WEEKLY RECAP

NATURE IMMERSION

9/23/19 -9/27/19

FREE EXPLORATION:

Students noticed the change in our playspace; the missing tree branches! We feel the difference with the sun shining in our space however we do still have shade. Students are using the live oak tree branches for climbing and balancing. Students began one of the days exploring dinosaur books, pretending to be in a rocket ship, and using the tree branches for seats. Students put on a show on the balance beams while the others watched them on the tree branches and told them what to do. Today a group of children used their playspace as a train track. Students drove and stopped throughout the space to pick up cargo and people. While our space was being used as a train stop, some of our other friends were using it for catching bugs, bats, and eyeballs in the spider webs. Students worked together and individually to collect the eyeballs and bats from the sensory bins that were covered in tape like a spider web. Students used spoons to collect the eyeballs and put them in a vase, eventually using their hands to feel the texture of the rice and the web.

MORNING MEETING:

This week we explored a book about pumpkins. We learned that although we usually see orange pumpkins, they can also be green, yellow, and blue! We explored different textures of pumpkins (smooth and bumpy), and saw people using pumpkins as boats. Students identified that pumpkins come from seeds, grow as a flower, and then begins growing as a knob on vines. We talked more in depth about what you can do with a pumpkin. We identified that pumpkins are a type of squash and can be used for making food. We also know that pumpkins can be used for Halloween as jack-o-lanterns or scarecrows. Students learned that rotten pumpkins can be fed to cows or used as fertilizer for the soil. On the topic of Halloween and exploring sensory spider webs; we talked about the spider web the students played in, how it felt sticky and how it was hard to move around. We compared it to a real spider web; spiders' webs are sticky to catch their prey to eat. Spiders wrap their prey up so they can't move around and get out. We talked about how spiders have 8 legs and how most insects have 6 legs. One of our students recalled from earlier in the week that scorpions have 8 legs too and they are related to spiders.

ATELIER:

This week students worked together to paint and manipulate a large pumpkin. Students made space and collaborated on what colors they planned to use. Some of our students got ahold of the glitter and used it on themselves and the atelier. We talked about controlling the use of our materials and saving them for our art projects. Students used the pumpkin as a geo-board by hammering golf tees and using rubber bands to connect the tees. Students observed the chickens up close to be able to create them in Atelier. Students used play dough, toilet paper rolls, pipe cleaners, and feathers to recreate a chicken. When students finished their chicken, they were able to put their chicken in the habitat to take care of the eggs. While some of our students chose to make chickens, other children chose to make a self portrait. Students began

with the circle as the face, added marble eyes, made mouths, and glued on hair. Students were able to use the mirror to reflect on what they saw and draw their faces.

INDOOR EXPLORATION:

This week the students explored the new provocations and worked on puzzles of United States , practiced one to one correspondence, others worked on sensory tools , and letters sounds. Please be mindful that the inside class is child-led meaning that they choose the provocations from the shelves according to their developmental needs and age . The classroom is adapted to meet the developmental needs of all children in our program. If you wish to know what your child is working on , please consult with Ms. Solange .

SENSORY EXPERIENCES:

This week students washed pumpkins and learned about sequencing. We washed, rinsed, and dried our pumpkins. The students helped fill the basins with soap and water. We learned why it's important to wash our fruits and vegetables. This also brought up the topic of why we wash our hands before mealtimes. Students were able to work together to pass the pumpkins from one person to another until the task was completed. Students practiced using a hammer to nail in golf tees into a larger pumpkin. They used hand eye coordination to hold a tee with one hand while using a hammer with the other. Some students noticed that after you pull the tee out of the pumpkin you could see the tee was stained orange. Students also had to practice balancing an object on a spoon while transferring it to another location. This was done using orange rice, plastic eyeballs, and bats. They pretended the spiders and web were poisonous so they had to use a spoon and not their hands. This brought up the topic that some spiders are poisonous and its sometimes safer to observe them rather than touch them . The web was made of tape so the students understood how a real web is made to catch a spiders prey. Lastly we dissected a pumpkin. Students were able to touch and smell the pumpkin. Some students liked the smell while others left the table . We learned that everyone is made differently and we all like and dislike different smells and textures. We also picked out the seeds so we can roast them next week. The students noticed they were hard to pick up because they felt slippery. We learned that a pumpkin can be used for multiple things including eating and decorating.

YOGA & MINDFULNESS:

This week we are exploring our space without the shade and where we can put our yoga mats. We chose to read stories under the porch at the beginning of the week. We read a story about crazy hair and all of the different ways you can wear your hair. It was a long silly story that kept the students' attention. We did independent book time and mindfulness under the porch. Students finished the week doing I am Yoga and having the students lead yoga for the day. Students were excited to lead yoga and make up their yoga poses.

GARDENING:

We started the week transferring seedlings that we planted last semester into our garden beds. Students were thrilled to observe and measure the height of the seedlings. It was very fun . On Tuesday, we reviewed the concept of photosynthesis and the importance of the sun in the growth/ life cycle of a plant . We talked about shade plants vs sun plants. We also started a semester project on the cycle cycle of the bean plant where students planted beans on cotton to observe its growth . So far, none of our bean plants has sprouted but the students are patiently waiting for it . Next week , we are going to continue to explore our garden and make natural pest control remedies to keep our plants healthy.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES: :

Our full- day students had an opportunity to have one to one with our educators to work on their developmental needs as well as exploring the environment . They played on our food forest planted bean vines. They came with the idea of building a fort of bean vines. This will part of our next week project .