

November 17, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are so pleased to welcome Elizabeth to our class! On her first day this week, children had a chance to ask her their questions, such as “What’s your favorite color?” “What do you like to eat for dinner?” “What’s your favorite thing to eat for lunch?” “What do you like to do with your children?” “What’s your favorite flower?” They seemed excited to learn new things about Elizabeth and she already she feels a part of the community.

Elizabeth plans to send you a letter next week to introduce herself and to discuss our upcoming social studies exploration, but before that we wanted to fill you in on some of the exciting things your children have been doing in the classroom in the past few weeks. Recent curriculum planning has been happening as a result of collaboration between Crystal, Suzanne, Mary, and us. We appreciate all the time Crystal took to provide continuity for the children.

This month we continued our fall study by returning to the Union Square Greenmarket and this time our focus was gourds and fall produce. Children brought back their chosen gourds, observed them, sorted them by attributes, weighed them, and created water colors based on their observations. We talked about things we notice in the fall, and went for an autumn walk during which children each picked a tree to observe. We read fall poetry, collected leaves and then observed our leaves during work time. In blocks, children built the Greenmarket to reflect their experiences in small groups.

For Literacy, children wrote stories about their experiences at the market. They continue to write stories based on their lives in their weekly half groups. Children are also beginning to tell stories in groups and act them out in puppet shows each week. To reinforce letter sounds and growing literacy skills, we continue to use big books, star books, and work on handwriting and letters on a weekly basis.

In math we have continued with an exploration of pattern with chains, unifix cubes, and pattern games, focusing on patterns that include AB, ABB, ABC, and ABCD patterns. Children have been sorting by attribute, and have

been using estimation in our discussions and in small group work. We have also continued to graph data, and to work on building number sense with addition and subtraction when talking about attendance and our question of the day.

We have also done some cooking: cheddar mashed potatoes—which were a big hit!

Most importantly, your children have been doing a wonderful job of getting through the transition of changing teachers. They are a strong group and we look forward to continuing to come together in this important way as a community.

All of our best,  
Stephanie, Maren, and Elizabeth

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