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latest news and events!

Newsletter

“Nothing Without Joy”

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The Construction of Spider Island

By Teacher Courtney

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- 2 “One of the primary goals of the early childhood science curriculum is the development of scientific thinking in young children. Scientific thinking differs from the learning of scientific facts in that scientific thinking involves children in the process of finding out. Instead of learning what other people have discovered,
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- 5
- 5 scientific thinking leads children to make their own discoveries. Scientific thinking is manifest as young children ask questions, conduct investigations,
- 6 collect data, and search for answers (Johnson, J.R).”



DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 13-14	Picture Day (During class time)
Nov. 21-23	NO SCHOOL -Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 3	NO SCHOOL -Teacher Inservice
Dec. 4-5	2013 Preschool/Playpals Visitation
Dec. 6-7	K-3 Visitation Days
Dec. 10	NO K-3 Class
Dec. 20	Family Feast
Dec. 21	NO SCHOOL -Teacher Work Day

The idea and creation of Spider Island has been a tradition at our school for many years and is one of the ways to meet these early childhood science goals. You probably don't care much for spiders but you can't help but be fascinated by the way they move, hide, hunt, and create their web masterpieces. Teacher Casey, who readily admits her dislike of spiders, regularly comes in to check on our classroom spider and growing habitat. Visitors from other classes come in as well for current status. This process of going on spider hunts, and exploring their homes around the playground, collecting materials, and observing the spiders in action has brought a new level of excitement and energy into our classroom community.

Isabelle and Carter caught a spider (*cont on page 3*)

Mini Meal Ideas

Super Easy:

Whole grain spaghetti with tomato sauce. Make it sneakily healthy by throwing grated carrots or zucchini into the sauce! Toss in a tiny bit of wheat germ or ground flaxseed to boost kids' intake of vitamins and minerals. Serve with bakery garlic bread and you've got yourself a meal.

Bake it with the kids:

Make Green Muffins with the class! These yummy baked goods are filled with zucchini! Use a mini muffin pan or double to make sure everyone gets one.

Prep time: 15 mins Bake time: 20-25 mins Yield: 16

(Recipe courtesy of Parenting Magazine)

3 cups flour

1 Tbs baking powder

1 tsp salt

1/2 tsp baking soda

1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

2 eggs

1/2 cup low-fat milk

1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil

1 cup sugar, plus extra for sprinkling

2 cups shredded zucchini (about 2 medium zucchini)

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and place paper liners in muffin tins.

2. In a large bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

3. In a medium bowl, beat eggs with an electric mixer for 1 minute. Beat in the milk, oil, and sugar. Stir in the zucchini until well blended. Add the flour mixture to batter a little at a time and stir to mix -- it should be a little lumpy. Spoon the batter into the prepared muffin tins. Sprinkle each muffin with 1/4 teaspoon sugar.

4. Bake for 20 minutes or until the muffin tops are golden brown and spring back when you touch them. Remove from tins and cool on a rack.

Serve with sides of mixed fruit and cheese cubes for a plate full goodness that any kid would gobble up.

Do you have a fun recipe to share with the school? Email it to Carrie at carrie.mint@yahoo.com to have it included in the next newsletter!

CCC's Famous Flubber Recipe

Solution A: 2 Cups Elmer's Glue

1 1/2 Cups Cold Water

Solution B: 1 1/2 Cups Cold Water

3 Teaspoons Borax

Stir glue and water in one bowl (solution A). Stir water and Borax together in another bowl (solution B). Pour solution A into solution B and work goo together. You can store it in a Ziploc bag or air-tight container. Pour the Flubber through a colander, blow bubbles with a straw, or just squish it through your fingers.

Parent clean up tip: Flubber stuck on your kid's clothes? Soak the spot in vinegar and watch the Flubber come right off!

Spider Island, continued from page 1

outside on Friday. They transferred the spider to one of the biggest trees so it could have lots of room to make its web.



Ben and our new student Chloe found some ants climbing on our pumpkin, providing fresh food for our spiders. Rosabelle found a piece of wheat and made a bridge spanning two twigs so the spider could expand its range. Adam made a ladder for the spider, providing another path. Observation stations and illustrated books have inspired us to



draw pictures of spiders and their habitats.



Children's understanding and knowledge can be enhanced through social interactions, fostering curiosity and stimulating new ideas. We will incorporate these new discoveries in our spider studies, and continue to revisit them in large and small groups.



Spider

Author Unknown

**I saw a little spider
with the smartest spider head;
She had somewhere inside her
a magic silken thread.
She made it look so easy,
I wished all day I knew
how I could spin a magic thread
so I could dangle too!**

Get Blogging!

By Kirstan Graham – PR Parent Director

If you haven't been on our school website lately you may have missed something great... our blog! That's right, the school has a blog where we have been posting fun class pictures, interesting stories, and timely event reminders. You can check it out at www.creativechildrenscenter.com/blog and don't forget to subscribe to our RSS feed so you never miss a post!

I'm looking for submissions – Are you the parent always prepared with camera in hand? Do you like to share stories from your class? Send me your material and be featured on our blog. It's up to you: a picture and a few lines of text, or write a whole article. We welcome our parents to be a part of our online community! Submissions can be sent to the school info@creativechildrenscenter.com. **Please put "For Blog" in the header.**

Need some added incentive? I'm so excited about growing our online community I'm offering up one of my handmade glass pendants as a raffle prize! Send me something to post, or go read the blog and leave a comment to enter. Each post or comment will get one entry and I will post the winner December 18th on the blog, you'll have your pendant in time for holiday gifting – So get blogging!



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SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendars for CCC's
Annual Auction:

March 16, 2013

More information coming soon
to your sign-in folders!

Transformation

On Saturday, October 27th, Teacher Lucy had the wonderful opportunity to keynote at the “Day of Dialogue” education conference in Seattle. With the theme of “Transformation”, Teacher Lucy wanted to inspire the image of the child as an individual – one who has a right to attend a school that will transform them during early childhood. A school with engaged teachers and parents, providing creative educational experiences. She also wanted to make sure that the voice of the parent was represented, as it is so often ignored or used solely to address criticism.

In Lucy’s words, “From my point of view, transformation is a process of evolution, interdependent on others, yet centered on our personal identity and sense of self. A process that is always moving, relational to the experiences and to the people with whom we interact. Schools should provide children, parents, teachers, with opportunities to grow as individuals and as a society, for schools are where our

culture is born and our society is formed.

It would be my honor to share a community narrative that includes the voice of the parent. A presentation that not only challenges the old decisive view of parent as partners, but takes it to the next level. A level that demonstrates together we are better.”

In response to Lucy’s desire to include some parent perspectives, parent Chris Beckley shared his view as to how the school has transformed him, his child, and his relationship with teachers involved in his child’s life:

–Since starting at CCC with my one and only child, Maya, I have only known this fantastic relationship of parents, teachers and students all working together to not only benefit the children, but benefit us all. The growth and development of children is obviously the most important goal at any school, but the way CCC involves parents has enriched my life (*cont on pg 6*)

Pumpkin Patch Field Trips

Courtesy of the CCC blog

All the classes visited various pumpkin patches around our area this month. A big thank you to Baggenstos Farms and Lakeview Farms for welcoming our groups! Kids were intro-



duced to the wheat cycle, getting a chance to see wheat change from plant to grain to flour and finally bread. Fall produce like apples and pumpkins abound and the kids were very curious to learn how these things make it from farm to table. Of course, much fun was had along the way!

Transformation, continued from page 5

as well as my daughter's. Being involved directly in the classroom while school is happening is insightful, meaningful and fun. The children interact with parents and teachers throughout the day while the teachers and parents interact with each other as well. Being present in the classroom allows the teachers to offer advice, guidelines, ideas, examples, and strategies for the benefit of our children on the fly as the day is happening or at the end of each day rather than attempting to communicate a wide variety of things at a more formal conference, which in other schools, may be the only interaction parents and teachers have.

If I was unable to freely interact and establish relationships with Maya's teachers and the other children in her classroom, I would feel very disconnected and uncomfortable. It would be hard for me to imagine a school where there wasn't a strong connection between parents and teachers. In my opinion, all schools should be co-ops where every parent is more directly involved in their child's education and not just an outside critic. Obviously this is not always easy in our current society, but I hope to help change the paradigms so that it is widely accepted that parents would be more involved and society/employers would recognize this and openly allow for this as the norm. —

The Reggio Inspired Approach

Reprinted from 2004

Here's a glimpse of some of the guiding principles to the Reggio-inspired approach to early childhood education. Dr. Rebecca Isbell prepared this summary. The notes in parenthesis are ways you may see these values at CCC.

- 1. The Image Of The Child:** All children have potential, construct their own learning and are capable.
- 2. Community and System:** Children, family, teachers, parents and community are interactive and work together. (Parents in the classroom, regular class meetings, ongoing research with teachers and parents in the community setting).
- 3. Interest In Environment And Beauty:** School and classrooms are beautiful places. (Bringing nature into the class—bugs, flowers, wood, natural items).
- 4. Collaboration By Teachers:** Team, partners, work-

ing together, sharing information, sharing in projects. (Staff working together in constant collaboration about ongoing projects, etc.).

5. Time Not Set By Clock: Respect for children's pace, time table, stay with teachers for several years, and relationships remain constant. (Honoring children's ideas, allowing everyone a chance to share at circle time, looping multi-age classes with the same teacher).

6. Emergent Curriculum/Projects: Child-centered, following their interest, returning again and again to add new insights. (Allowing curriculum to emerge as children show interest; for example, Sunshine Kids started a study of paper when the children took paper lines and started creating shapes).

7. Environmental Stimulation: Encourages activity, involvement, discovery and using a variety of media. (Children can communicate in hundred different languages; we have a studio full of supplies for them to share their thoughts).

Reggio, continued

8. **Documentation:** Observing, recording, thinking and showing children's learning. (In the documentation, writing, photos, etc.; we can all learn from the children. We see parents and teachers as co-researchers on this educational journey).



THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to the teachers, council members, and families who were a part of the **Boo and Bowl-A-Thon**.

A great time was had by all and it could not have happened without the hard work that was put into making this event a success. We can't wait for next year!

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Trista Ainsworth—owner and CCC parent.

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November

Author Unknown

No sunshing, lots of rain. No warm days, snow again!

No bugs or bees, No leaves on trees.

You must remember—this is **NO**vember!