Extended AM Newsletter

Carnegie Mellon University Children’s School

December 2014

Extended Morning has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Preschool theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by weekly Cooking Projects with Mrs. Loomis, Large Motor activities with Ms. McMichael, and daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday's email, and a list of available activities is a part of each day's email. The newsletter for each theme recaps the books and related activities through text and photographs.

December’s books focused on different types of live theater. We used the Green Room stage to practice singing, dancing and acting. Some of the songs we learned that enhanced our unit included: “Buzz, Buzz Busy Bee” (an expanded version of Baa Baa Black Sheep) and “How Much Is That Doggie In The Window”. We also sang several songs about love, friendship, and families, the most important things about this time of year no matter what holiday is celebrated!

Javi works on making a beehive.

Parker dances on the Green Room Stage.

Gwendolyn wears the Song and Dance costume she made.
Busy Bees On Broadway by M.D. DeLand

A bumblebee family takes a trip to Broadway to experience a variety of stage shows. They see Dancers, Actors, Magicians, Comedians, Choirs, Opera Singers and Ballerinas.

This week we played the Beehive Game by making a beehive while holding hands high up in a circle. One child is the bee who flies in and out of the hive under everyone’s hands to the music "Flight of the Bumblebee", an orchestral interlude written by Nikolai Rimsky- Korsakov. The friends built a beehive out of three cut paper tubes glued together, and the made little bees to fit in the hives. We studied and matched the different parts of a bee, and we made bees with wax paper wings. We also discussed the importance of bees in the pollination process and for making sweet honey. Many friends made their way to the stage to sing their favorite songs Karaoke style or solo. The large group sings of “Let It Go” and “The Humpty Dumpty Rap” were especially energetic!

Time in the kitchen was spent making delicious Butter Biscuits for the Extended Morning Open House events this week. At the Open Houses, parents and other relatives had a chance to see the program in action, sing some of our favorite songs together, and taste the wonderful fall soups and biscuits that the children helped to make.
Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman

The grandpa in this story gladly shares his past vocation as a "song and dance man on a vaudeville stage" with his grandchildren. They go up to his attic and enjoy trying on his old costumes and using his props. Then they are gifted with a wonderful performance of tap dancing, singing, ukulele playing, magic making, and joking by their grandpa.

The week was spent making props for performance on the stage. We created fancy Top Hats with construction paper, Bow Ties with lots of glitter, and canes to use when we danced or acted on the stage. Mrs. Armbruster, Children's School Kindergarten Teacher and Professional Dancer, came to the Red Room to show us her tap shoes and share some tap dancing moves. We all practiced some simple tap dancing steps with her. Many children tried the Toe Taps (a metal can lid) that we attached to their shoes with a velcro strap. They tapped their way across the stage to many different styles of music. After taking a good look at the book’s illustrations of pencil and chalk drawings, the children used chalk to draw on a silhouette of the dancing Grandpa.

Some of the songs we learned this week were “Love Grows”, “Skidamarink”, and “This Little Light of Mine”.

Love grows one by one,
two by two, and four by four.
Love grows around in a circle
and comes back knocking on your front door.

Mrs. Armbruster shows the friends the toe taps on her tap shoes.

Jemma and Roxy wear their bow ties and tap dance on the stage using our invented taps (metal lid and velcro).

Jacobo demonstrates his dance moves on the stage.

Owen uses tap shoe heel taps to make some great music.
**Broadway Barks by Bernadette Peters**

This is the sweet story of a lonely, stray dog who used to be called Douglas. He befriends a woman in Central Park who takes him to a special Animal Adoption Show on Broadway. The dog who used to be called Douglas sings (barks) and dances (jumps) his heart out, and is eventually adopted by a kind little girl. She names him Kramer and takes him home to a dinner, a warm bath, a belly rub, and a cozy bed. Kramer and his new family are happy! The book includes a CD with the story and a beautiful lullaby for Kramer read and sung by Bernadette Peters.

The Green Room stage became a Veterinary Clinic and Adoption Agency for Dogs. The children could adopt a dog (or other animal) and get it checked by the Vet before taking it home. We played the group game “Doggie, Doggie, Where’s Your Bone?” where children have to guess who stole the bone by the sound of the robber’s barking voice. In the game “Feed the Dog”, children use their fine motor skills with their hands to pick up small bones and feed them to the dogs. We used different items, such as pieces of carpet, on paint to texture the paint and make it look like Douglas/Kramer the dog in the story.

In the kitchen this week, we finished making a special gift from the children to their families in celebration of Winter Break and the holidays, and we made baked apples. We also made sweet potato chips as a treat for the dogs who are waiting for a home at the Animal Rescue League.
Extended Morning Open Houses

Ryan and his mom make biscuits.

Zahra samples the soup that the children made.

Tyler and his mom share a story

Dominick brushes butter on the biscuits.

Nola shows her mom one of her projects.

Maeve and her mom use a cup to cut out a biscuit.

The group sings *Icky, Sticky Bubble Gum.*

The friends do *The Hug Dance.*
More Extended Morning Fun