





Teddy Bear News

March 30, 2016

Breathe in....aaaah! Once more.....aaaah! Fresh air! Look!....
...sunshine...flowers....worms....bugs....birds and...green, green, green! It did it! It's
here! Spring sprang! And the Teddy Bear Class was ready!

The Teds are enjoying more time on the playground. They are running faster, climbing more, scooting and riding, and beginning to swing all by themselves. Some are even beginning to try hanging and swinging on the monkey bars. The children are playing ball....soccer and catch are two favorites. And they enjoy the balloons and bubbles that are often available. This play is more open and free and inclusive for all of the children than our indoor play seems to be. We often share the playground with other classes. This makes for the great fun of multi-age interaction and sibling play. The children also have the opportunity to enjoy and converse with the teachers of the other classes, thus reinforcing the love and interest that the whole school has for them. However, as fab as spring is, we are all missing those leggings and long pants. They helped protect knees and saved on bandaids.

Now we'll go inside the room and see what is happening there. We're cooking! On National Pancake Day, Chona and the children made the batter and flipped the

pancakes right on the counter of our room! These cooks also made the ever popular chocolate chip cookies, and in the spirit of the season..."Ants on a Log." I am delighted to report that we have some very good cooks in the Teddy Bear class. My waist, however, is not so happy.

We have also been mixing things up at the Art Table. We painted with droppers, using watercolors and small pieces of white paper. Due to the large demand, we repeated that activity for two days. We also used tiny paintbrushes and palates of watercolors to color the first of our many flowers for the children on our bulletin board. Chona and I swallowed our pride when one of the children informed us that our tulip design did not look like a flower at all. We foster independent thought in our classroom...even to the sacrifice of our pride.

We enjoyed observing, exploring, and getting totally immersed (so very sorry about the challenging laundry situations!) in some science activities. We made ooey- goeey slime, using liquid starch and white glue, and silky, soft (?) playdough, mixing cornstarch and hair conditioner. Then we made colorful mini explosions by spreading baking soda on small trays. The children then dropped watercolors on the baking soda, and followed that with droppers of vinegar....BIG JOY! We should repeat this weekly! I am going to a workshop soon that is all about making lovely, messy, fun kinds of glops. Bet you can't wait!

The children's enjoyment of Spanish class with Miss Colleen, and Music with Miss Laura, Art with Miss Suzy, and Science with Miss Liz, has contributed to the growth in their ability to sit and listen. These teachers present their material in many ways to spark interest. Miss Colleen uses music and hands-on games to teach the children Spanish words. We are presently "in the kitchen." Plate...plato, glass..vaso, table...mesa, knife...cuchillo, fork...tenedor, spoon...cuchara . Maybe you can use these words in your kitchen and at your mesa. Miss Liz uses pictures, sounds on tape, and hands-on animals...small animals in boxes, animal parts (legs of turkeys, claws of bear) and animal pelts. These, and her warm, happy disposition just draw our little Teddies into the talk and explanation. Miss Suzy starts her class with the children sitting on the mats on the floor. She then does deep breathing with them to open their mind and calm their beings. This is a true attention getter. Then, she will talk about the lesson.....lines, shapes, colors... and

demonstrate on a white board. Miss Suzy might show pictures or read a children's book about the lesson. The children are now ready to begin their creations. Miss Laura brings the joy of music with her into the classroom. She helps us get the rhythm, hear the beat and respond to it. Miss Laura brings in a variety of musical instruments....drums of all kinds, beautiful bells with the A and D tones, shakers, and rhythm sticks. We sing, and sway, and move and dance and march. We are so very lucky to have such amazing, warm, loving, and intelligently talented specialists with us at our school. And to top it off, they are each, individually, so much fun!

So, indeed, the Teddies have been busy as those bees that are thinking about waking up and welcoming spring!

We hope you enjoyed your Spring Breaks. We did too. But we are very glad to get these Teddies back to laugh and think and play with us. We treasure all their conversations and ideas and delight in observing how very much they have grown in their abilities and in their relationships

Dates to Remember

Friday, April 8thNO SCHOOL-Professional Development Day

Tuesday, April 12thWUNS Family Play Date (3:13-5:00pm)

Thursday and Friday, April 21st & 22ndNO SCHOOL Conferences with Parents

Bye for now!