Extended Afternoon Newsletter

March 2013

The Children’s School

Extended Day traveled to the Desert to discover the plants, animals and fun!

Our first book, *The Three Little Javelinas* by Susan Lowell, reminded us of the fairy tale classic, *The Three Little Pigs*. As in the traditional story, the javelinas go out to make their way in the world. The first two build houses of tumbleweeds and dried saguaro cactus sticks that are both blown down by a hungry coyote. All three of the Javelinas end up in the third house made of adobe bricks. When the coyote cannot blow that house down, he tries to climb down the stove pipe and of course, hurts himself in the lit stove. He runs away as a coyote-shaped puff of smoke, howling bitterly as coyotes do! The three javelinas lived happily ever after.

In art the friends made tiny fleas using pom-poms, squiggly eyes with tacky glue, also painted wooden lizards, and ten gallon hats made of construction paper. At the end of the week, we re-enacted the story with our props. In the kitchen, we made cheese and salsa quesadillas and hat shaped pancakes.

In *The Seed and the Giant Saguaro* by Jennifer Ward, we learned how the cactus grows and the animals that surround the cactus in the desert. The story also reminds us of the food chain: a pack rat who collects cactus fruit; a rattlesnake who chases the pack rat; a roadrunner who chases the rattlesnake; and a coyote who chases the roadrunner.

Our activities planned around the story included: making easel painting desert scenes from the story, forming cactus sculptures out of play-doh, a scavenger hunt using illustrations from the story and re-telling the story using the shadow screen and puppets. We compared ourselves to a 30 foot cactus on a large 30 foot sheet of paper ended our week. In the kitchen, we made guacamole and chimichangas.

Our Extended Day books allowed us to extend our desert exploration. Enjoy the photos from our activities and adventures! Ms. McMichael & Miss Furman
Sand Art results into amazing pictures

Homemade Salsa was everyones favorite

This is how tall a cactis can grow!

Using fine motor skills in art

Painting lizards with bright colors like in the desert

Exploring the desert was a great adventure