

TriBeCa Community School Newsletter

June 5, 2009

General Notices

End of the Year Picnic:

We are looking forward to seeing you at our fun- filled picnic

WHEN: Thursday June 11th, 2009 (rain day: Friday- June 12, 2009)
TIME: 10:30AM- 1PM.
WHERE: Rockefeller Park (Location: North end of Battery Park City, west of River Terrace). <http://www.bpcparks.org/bpcp/parks/parks.php#rockefeller>

Please remember that you are responsible to supervising your child/ren there.

From Maggie, our atelierista:

As we finish up this year, I'd like to take some time to reflect back some of the experiences the children had with the various materials. The children were given a myriad of materials to explore and develop a relationship with. Beginning first with paint, the children developed an understanding of its movement and transformation. They mixed colors and used various brushes, sticks and droppers, worked with an assortment of found materials, rocks, cubes, buttons, and many, many cap and finally, moved onto clay. Using the clay, the children began to understand mass, and 3- dimensionality. At this point I began to notice a theme in their work, they were making lines with every material. I introduced string and eventually wire to extend their investigation of lines. As I worked with the children this year, I watched how they engaged with the materials, and I

was amazed at their investigation of the materials. I watched them as they used all the materials in the room to explore line, form and function. They were inventive in their exploration. I understand what it means to eliminate the product from the process of creating artwork, as I constantly struggle as an artist. Therefore, this process should not be underestimated. I worked hard to accentuate the process of their art making, and to take the focus off the product. I have had an amazing year working with all of your children this year.

OUTSIDE SAFETY:

Please assume that we go outside on all beautiful days, and:

- apply sunscreen prior to coming to the school.
- avoid sandals/ flip flops/ crocs

Next Week's Snack:

Monday: Superfood Granola

Tuesday: Veggie Sticks and Humus

Wednesday: Carrot Cake

Thursday: Picnic at the park!

Friday: Bananas

Tricia Williams, a certified holistic nutritionist and chef (also a parent in our school!) can be reached at:

chefanator@mac.com

Room 1

As this year has advanced, we have noticed an immense progression in the development of many of the children.

Many children acquired an interest in exploring the language: spoken and written, and many of them have transformed from being recipients of information to active participants in creating their own experiences. They read to themselves individually and tell stories to each other. In our classroom, it is common to see children reading to each other, and next to each other. It is also impressive to see how one child may inspire the larger community in telling stories, writing images on paper, and write messages and compose drawings for each other. As we have shared with you in our workshops, scribbling is a necessary stage in writing development, and since children need 10,000 miles of scribbling before they are truly and developmentally ready to write, we give them ample opportunities to progress toward the 10,000 mile marker!

Additionally, many children have shifted from individual work to collaborative work. For example, the children work together to create collaborative paintings, while composing many of their shared ideas onto one sheet of paper. Further, they have also worked together to create giant structures in our

block area. It is impressive to see several children working on a mutual large task, while practicing math and science skills. For example, while they build in blocks, they experience with balance, weight, symmetry, and structure. Since our blocks are unit- rule blocks, they are actually manipulating math fractions: they figure out how many of a certain piece is needed to fill in a space in their construction. Since the blocks are mathematically deigned, we invite you to take a close look at this seemingly ordinary toy, and discover for yourself the math rules and order our blocks posses.

This year, the children developed independence and language to work out conflicts. Many are confident in telling each other to respect their work, and take the opportunity to explain to each other ways to use the various materials in the room. Confidently, they assert themselves in how they wish to be treated by peers. We hope that parents will take active role in expecting children to be independent: walk on their own (rather than be carried), wash hands by themselves (rather than by an adult), and put things away (rather than the very quick solution of an adult cleaning after themselves)

Daily, complex social interactions are made. The children seek out others for

help with tasks. The children work together to put on tricky shoes, do a puzzle, or to clean up. Often a neglected contributor by many, SOCIAL development is one of the main predictors of school success, as well as leaving a productive life.

Multifaceted inquiries have been made. The children have begun to digest this large world that they live in. They create theories to try and figure out cause and effect of light, working with paint, and the outdoors.

We had a meaningful year together, enjoy your summer.

Room 2

As we approach the end of the year we have held several discussions with your children about moving forward, going to a different class/school, meeting new friends and new teachers. These are some of their thoughts:

“If we have new teachers, that will not be good. Maybe I will not like the new teachers if you go away.”

“I think I will miss my friends and my teachers.”

“I’m going to summer camp at Play Garden and then I can have new friends.”

“When I come back to the school I will be big. I will be bigger than the LOFT!!”

“If I go to another room, like room 3 then I will play in the loft with my new friend.”

“We will miss you so much when we go to a different class.”

“But when I get big I need to go to a different school and then you and Julia can come to a different school with me.”

“If I don’t see no more my friends, then I will be sad but we can still see them in the park, right?”

“When I’m big like R then I can go to his class too.”

“When I be bigger I can be a mommy and I can take the children to school.”

“I am going to miss my teachers but I will take care of my brother and my mommy because she is sad because her daddy is sick and I need to cheer her up.”

“I am going to be a great singer when I be bigger and I can know the letters and drink some juice and say, ‘CHEERS!’ ”

We have enjoyed the time we shared with your children this year. It has been a rewarding experience for us to get to know the children and their families. We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer!
Julia and Sandra

Reminders

Since some of your children celebrate their birthdays during the summer months, we will be making a cake for these children to share with their friends before the school year ends.

Room 3

It's hard to believe there are only two weeks left of school! In preparation for graduation, we have spent time with the children, asking them about what it means to graduate, how they may feel at a new school and what to tell children of Room 2 who are entering Room 3 next year. We videotaped the children as they answered these questions and have compiled a graduation video, which we will show you on June 19. We won't spoil it for you now but it is wonderful and we hope you can all join us on this very special day at 9:30.

Although it is the end of the year, the children have been very engaged in many aspects of the classroom. The loom on the light table continues to be added (and subtracted) to. When the loom was first out on the table we gave the children wire and small manipulatives (such as beads and hardware) to use. The children used the wire to wrap around the strings of the loom and create big loops. In order to encourage the weaving process, we added lacing cards to the practical life area for extra practice. String and ribbon was added along with needles. Using the ribbon, the children have weaved in and out of the loom strings, creating multiple layers as well as learning to tie knots to complete a row.

The children continue to show interest in observing and predicting whether or not some objects sink or float. E.P. made an interesting observation regarding the color of certain objects. She explained that because an object is dark in color it will sometimes sink. In order to test this theory, we placed a few different objects out that ranged in color and allowed the

children to test whether or not they would sink or float.

Yesterday, a few children decided that they wanted to show a 'movie', and began arranging the chairs directly behind the block area into two rows. M.Z. was going to be the presenter of the "Aliens vs. Monsters" 'movie', and would portray it using the overhead projector! He used a variety of materials to portray different aliens and monsters, while the class sat in their chairs and watched the 'movie'. G.D. decided that popcorn is an essential part of movie watching, and pretended that our multi-colored cubes were popcorn and made sure to supply enough for everyone in the class. M.C. shopped at our grocery store and brought extra 'snacks' for his friends to munch on during the movie. M.Z. would take the materials and move them around on the projector, but it was confusing for us to understand the story. Today, we brought back this experience to the children and had them draw characters on transparency paper to use for their movie. A.B. and S.K. created tiny people so that several characters could fit onto the projector at once. We will continue to create more characters and develop more movies for us to watch!

Reminders: The water table is back, and so please remember to supply extra clothes in your child's cubby. We look forward to seeing all of you next Thursday, June 11th at the picnic.