



Starfish Room

January 2008

Dear Starfish Parents,

Happy new year to all our Starfish families! It is hard to believe we are half way through the school year. It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming all our little Starfish to their new school. Where there were tears and hesitation in joining groups, there are now smiles, hugs, and "hellos" to our friends. Our Starfish have come a long way and we look forward to seeing how they will change and grow in the coming months.

The Starfish have been quite busy. For the month of January we focused on farm animals. Together the Starfish painted red paint on four large sheets of paper, which became our red barn. This has become part of a wall display to which we have added our painted pigs, tassel chickens, cotton ball sheep, and black and white paint splattered cows. The children had a blast painting, gluing, and making their animals. In addition, we also learned the animal's names in Spanish and American Sign Language!

As part of our unit on farms, we had a number of cooking projects. We made corn muffins, scrambled eggs, pigs in a blanket, and egg salad. We practiced taking turns mixing and pouring ingredients, as well as worked on our fine motor skills peeling hard boiled eggs. Anything with food is a hit, as the Starfish love to eat!

This month we explored the concept of "Sink or Float", as part of our science curriculum. A number of objects from the classroom were collected and the children made guesses as to whether it would sink or float before tossing the object into a giant mixing bowl of water. The experiment was continued outside on one of our nature walks. While passing a small stream, the children threw in acorns, leaves, sticks, and rocks while making guesses as to whether they would sink or float.

Also, on one of our walks, we collected pine needle branches which the children used to paint with. We also experimented by painting with ribbons and q-tips. The children had fun creating their masterpieces with these unconventional brushes.

We introduced goop in the sensory bin, which has been great fun. Goop is a mixture of cornstarch and water. At first touch it seems solid, but when you try to pick some up, it melts

through your fingers! Our children had a blast playing with the goop. All in all, it's been a busy month.

We want to send out a big thank you to all our wonderful parents for their generosity this past holiday season. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Cece and Carolyn