



Imua Inclusion Preschool Newsletter

January 11~15

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, January 18

**Martin Luther King Jr. day
NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday, January 19

**Ocean Center payment due
\$5.25 per child/\$11.25 per
adult**

Thursday, January 21

**Learning trip to the Maui
Ocean Center
Be in class by 7.45**

February 1

**Whale watch
payments due \$8.00 per
child \$15.00 per adult**

Thursday, February 11

**Whale Watch
Be in class by 7.45**

Monday, February 15

**President's Day
NO SCHOOL**

Our ocean exploration continued this week as we learned more about sharks. Our picture voting chart allows children to talk about similarities and differences. It also allows us to learn more about the children's interests as we plan our units. "Shark" was definitely a favorite animal so we spent some time talking about sharks and trying to dispel the commonly held belief that they all eat people. Monty and Zylar shared lots of information about shark. We talked about whale sharks being the biggest fish, that all shark are fish and breath oxygen through their gills. We found out many facts.



For example, sharks can smell blood from a mile away, farther than our school to the park! We also read that their skin might look smooth but it is made up of tiny scales that makes them feel like sand paper. We used our sand from last week to mimic the texture on a cut out shark and added them to our aquarium. The technique was similar to the fish printing last week that focused on fish having scales. The medium used last week was pressing a fish shape on painted bubble wrap whereas this week, they painted their shark with glue and then pressed it in sand.



As the children got into their new agenda book routine, we heard many friends say, "I don't know how to draw it." We decided to show them how representations can be created by joining different shapes together. We used ovals and triangles in a collage to represent a shark. When the collage was done, the children were invited to use sharpies to add details such as eyes, teeth and gills. Zuri even added a fish inside her shark's stomach saying, "That is the fish the shark just ate."

In the aquarium, we had a tracing activity available. We wrote the words of each of the items on exhibit on cardstock and laminated it. We also drew an icon so that the children could easily identify the word. Some children chose to use the dry erase markers and trace the words. Other activities in the aquarium included people giving each other tours, making tickets and pretending to be on family outings. The activity in the aquarium had waned somewhat by the end of the week so we will have to think of new ways to make the area enticing once again. The center will likely be reignited with energy after our learning trip to the ocean center on Thursday. Please remember to pay your child's admission by Tuesday and bring \$4 for the bus on Thursday.



Loose Parts and Free Art



The children have been taking part in a few more structured activities inside such as agenda books and unit-related concept crafts, so our outside time has been free and unstructured. Children need freedom to explore in their own unique way. They need time to engage with their peers on their own terms. They need materials that inspire creativity, imagination and ingenuity. "Loose parts play" is simply a term meaning allowing children to explore open ended materials that do not have a final goal. We offer the children things on the playground such as large blocks, hoops, play shape mats and more. Loose parts also include found or collected items. Just think of how much children love to play with boxes and you can begin to understand the draw of loose parts....they can become anything!

This week, we gave the children some neon plastic chains from Uncle Shawn. Some children wanted to hang them on the fence and listen to them; others wanted to swing them like lassos; others spent two days using them to decorate the play house for a party. The shape mats have also been in high demand as the children use them for things like baking cookies, buttons to make the butterfly fly and I am not even sure what Monty was using them for in the picture above!



In our bike path, we ditched the easel and put large paper on the wall. The children painted side by side giggling and talking together. They painted pictures, then painted right over them time and again. Not having an attachment to the end product allows children to practice their developing skills. Working next to a friend gives opportunity for conversation and collaboration. Clean-up was a process since some friends decided the paper was not enough and painted the walls too! We got buckets and cloths and scrubbed the walls giving the children a sense of ownership and responsibility. We have to take care of the things around us!

We enjoyed our singalong with our friend Uncle Wayne! He even took all of our requests!

