

May 26, 2010

Dear Fours Families,

A sense of growth and change has definitely arrived in the Fours Classroom. Our trip to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was a lovely extension of our study of plants and things that grow. We had a great time exploring the gardens and noticing different smells, textures and colors. Of course eating our own lunches and playing on the playground (not to mention the bus ride over the Manhattan Bridge) were highlights as well. Thank you again to all the parents who came with us! Pictures are available on our Flickr account.

In other "things that change" news, our look at babies continues. Children have been raising interesting ideas and questions about differences between babies, toddlers and ourselves. We had a great visit from Sheri and Alison who both brought their wonderful babies; Guy and Zoe with them! Before they arrived, the Fours came up with a list of questions for them, which included, "Why do babies drink milk?" and "why can't babies draw?"

We also wanted to give you a preview of some upcoming social studies work that the Fours will be doing, which serve as a means to support the children as they enter the final weeks of school. In the spirit of growth and change, we are welcoming new members to the Fours community – caterpillars! The Fours will spend time observing and discussing caterpillars and making predictions of how our furry friends are going to change. There is a classroom library of caterpillar books on the bookshelf that we encourage you to look at with your child in the mornings. The caterpillar study is sure to be an exciting example of change and growth, and more details will follow as our study gets underway! The caterpillars have changed and are currently in their chrysalises. The Fours are anxiously waiting from them to become butterflies and check on them daily.

While we haven't specifically begun talking about the end of school with the Fours (details about our plans will follow in the next week or two), the children are aware that their time in the Fours will come to an end. Their sense of time is obviously still quite abstract at this point, and our goal is that the children begin to recognize that they themselves have changed and are ready to soon move on to

bigger things. The caterpillars turning into butterflies are a lovely metaphor of the children's growth this year.

Just a few reminders of upcoming events:

Field Day- Friday, May 28th

(Please bring a lunch to school, early dismissal at 12:45pm)

Movement assembly- Wednesday, June 2

8:45am in the Papas room

Plant Sale- Thursday, June 3rd

Diane and Charles' 4sK class will be selling plants outside their classroom from 8:15-8:45am. Both Four classes have contributed plants for the sale. The plant sale is to raise money for the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project is a non-profit organization that buys working animals (cows-for milk, bees-for honey) for families in need.

There are certainly busy days ahead, and we will be sure to pause and reflect on all the hard work and good times we have shared together. Please stay tuned for more news about our goings on!

Kindest regards,
Danielle & Anne