

May 2005

Dear Parents,

Things have been very busy in the Junior Kindergarten room. Lately, the J.K.'s have been exploring the concept of numbers. They have been counting everything in the room and placing numbers next to the objects. We have tied this interest into our topic of living things and created a flower garden with ten flowers, fifteen raindrops, twelve frogs...you get the idea. We have been playing number games such as the doughnut game. In case you hear your child singing it, here are the words - "Down around the corner at the bakery shop, there were fifteen doughnuts with frosting on the top, along came (name of child) all alone, and she/he took the (color of toy doughnut in the middle of the circle) one home. The children love the game and it is a great way to play with number concepts.

The Junior Kindergarteners will be continuing their exploration of living things as it relates to the beach environment. Along with the sensory experiences of sand and water, we will be looking at the wild life found at the beach. We will be reading stories about crabs, dolphins, whales, etc...and will record "fish" stories that the children create themselves. We would like to take a field trip to the beach at the end of the month. At that time we will need parent volunteers to drive and supervise. Please let Ms. Myrna or Ms. EvieAnn know if you are available to drive.

Conferences are being offered for the Jr. Kindergarten class the third week in June. We look forward to this time together so that we can share and delight in the growth and development of your child. We will be giving you a copy of our COR (child observation record) and a portfolio of your child's work throughout the year. Our objective this year was to support your child's development. Most particularly, we concentrated our efforts in three areas:

Emergent Literacy

Helping children move from receptive (listening) language to expressive (speaking), and from expressive verbal language to an elementary concept of the written language in both the receptive (reading) and expressive (writing) format has been our goal. We have seen exciting strides in this area. Singing and music, rhyming, speaking, reading, symbols, and inventive spelling are the strategies we use to support children's language evolution.

Critical Thinking Skills

Our goal here is to engage children in the process of constructing knowledge. We invited children to ask questions, conduct research (many types of research), and build hypothesis. How are we alike and different? What is in the sea? What flies?

What connects? These are just some of the types of questions that frame our curriculum.

Social Skills

We consider strong social skills a key to finding comfort in a world full of people. Entering play and negotiating conflicts are two of life's biggest challenges, and we offer children endless opportunities to observe, practice, and be receivers of both experiences. In all, our goal is to help your child build strong and lasting foundations; upon which the academic, the social, and the career bound learner will layer life long learning.

Quick reminders as the days become hotter, to bring plenty of water for your child to drink through out the day. You should also include a hat as well for your child to wear out in the sun.

Warmly,
Ms. Evie Ann and Ms. Myrna