



Preschool Newsletter

11/13/17~11/17/17



Individual Interests and Needs

From one year to the next, we do not know where our children will take us as far as units of study. This is known as emergent curriculum and focuses on observing the children's interests and building the learning opportunities from there. Although it requires a lot more thinking and work on the part of the teachers, it provides a personally relevant context of learning for the children. Our cloud study is one example of child-guided curriculum that we have embarked upon this year. We are also noticing many of our friends have been sharing stories about ocean animals. Ku'i loves fish; the children play a shark game at the park; Ella petted dolphins on the Big Island; Xaydon has brought his shark books in on multiple occasions. Our plan moving forward is to continue our cloud exploration and talk about the water cycle. This will bring us to the ocean. We will then begin an ocean life unit in January taking our cues from the children. We will assess their current knowledge about the ocean and oceanlife and

build from there. Within each unit of study are opportunities for us to embed specific skills. For example, the picture above is Ku'i organizing colored fish. We used his interest in fish to fulfill his need of learning to recognize colors. Embedded opportunities like this are much more meaningful than color of the week or letter of the day as they are personal to the child. We will continue to observe for patterns of interest as time goes on. Children are capable of engaging in multiple facets of learning and, in addition to our cloud study, we will be learning more about restaurants as this is what the children wanted in the dramatic play area. We will also touch on various holidays. Please let us know how your family likes to celebrate the holidays and we can share that with the children.



Cloud Bread

We did it! We made cloud bread...although I am not so sure it was 100% successful it was, at least, edible. The children remembered how to check the eggs for freshness. We tested each one and they all sank to the bottom indicating that they were good eggs.

The yolks had to be separated from the albumen-yes, the white part has a name! This was tricky. Once separated, the children whisked the albumens until they formed stiff peaks and then folded them gently into the yolks. We added salt and cream of tartar. Just like real clouds, some came out fluffy, some wispy and some joined with others!





Walking in the Rain

On Wednesday, the children were all ready for an overdue park visit. Everyone was lined up ready to go when we looked out of the window and saw a torrential downpour! We all gathered back on the rug as we decided what to do. Many of the children were prepared with jackets, long sleeves and shoes. The rain looked like it may blow over. And Zofia said she loved to play in the rain! Ms. Gemma explained that there were two choices. If we went to the park, we would probably get wet but we could change when we got back. If we stayed at school, we would stay dry. Each child got to vote. Although voting may seem like a fair way to solve a dispute, there are always two sides. If majority wins, that is great for the majority. But what about the minority? Their feelings and thoughts count too. Although we vote to demonstrate the process and to have an opportunity to compare quantities, we still seek to come to a compromise in which all feelings and thoughts are honored.

And so the children voted, using their picture cards. 15 children still wanted to go to the park and 5 children wanted to stay at school. Then, the teachers got to vote. 2 teachers wanted to stay at school and 3 teachers wanted to go to the park.



In the end, everyone got what they wanted. 5 children and 2 teachers stayed at school and 15 children and 3 teachers went to the park. It was drizzling as we left and the children were excitedly singing rain songs and looking for muddy puddles. By the time we reached the park, the rain had stopped and the children got to check out all of the different cloud formations. Please note for future reference, even if it is raining we may still go so please dress your child accordingly!

