

Dear families,

Piggybacking on last week's Dr. Seuss fun, we introduced the next installment in our study of different types of literature - poetry. Students sewed their very own "pockets" that we will keep in the classroom to collect individual copies of all the poems we read in the coming weeks. The students were quite pleased with themselves when they finished the task and we heard a few stories about relatives that know how to sew and have shared their skills with the kids.

We defined poetry as the art of putting words together to make patterns or bring to mind thoughts, pictures, or feelings. So far, all of our poems follow a rhyming pattern and it has been fun to see how well the students are doing recognizing word family patterns and even creating their own made-up rhyming words. Ask your child if they can sing their "silly name song" (Beth Beth Bo Beth Banana Fana Fo Feth...) Some of our poems lend themselves to movement activities or fingerplays (such as *Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear*) while others can be chanted or set to music (*One, Two, Buckle My Shoe*) and still others inspire a fun art project. After reading the poem *5 Little Kites*, students repurposed one of their colorful easel paintings to make their very own spring kites which you can see flying high in our classroom!

Also this week, we used the changing weather as an opportunity to start a discussion about what causes different [types of clouds](#) and precipitation. The students participated in a fun [science experiment](#) where we used shaving cream to represent a cloud and added drops of blue and red food coloring on top. As the purple liquid moved through the "cloud," it demonstrated how rain forms and falls from clouds. After making our very own "purple rain," we naturally had to jam out to Prince's famous song during snack time. Be sure to ask your child if they liked the song (if you are lucky, they might demo the air guitar for you). To wrap up our scientific observations, students had some fun creating their own cloud scene using fluffy paint and watercolors.

We recently took away the picture clues during our Morning Meeting and are incredibly proud to say that every child in our class can successfully read the names of all of our classmates without any cues, hints, or prompts! This is a huge step in their preliteracy journey because they are recognizing that specific letter patterns have different meanings and they are connecting to those letter patterns in a very personal way - this is what reading is all about!

We got lucky with the weather early in the week and were able to enjoy lots of time on the playground in addition to our yoga class with Ms. Melissa. In Spanish, Ms. Ericka went through our calendar songs en Español and introduced us to some words that begin with N. To celebrate the letter N, we made some neat number nine noodle necklaces, got to look at some bird nests and learn how they are made and had a special Nori snack. Our Show and Tell was nice and nifty and featured a narwhal, napkin, new LaBuBu, nest, nets, and several necklaces. We wrapped up the week with a dance party.

Books We Read:

Pocket Poems by Bobbi Katz
Pocketful of Poems by Nikki Grimes
There's a Bear on my Chair! by Ross Collins
Dog on a Frog? by Kes & Claire Gray
Oi Cats! by Kes Gray & Jim Field
The Good Egg by Jory John
Clouds by Marion Dane Bauer
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles G. Shaw
One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root
Froggy Boots Go With Everything by Jill Zobkar Martin
The Best Nest by P.D. Eastman
Bird Builds a Nest by Martin Jenkins
The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton

Looking Ahead:

- Next week's Show and Tell will feature items that begin with the Letter O
- Reminder that next Friday, March 20th, is a staff development day and there will be no school.

Have a great weekend,
Kristen and Beth













