

October 30, 2008

Dear Parents,

When we first returned from the Greenmarket, the children recorded our trip two different ways. Some used different manipulatives to build the Greenmarket. Others chose to paint a mural of the trip. This group had to first decide what to include and then how to share the painting. They also had to manage having nine children working on one piece of paper at the same time.

We discovered we had purchased eleven different kinds of apples. The children first estimated how many apples we had altogether and then we organized and counted them. (We had 64) When we discussed what to do with them, the children generated a long list of things to cook. Applesauce was one suggestion, so we made some the next day. Then we used “Did you like our applesauce?” for our question the following day.

We dictated lots of ideas as a group.

What should we do with our apples? (make applesauce, eat them...)

How apples are the same. (They all come from trees. All apples have skin. All apples are whitish inside...)

How apples are different. (Apples have different shapes...)

How apples feel (bumpy, smooth, cold, hard, wet...), sound (crunchy, crackily...), and taste (sweet, sour, juicy...)

For the first few days, our lunch fruit was a particular apple, like Cameo or Banana. We also had taste tests between different kinds apples and graphed our preferences.

Last Friday we made apple butter. Thank you so much for helping the children to peel all those apples. We had the delicious smell of cooking apples in our room for the entire day. We also estimated how many seeds would be inside an apple and graphed our guesses. Then we cut open all the cores and counted out the seeds in each one. Most cores held 3 seeds, which was quite unusual, although the range was from 1 to 9.

We read a silly poem about blue apples. We also read “The Year Of Arnold’s Apple Tree” and found out that apples grow from the blossom on the tree and you can see the shriveled up remains of the blossom on the bottom of an apple. We listened to a version of Johnny Appleseed, a “true” story, and heard about a town where everyone turns out to harvest the apples.

Four parents joined us and cooked apple recipes. We’ve made applesauce, apple bread, apple pie, an apple cake, apple muffins and apple crisp. One day, as we cooked, there was a discussion about how difficult cutting apples could be. But then, one child put it in perspective by saying, “But you get something delicious to eat.”

We’ve been busy,

Luise and Abby