

DECEMBER (Diciembre) ENRICHMENT NEWS 2014

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the children are truly excited to be with friends and family.

Thanksgiving was Novembers Thematic Unit. We explored many traditions in our homes today, and from years past. Here are a few examples of what we did.

- We read about the Pilgrims and pioneers of our country, and made log cabins (long houses). Using the map, we explored the origin of the Pilgrims, talked about the Mayflower, and discovered where it landed! In art, we made “yummy in our tummies people”.
- We also discussed the Native Indians, and made tee-pees and gathering bags with their symbolism. After, we made popcorn and corn muffins to share (this incorporated the five senses).
Using drums in our class, we demonstrated many Indian sounds . The children made their own drums and played their version of the Indian music. We learned that the drum is a symbol of the human heart—beating as one.
- The children enjoyed the science unit on the heart. We discovered that our heart is a muscle and needs exercise. Using a stethoscope, we took turns listening to our resting heartbeat. After, we did a few jumping jacks (oh boy), and compared the two heart rates. We learned about food and nutrition, and that we need to take care of our bodies with food and exercise.
- The children had fun using the corn table. They searched for turkey letters and numbers. They did a great job matching them to their coordinating barns. We played a turkey feather game using the Spanish color words. They learned that wild turkeys eat acorns, bugs, and berries in which we sorted, counted, and patterned. Wild turkeys first make their nests from leaves, and then lay their eggs. We made our own nests in art.
- This month the children continued to work on positional words using turkeys as props (up-down, front-back, left-right, etc.).
- In art we made candy corn turkeys, shape turkeys, and toilet paper turkeys. Their cutting skills are improving significantly. This is also a great avenue for them to follow directions as a whole group and gain independence.
- I introduced the letters “T” (turkey/pavo), “I” (Indians), “M” (Mayflower), and “G” (God).
- In religion, we learned how God provides for us all. We are especially blessed to have food, family, and friends.

Snow days are soon approaching. If you are enrolled in the morning class (8:30 – 12:30), starting time for a two hour delay would be 10:30. The afternoon session (11:00 – 3:00) would begin at the usual time, 11:00 am.

December’s Thematic Unit is Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

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