recollections and ideas. "One



time I took corn off the cob at the apple farm. We ate lunch there," he said.



Top to bottom: Andrew prepares corn. Next he carefully transfers the ground corn into a vessel. Lily R. and her brother Isaac joined Andrew in capturing their interpretation of grinding corn. Lily records the corn experience as a math equation (corn + grinder = powder).

Toddlers exploring teeth, textures, shapes

text, photos by Kris Sieckmeyer-Hajny, teacher

Did you know that February was Dental Health month? A special visitor, Dr. Mark Johnson from Sheridan Square Dental, visited both toddler rooms to share with the children the importance of good dental care.

Dr. Johnson talked about the importance of good tooth brushing habits. He brought along "Mr. Big



Left: Levi P. watches himself brush his teeth.

Below: Dr. Johnson and Mira H. talk about toothbrushes.

Bottom: Nathaniel V. and Miley G. practice brushing their teeth with the help of mirrors.



Mouth" to show the children what clean healthy teeth look like. The children used a giant toothbrush on "Mr. Big Mouth" to show Dr. Johnson how they brush at home.

Dr. Johnson also brought along "Mr. Yucky Mouth" to show the children an example of how "dirty" and full of cavities teeth are when they are not taken care of.

Using mirrors and a new toothbrush of their own, the children practiced brushing their teeth. Everyone seemed to enjoy this experience. A couple were even very excited to show off their teeth to Dr. Johnson!

Toddler B has also been learning about texture. Is it smooth? Is it rough? Is it soft or hard? These are questions that the children can now answer.

We have learned that if something has "lines" it is probably rough. If it is shiny, it is probably smooth.

We have experienced different textures indoors with objects in the texture table: sea shells, sandpaper, cotton balls. We've also experienced different textures outdoors like trees, the sidewalk and the front stairs. Did you ever notice that some of the bricks on our building are smooth and some are rough?

We will continue to work with texture as we move towards our next focus — quilting.



Right: Derek P. shows Dr. Johnson how to brush "Mr. Big Mouth."

Below (left to right): Grayson S., Teddie K., Charlotte H., and Mia W. gather around for an up close look at "Mr. Yucky Mouth."



text by Kathy Marshall, teacher

Toddler A children are exploring shape, color, texture, and pattern. Using Fun Foams shapes, children are locating triangles and squares, and pink, green and blue colors on a quilt. They also are sharing with their teachers stories about the blankets and quilts they have at home.

Here are some books that explore shapes, colors, textures and patterns: *Bear in a Square* by Stella Blackstone *Dottie Duck's Fluffy Feathers A Touch and Squeak Book*

Rhyme-A-Round by Little Scholastic *Ten Little Rubber Ducks* by Eric Carle *Tickly Under There* by Debi Giori *Touch and Feel Kitten* by DK Publishing, Inc.

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

Nature experiences happen inside, too

text by Chris Kiewra, teacher; photos by Beth Pauley

Children were so excited by the new Science Table materials featuring bird information that they built nests for the birds, and by listening to them talk, they showed their teachers they know a lot about birds!

Alexander V. said, "Do you know what nests are made out of? Sticks and stuff bears burrow with. The Loon is my favorite animal!" (making a loon call...) He continued, "The bird loves it's nest! It makes nests all day and night. It makes nests everywhere."

Maddie H. lined her nest with small stones and said "Everyone come quick, I'm going to have 15 babies!" "Whoo, Whoo, this is really cool!"



Eva E. said as she was wrapping leaves around the Blue Jay, "Look what I did for her!"

The children used sticks, pinecones, and artificial foliage from the Art Area together with the stones, tree cookies, and birds from the Science Table to create their nests and play as if they were the birds. The sang like birds, swooped around their nests, and pretended to have the birds gather materials in their beaks to build the nests. These are meaningful nature connections happening indoors because of the materials provided and children's imagination!

Above: Andrew constructed a Loon nest for his bird to enjoy. Left: Maddie and Eva interacted with their birds and the various materials available from the Science Table.

Portraits from reusables

text by Cindy Heinzman, teacher

Here a Face, There a Face by Audrey Alda was the inspiration for a project in our classroom. This book uses photographs of ordinary objects or things in nature that look like a face.

We created our own faces with reusables. The children came up with faces that were happy, sad, and even one that was crying. Look all around you. See if you can find faces inside or outside in nature.

