

Chebeague Pre-K and K News – November 23, 2010

New happenings in our classroom this month have been our share bag, symmetry explorations, snake sightings on the nature trail AND a new Pre-K student.

Our share bag is done once a week in "twenty questions" style. We try to come up with ten attributes of the item in the bag. We are all learning how to phrase questions that can be answered in a yes or no fashion.

Twice this month we observed a garter snake on the nature trail. It generated a lot of interest in snakes and fit in really well for the K's diorama habitat work. Before doing some research I had no idea that garter snakes did not lay eggs like other snakes but bear their young live. One student included a baby snake in their diorama complete with that statement.

While in the nature classroom we also looked at the symmetrical nature of leaves, our own bodies and other things in nature. In the classroom students have been doing some symmetrical drawings and exploring symmetry with a mirror and pattern blocks.

We have cleaned up the gardens of plant residue and planted garlic. Thank you Bob and Erin.

This week we were very excited to welcome a new Pre-K student to our class. The children have all been very helpful teaching him the routines of the classroom.

Practical Life/Art

- Pouring with a funnel
- Color mixing with play dough
- Embroidery for lacing
- Squeezing - links
- How to draw a Veteran
- Veterans Day coloring book
- Using symmetry to finish the drawing
- Turkey handprints

Language

- We continue with rhyming, letter sound sorts and spelling words using the moveable

alphabet. The K's have started working with consonant blend sorts at the onset and ending of words.

- Maurice Sendak is our featured author.
- In handwriting both the Pre-K and K's have gone through writing each upper case letter and the numerals 1-10. The Pre-K's will revisit upper case letters while the K's have started working on lower case letters.
- How to prepare a turkey story writing- K's

Math

- Greater than, less than and equal game
- Number squeeze - a number guessing game
- Measuring with hands and feet
- Shopping for vegetables - a coin work
- Balance scale exploration

Science

- Our nature classroom feely box items have been a pumpkin, pine bough and a dried garlic bulb complete with stalk. The garlic was chosen so that we could talk about it before planting cloves on 11/19.
- Many sorts of fruits vs vegetables
- Invertebrates/Vertebrate sorting, objects and pictures

Music

- We continue working on keeping a steady beat.
- Hickory, Dickory, Dock steady beat with rearranging where the alarm clock sounds.
- Freedom song and marching for Veteran's Day
- Classical composer study - Haydn's surprise symphony.

Cultural/Peace

- North America
- Immigration - Pilgrims search for religious freedom
- Our peace circles stories have focused on self-esteem, acceptance, and things for which we are thankful.

Calendar updates

December 3: Island Commons visit Pre-K to 2

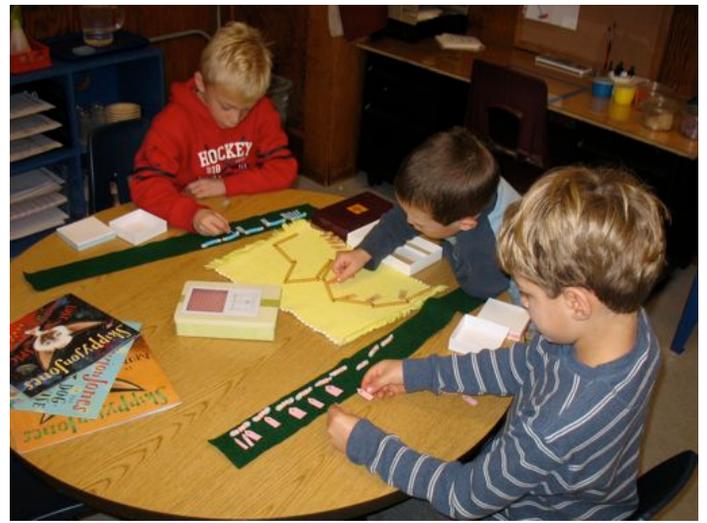
December 7: Holiday concert - 5:30pm

December 21: First day of winter ☺

Dec. 23 - Jan. 2: No school, holiday break



Squeezing links, patterning too



Counting chains by 5's (blue), 10's (gold), 3's (pink)



Odds and evens with numerals and counters and exploring weights with a balance scale.



Explorations with symmetry



sh, ch, th, language game



Mayflower from Europe to North America game

*Thank you for sharing your children
We all have much for which to be thankful
Happy Thanksgiving
Miss Nancy*