



WEEKLY RECAP

NATURE IMMERSION
12/2 - 12/7

FREE EXPLORATION:

This week students explored a range of natural materials; identifying rocks, measuring sticks, cutting the leaves, and making letters with loose parts. Students identified granite rocks and learned they are made from volcano magma drying, hardening, and forming solid rocks. They noticed granite rocks were gray and had small crystals. We identified river rocks from Florida and Ohio, comparing how they are the same and different. They were both brown and smooth but the rocks from Ohio were flatter, while the rocks from Florida were rounder. Students cut leaves from a fallen palm tree, strengthening their skills with scissors. We used scrabble letters to make words, sounds, and recreate letters with sticks and wooden blocks. Students also played a letter matching game with the scrabble letters. Students created picnics together with their snacks and friends. We will continue to explore their interest in picnics and playing different roles amongst each other.

MORNING MEETING:

This week we continued exploring the observable and relatable natural world. We read stories about squirrels, birds, making nests, the Earth, and a very favorite new book about a rock named Ishi. Ishi is a rock that encourages creating happiness within yourself and sharing it with others. Ishi talks about the problems he has (feeling lonely, focusing on what's missing, feeling different) and how he solves his problems (talks to friends, focuses on what he does have, and recognizing that everybody is different). We are growing empathy towards nature and others. We are reading books about what manners look like in public and increasing internal motivation to be kind and helpful towards others. We notice there are a lot of living things in our environment; ranging from trees, plants, people driving garbage trucks and people flying planes.

ATELIER:

Students used clay this week to make their family, robots, traps, hearts, and buildings. We noticed that when the clay starts hardening we can use water to soften it to keep working. Students used loose parts to add to our work such as beads, pom poms, feathers, and fabric. Some of our other students made puppets out of brown paper bags. Students are becoming more independent with Atelier materials and putting them back when they are finished. Another developing skill is controlling the glue and understanding how much glue you need based on the item you want to glue.

INDOOR EXPLORATION:

The anatomy week.

The human body is a fascinating topic to talk with small children. This week during our individual work, most students were super interested in learning more about their organs and their functions. Ms. Solange decided to take some time to label each organ and explain its function. The students absolutely loved it. This week, everyone in Nature Immersion are going to

doctors when they grow up. Because this is a topic that interested most of our students, we are going to keep exploring the human body next week.

PORTUGUESE :

Last term, we focused a lot of time in our Portuguese lessons learning basic names , songs and just getting use to the phonetics of the language. It was a success . Most students learned the songs and can speak a few words in Portuguese. This term , we are going to focus on the costumes and greetings of the country and learn the names and basic conversations in Portuguese.

SIGN LANGUAGE:

Last term, Ms. Solange observed that some incredible events were happening in our space and some students were missing it out and sometimes students talked about how some people are unable to speak . This is when we noticed a necessity to be inclusive and bring sign language to our program. This term we are going to focus on basic commands, greetings and events that happen in our space daily.

FOOD PREPARATION:

It is amazing to observe how much children are interested in cooking their own food. This was a particularly busy week in our kitchen. Ms. Dana generously donated some child-size peeling tools to our program (thank you!) so the students were able to peel carrots for practice most days this week. A peeler is a great resource for building fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. On Tuesday, we decided to do something more challenging: Make a vegetable soup from scratch. Students peeled and cut all the vegetables, washed it and make the soup with little to no assistance from Ms. Solange. They also set a beautiful table for everyone and we discussed table manners. We also made quinoa salad with herbs and greens from our gardens (students haverted the greens from next door and herbs from our garden). To close this beautiful week, we had a tea party on Friday. Students learned how to appreciate a good tea and how to make tea from our own Tea Garden.

GARDENING:

This was a busy week in our garden. It is coming along very nicely and looking very pretty. This week was particularly interesting to watch the bloom of our red sunflowers in our space, our tea garden is growing super fast and we finally got to make some fresh tea straight from it. Watering our plants are part of our student daily chores and they take pride in "feeding the plants" . Last term , we planted some giant sunflower seeds and we finally were able to transfer our seedlings. It was an incredible experience as the students are keeping a chart of its growth. We also planted and transferred cabbage and some flower seedlings to a bigger pot. We learned a little bit about bulbs and winter crop.