



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, toys in every store!

Thank you so much for taking time in your busy schedules to attend's your munchkin conferences. I look forward to an awesome and adventurous year together!

In fact, your munchkins have become helpful busy elves. They've started decorating our classroom holiday tree and helping Mr. Alfred in the fellowship hall as well! I have a feeling they sneak out at night to fly to the North Pole to help Santa! Also, they've been working behind the curtains with Mrs. Claus (aka Ms. Julie). You don't want to miss them performing at our holiday program on December 20th!

Other happenings: We continue to explore Fall, going on regular walking trips around the school. We explored the garden and asked the kids if they noticed anything different. Alex said, "the stream has dried up." "The leaves are changing to brown," said Benjamin. They drew their own observations of the garden as they see it. We've noticed that some plants in the garden - like the elephant ear leaves and stalks - have started to decompose. We explained that the underground parts like the roots and bulbs will remain alive until spring. We also talked about how the woody parts of the tree and shrubs like the butterfly plants can survive the cold and still blossom in the spring.

Our field trip to Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve expanded the children's learning and provided them with a hands-on experience. It increased their knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live.

While we were exploring a family of ducks and geese in the pond on this field trip, Ms. Julie said

to the kids, "I wonder what other animals also live in here?" Isaiah replied "Pigs, because they live in mud!" - pointing to a path full of mud.

Alex and Shepherd found an information sign and studied it. It was a word/picture sign that shows where the rain goes on land. I overheard Shepherd saying "That's the Atlantic Ocean!," pointing to the blue line in the middle of the map. Who knows? Maybe he does know what the Atlantic Ocean looks like. But he was able to make the connection that blue represents water on a map. The same with Isaiah, when he associated pigs with mud!

Art: The children did a 3- stage process with Ms. Sarah, learning about phases of the moon. First, they read a book called "I Took the Moon For a Walk." Then they painted a full moon and stamped circles into the surface with corks.

Next, they investigated a moon calendar for the month of November. They observed that the moon changes! Alex knew about the New Moon and pointed to the picture on the calendar. The students chose what moon they wanted to collage. They used collage materials and learned about decoupage these materials.

Then, they experimented with tearing newspaper "with the grain" and against the grain." They made several newspaper balls and stuffed the moon. The moons were then stapled together, and a stick was attached to them. The children took their own moon for a walk. "We are flying our kites," they said. "Humpty Dumpty..." sang Aryz as he marched around the room. They talked about how the moon travels through the sky in an arc. The children took their moon for a walk inside the building.

"Wait ... there is only one moon in the sky. I see too many!," said Sammy, observing everyone holding their moons up in the sky. 😊

This was a great way for kids to learn about moon phases while also practicing their fine motor skills and picking up new vocabulary.

I have been meaning tell you about Ms. Linda. She retired this year. She still comes once a week to do lesson activities with kids ... those "Let's Find Out" activities your munchkins bring home on Mondays!

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