

NOVEMBER (NOVIEMBRE) ENRICHMENT NEWS 2016

Fall (Otono) was October's Thematic Unit. Fall is an exciting time of change, both in our classroom and in God's world around us. I divided the unit into subunits, with the focus on four specific categories as follows.

APPLES (MONZANA) Letter "A" - We learned that there are many varieties of apples. The children enjoyed tasting and sorting according to size and color-yellow (amarillo), green (verde), and red (rojo). We learned what season apples grow and when they are harvested. In math we used a cloth tape measure to determine the size of the apples (circumference). We used a scale to determine weight. Using the laminates, the children determined which apple had more or less seeds by counting each and matching them to the correct number card. They also counted and identified numbers by placing red, green, and yellow apples (pom-poms) on the trees using tweezers. We played "Apples on the Ground" which is a letter phonics game. In art the children painted apples using real apples as their subjects.

LEAVES (HOJA) Letter "L" - We enjoyed the playground with all of the wonderful leaves. We learned about the different kinds of leaves, why they change color, the function of the veins, and how a tree starts from a tiny seed. We also learned that trees go to "sleep" after they lose their leaves. We sorted a variety of seeds and counted them. The children explored the sensory table filled with pinecones, leaves, tree bark, acorns, and nests. We read the story "The Leaves are Falling" and used the parachute to "catch" and count the falling leaves. Also in math we put the numbered leaves in order 1-20 and counted them in Spanish. We enjoyed a beautiful fall walk and gathered a variety of leaves to examine using the magnifying glasses. In art we painted the vein side of the leaves and pressed them onto construction paper.

PUMPKINS (CALABAZA) Letter "P" - We learned there are pumpkins for carving and pumpkins for baking. We cut them open, investigated the inside and outside, and explored the many parts. The vocabulary words from our pumpkin unit are shell, flesh, pulp, ribs, cavity, stem, leaves, and seeds. The children baked pumpkin seeds and enjoyed the salty treat. We patterned with candy corn and pumpkins. We played Pumpkin Bingo, which reinforces letter recognition and phonics. The children also played a jack-o-lantern game in which they had to recreate the face using a variety of shapes. At this time I introduced the Spanish shape words - circle/circulo, triangle/triangulo, square/cudrado, oval/ovalo, star/estrella, rectangle/rectangulo, diamond/diamante, octagon/octagono, heart/corazon. In art, we made shape jack-o-lanterns and paper mache pumpkins. We made play dough out of cornstarch and flour and formed them into pumpkins, letters, and numbers.

HALLOWEEN Letter "H" - The children were very excited about Halloween and Trick-or-Treat. We enjoyed many games such as ghost bowling and goblin toss. This is a fun way to improve eye/hand coordination. We sorted, counted, and weighed Halloween candy (and ate them after!). Using Halloween music, we played



a letter phonics game similar to musical chairs. Letter cards are placed on a chair. When a letter sound is called out, the child that sits on the matching letter first wins. In art, we made goblins, witches, owls, black cats, and a beautiful fall wall mural that was painted with Q-Tips.

I would like to welcome Mrs. Kotheimer to our Tuesday afternoon class. She shares her musical talents with our children. Also on Thursday mornings the Enrichment children will go to a special computer lab class with Mrs. Tsikouris, our in house computer teacher.

The Thematic Unit for this month is Thanksgiving.

Many Blessings,

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