



Rainforest Room

November 30, 2007

Welcome back Rainforest Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family and friends. Can you believe that November is almost over and that the New Year will soon be upon us? Even though this month was short in school days the inhabitants kept quite busy. They continue to work on their conflict resolution skills by brainstorming other possible solutions/ideas. The children are also expanding their tolerance levels by broadening their minds and understanding that other people can have different ideas/opinions and still be their friends. Teamwork and random acts of kindness continue to be our main focus and the children have really given their all toward achieving this. The room and the inhabitants are flowing in a positive and caring synergy. Can you feel the Love?

This month the *Language Art Area* introduced the Letters/sounds:

F = Feathers, Fish

G = Gold, Glitter

H = Hearts, Holes

I = Igloo, Insects

Sharing with the Letter has become a fun adventure. The Rainforest inhabitants usually know what they are going to bring in and/or think ahead toward the next letter. Also, each Tuesday is share day in which your child's "share" is drawn on a piece of construction paper and then laminated. The objective is to create a Rainforest Alphabet Book. The kids really enjoy adding each weeks share page and reading the book during library/free choice time. Letter Books continue to empower the inhabitants by making "readers" out of them. Each week the children challenge themselves by adding more details to the pictures in the book. They also have begun to underline the letter of the week within the sight word. Your kids are true Star Students.

**Read All About It** in the RAINFOREST NEWS. The children have been exploring telling fiction or non fiction stories as well as matching the pictures to the words. The inhabitants enjoyed telling stories so much that they decided to create their own books: Title, author, illustrator and story.

The *Art Area* has been extremely busy. The inhabitants have been incorporating different types of mediums and materials to create/express their inner artist. They have focused and followed a step by

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step drawing of a fish and a lion. Using different size shapes, lines, and curves the children have made these images. After the drawing process, they then revisited their art work and water-colored it in.

In celebration of fall the children created some spectacular leaf art work. The inspiration for this project came from a book called "Leaf Man". The inhabitants made leaf people/creatures by using different types of leaves, rocks, and other nature resources. They then glued everything as they saw fit and the result was GENIUS. All the kids tried their best and were very impressed with their hard work. In keeping with the idea of using natural resources we delved right into recycled art. The kids went "glue happy" as they pieced together wood parts from old puzzles and blocks. They also incorporated egg-cartons, wooden beads and paper to further add detail. The final step was to paint them and wait for them to dry. The inhabitants had fun exploring how sculptures can take on many dimensions.

The children have also been busy painting on the easel with water colors and tempera paints. Check your art folders.

In celebration of Thanksgiving the kids made a Thankful Tree. They painted the trunk and used their hand prints as leaves. They went on to dictate what they were thankful for (you will all be pleased to know it was their families). The tree was used for the Giving Thanks Circle and will return to our room soon. We also made some fun turkey centerpieces. The inhabitants stuck colorful feathers into a cinnamon scented pinecone and added a face and presto - they made turkeys. We hope you all enjoyed them as your table centerpieces.

In the *Science/Math Area* we measured out ingredients for play-dough. We went on a nice nature walk and explored the changes in the environment and land. We spoke about the falling leaves and the color changes, why the dirt was moist and the clouds seemed grayer and closer to us on the ground.

We made some Happy Face Pancakes and practiced writing the letter H with Raisins. This was such a hit that we took out the shaving cream and drew the numbers 1 through 10 on the table with our fingers. We also tried to glue the numbers 1-10 on a long strip of paper. All the kids tried and did their best.

### **Circle Time Books:**

*"Dot the Firedog"* by Desimini

*"Beetle Mc Grady"* by Megan Mc Donald

*"Harold and the Purple Crayon"* by Crockett Johnson

*"I Stink"* by Kate and Jim Mc Mullen

*"Mr. Peabody's Apples"* by Madonna

*"Hekedy Peg"* by Audry Wood

*"A Plump, Perky Turkey"* by Teresa Batena

These are just a few of the books we read. We would like to thank all the families that let us share their home books. And we welcome any guest readers into the classroom.

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It was great fun seeing all of you at the Giving Thanks Circle as well as at the Potluck. **THANK YOU PARENTS** for that amazingly yummy spread.

**REMINDERS:** Please check your mailboxes

- All School Book Fair 12/4 – 12/7 at Elementary Campus
- Book Mobile at Preschool Campus 12/5 at 2:00 pm
- Holiday Sing Along 12/14 at 11:30 in Kol Shofar
- Potluck to follow sing along (sign up sheet as date approaches)

Sincerely,  
Vanessa and Bernie

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