WEEKLY RECAP

NATURE IMMERSION

9/16/19 -9/20/19

MONDAY

Free exploration: Today students started the day exploring ramps and wheels. Students worked together to build ramps with tile floorboards, they noticed the higher the ramp, the faster the wooden wheels would go down. We also explored watercolor paint at the table and mixed colors together on paper.

Morning meeting: Today we read a story about butterflies and noticed our caterpillars made their chrysalises, we have three chrysalises and one caterpillar! Our students explored the life cycle of a butterfly; most students understand that butterflies start as eggs, eat the egg as a caterpillar, make a chrysalis, and transform into butterflies! We talked about the color butterfly we would like to be.

Indoor Exploration: Students explored books about butterflies. A few students worked on the United States puzzles and we discussed each state.

Atelier: Students were introduced to golf balls, exploring movement and creativity on what we can do with them. We noticed we could roll them down hills, paint them, and make imprints in the playdough with them.

Goodbye circle: At goodbye circle students reflected on what they noticed was helpful for the day. Students shared that using talking voices, working together, and sharing materials was helpful to them.

TUESDAY

Free exploration: Today students explored books in our playspace. Some students read books about dinosaurs while others explored a book about eggs. Students worked together to play pretend as well work in groups for different activities.

Morning meeting: For morning meeting, we read another story about butterflies. The story was about different insects who celebrate butterflies when they come out of their chrysalises. We talked about how many days it would take a butterfly to come out of its chrysalis.

Indoor Exploration: Students explored books, played with dolls and enjoyed calming and relaxing music.

Goodbye circle: Students played I-spy at goodbye circle and took turns being the person who spies. We are working on students talking one at a time and listening to others' stories.

WEDNESDAY

Free exploration: Today students used our big loose parts to create ramps, forts, and a dog house. They used floor board pieces, nets, and pvc pipes to bring their imagination to life. Students also used a rope to fish for friends and pieces of moss as fish. Our sensory experience today was green slime. Students explored the sticky, slimy goo with measuring cups, spoons, and their hands.

Morning meeting: Today we read a story about eggs; we explored the shape, size, texture, and features of different eggs. We noticed different color eggs, being one color or specks of different colors. We explored smooth textured eggs as well as slimy eggs. We noticed butterfly eggs looked slimey and had a circle like an eyeball.

Indoor Exploration: This week our caterpillars transformed intro cocoons right in front of our eyes and we took time to explore this beautiful transformation. Students has been showing great interest in learning about the solar system and continents. We briefly talked about our oceans and labeled it on the globe.

THURSDAY

Free exploration: We noticed that it was cooler out today and we celebrated by spending the whole morning outside! Students mixed blue and orange water together at the water table, resulting in brown water. They also had a shaving cream sensory experience, adding color to the shaving cream as well. We noticed an ant hill and put a chair over it to protect it, we also put a book about ants on the chair to learn more about them! We learned that they have three parts of their body and six legs. We learned that ants come from eggs too!

Morning meeting: We read a story about chickens not being the only animals to lay eggs. We talked about different animals that lay eggs; turtles, dinosaurs, birds, fish, snakes, and frogs.

Atelier: Today students made butterflies out of paper, toilet paper rolls, popsicle sticks, and glitter. Students chose the colors they wanted for their wings and used glue to hold their butterfly bodies together.
Goodbye circle:

Lunch & Mindfulness: Today we practiced using our talking voices at the lunch table. Some of our students enjoy playing at the table, we talked about things that were okay to do at lunch and other things that could be distracting to others while they eat. For yoga we explored South America with frog yogi. We did yoga poses that resemble mountain pose, a snake pose, a manatee, and a flying bird pose.

Afternoon activities: Students found a parachute and used it to build a fort. We worked together to find a spot for it and they hung out in it all afternoon!

FRIDAY

Free exploration: Today students used the parachute to recreate the fort they discovered Thursday afternoon. Students ran through it as well as used it as shelter. We took the parachute down and used it as a group. Students ran under the parachute, shook it, and had a lot of fun with it. We will continue to use the parachute to practice gross motor skills and self control, everybody wanted to run under it!

Morning meeting: For morning meeting we read another book about butterflies. We celebrated that our butterflies came out of their chrysalises and were ready to take off. We noticed that when butterflies come out, their wings are wet and they flap them to dry them.

Indoor Exploration: Today we talked about how to calm our body down and listen to our bodies inner necessities when we are excited about something . We did a silent game where students closed their eyes and listened to the sounds in the environment .

Atelier: Today students made kites to celebrate the windy day. Students decorated their kite with glitter. It was a student's idea to add a string to their paper and next thing we know, they are all following their lead to make kites!

Goodbye circle: We read a story about peace and talked about what peace looks like. Students weren't sure what peace looked like, we talked about giving love, problem solving, and helping each other. Students reflected on helpfulness they saw throughout the day and talked about things that are peaceful (helping, being quiet, and caring for one another)

Lunch: We ate lunch early today so we could celebrate Peace Day with upper school. Nature immersion students walked to the front of highland house where we planted a peace pole and listened to music and poems. We let our butterflies fly at the end of our celebration. We had a very social butterfly who let almost all of the students hold it! It was a beautiful moment for our school family.