



NOTES FROM PREKINDERGARTEN 110

Dear Parents,

The month of December is full of joyous family celebrations. I hope you all enjoy your holiday recess and everyone is healthy, happy and ready for some more fun and learning in 2019. In December we started this month by fostering mutual understanding and respect for the many beliefs and customs of our multi-cultural community. We learned about the family celebrations and foods, from all the different cultural backgrounds of students in our class, through the sharing of traditions in the homes in our PreK 110 Family Tradition Quilt. We reviewed our shapes and all the different winter holiday customs by making our own HOLIDAY SHAPE books. I hope you had fun reading the book with your child.

This month we moved from learning about our families to learning about “Where We Live” which was the theme for this month. We learned that families need “shelter” or a place to live. The children brainstormed why we need to have a shelter. They came up with some quite unique reasons! I recorded their ideas on an experience chart so the children could see that literacy encompasses speaking, writing and then reading. We learned about houses in different climates and in different parts of the world. In the book entitled “This Is My House” they saw all the different materials, shapes and sizes of homes all over the world. We talked about our homes and what they looked like and compared them to other types of homes on our neighborhood walk. We tallied up the different types of homes on our tally sheets on our walk. Ellie pointed out her home on our walk.

Thank you for counting the windows in your home. We used this data to construct and interpret a graph of the number of windows in our homes. The children did some problem solving in the block corner trying to build multilevel buildings and skyscrapers. They had books and pictures of various types of buildings in NYC to look at.

They also worked hard at creating homes in the Art Center. They used paper shapes, patterned paper, straws, sticks, rubber shapes, markers, crayons, cardboard, paper bags and other craft items to make houses and homes where they live. Their creativity was sparked further after hearing the book “The Big Orange Splot”. It’s a story that showed a neighborhood of homes that looked exactly alike, become a neighborhood of one unique home after another. In response to the story, children made spectacular homes that were all unique and different too.

The story of “The Three Pigs and the Not So Bad Wolf” let them learn a little bit more about the construction of homes. After acting out the story with stick puppets some of them helped create straw, stick, and brick houses. We also turned our dramatic play area into The Gingerbread House Hotel where people live while they are away from their homes. The children colored a façade for the hotel which had a bedroom, a dining room, a lobby and a check-in desk. The desk clerk checked the hotel customers in, and the chef cooked food for the hotel restaurant. The bellhop delivered the food to the room. They all had fun creating the candy designs for the Gingerbread House Hotel.

The next thing we learned about was how homes were built. We saw how architects and designers make blueprints and floor plans before they build a home. Some children drew floor plans before building and some cut out furniture pictures and placed them in different rooms in a home. After hearing the book “Iggy Peck Architect” we had a culminating event with some parents coming in to help us build houses, apartments, or skyscrapers, with all the donated boxes we were collecting all month. We really appreciate all your help and assistance with the children for this fun activity.

The next week we moved on to animal homes or habitats. We heard stories about jungle animals, farm animals and ocean animals. We made a replica of an ocean, jungle and farm and then made the animals and sorted them out as we put them in the correct habitats. You can see our efforts outside our room on the bulletin board.

We had lots of fun designing our own house at the Pre-K Gingerbread House Making Party. The children loved singing for all of you too. Thank you to all the parents that came, donated and helped out at the party. We couldn’t have done it without you.

In January we will be exploring modes of transportation and their uses. We are also launching our weekly book bag lending program. Our COOKSHOP program will begin the second week in January. In addition, please return the allergy survey letter if your child is allergic to any foods.

HOLIDAY TIME IS FAMILY TIME AND WE HOPE ALL THE FAMILIES IN PRE-K 110 HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR!

Party Patrol: HAPPY BIRTHDAY Brandon and Kyle we are all 4 years old!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Capra and Mrs. Menchin

At Home Literacy and Math Together Time Activities

Literacy

1. As you read books to your child talk about what each of you liked and disliked about the book and why. If you have more than one child, read picture books together and take turns sharing your thoughts at the end of the book. To spark conversation, ask questions or make a statement for them to respond to, such as “The part of the book that I liked the best was...” This will help them with comprehension and with collaborative conversation. They will learn how to take turns speaking and listen to others when discussing the books.
2. Since we will be learning about transportation starting next week you may want to take out some books on this topic from the library. Here are a few suggested titles:
Transportation in Many Cultures by Martha E.H. Rustad
Boats by Byron Barton
Trucks by Byron Barton
Planes by Byron Barton
Truck by Donald Crews
Freight train by Donald Crews
I Read Signs by Tana Hoban
Construction Trucks by Jennifer Dussling
The Three Little Rigs by David Gordon
B is For Bulldozer: A Construction ABC by June Sobel and M. Iwai
3. You may want to have your child construct their own vehicle out of scrap materials (cardboard, juice boxes, toilet paper rolls, lifesaver candy for wheels, buttons, or whatever you have around the house) They can bring it in to share with us and tell us what it carries, how it is used by people, how it helps us.

MATH

1. Go on a vehicle hunt. Have your child take a paper and pencil and write CARS and TRUCKS on the top of the paper. Have them make a tally mark (a line) under each column when he sees a car or a truck pass by.
At home have your child count how many tallies are in each column and then compare which was more or less. They can line up one button or any small item for each tally mark in the columns and then prove they are right by pairing up each car tally with each truck tally.
2. Line up toy cars (5) and point out first and last cars. Have them close their eyes as you change the cars and ask again. Which is first, last. Then count by ordinals (first, second, third etc.) Rearrange cars and have them point to first, third etc.