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Small Prints

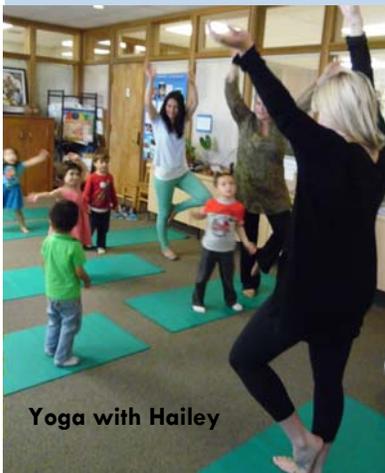
Inviting Children to Imagine, Create, Express Ideas and Emotions and Make Sense of Their Experiences Through the Creative Arts

"Humans have always used the arts to share and make sense of their deepest joys and fears. When we bring the shadows out of the caves and turn them into story, dance, song or picture, we transform our emotions into something to share with others. On those rare days when all the planets are perfectly aligned, we react in ways that lead to a greater understanding for all." Matlock & Hornstein

Throughout the year, you will be seeing the arts featured in the children's classrooms including visual art, music, drama & dance. Some of the teaching strategies we will be using include emphasizing the creative process over the final product, providing open-ended art materials & tools for children to use in expressive ways, encouraging children to describe & discuss their creations and using those conversations to increase arts vocabulary, incorporating art from the cultures of our families & the community & establishing a climate of creative risk-taking so children feel comfortable trying out new materials & new forms of self-expression. We also recognize that beyond building artistic skills, the creative process fosters children's problem-solving, language, math & social /emotional skills. The arts can be a link for children in acquiring the critical thinking skills and motivations they need to achieve at higher educational levels.



Yoga with Roczana



Yoga with Hailey

Healthy Eats, Active Feet: Our comprehensive health and nutrition program funded by Sequoia Healthcare District's Healthy Schools Initiative

Movement skills provide the foundation for all learning. Through movement, children develop physically, intellectually and emotionally. Through our Healthy Eats, Active Feet program, intentionally planned, daily activities are offered to promote physical activity and fos-

ter large motor competence. To enhance our motor education program, we are fortunate to have two yoga experts in our midst. Roczana, Tiffani's mom, and Hailey, Nikolas's aunt. As a result of their commitment to our community of families, children and

parents have the opportunity to engage in a variety of yoga poses improving flexibility, strength, balance and posture. In addition, these yoga sessions teach proper breathing which expands lung capacity and promotes cardio-vascular endurance. Many thanks to Roczana and Hailey!

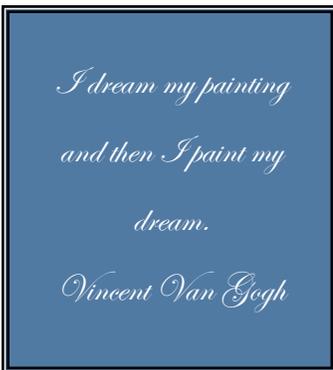
Room A

“Not learning to draw but drawing to learn.” Vincent Van Gogh inspired the children of Room A with his painting techniques. When young children refine their marks on paper, they find a kindred spirit in the swirls and dashes of Van Gogh’s “Starry Night”. Later, the children incorporated the swirls into their pumpkin illustrations. Another Van Gogh painting “Sunflowers” allowed the children to experiment with thick paint and use a painting knife. The children were also intrigued with the solitary life Vincent Van Gogh led. He focused so many hours of the day on his paintings (at one point producing 18 paintings in 26 days), he maintained few friendships and impressionism was also a new art form during the late 1800’s so not many people warmed up to his paintings. One of his only friends was the postal carrier’s son who inspired him w/ bouquets of sunflowers—resulting in the creation of “Sunflowers”! Our discussions about the social life of Van Gogh helped the children develop an acceptance of differences. The next step in our artistic process was to introduce clay to the children. First, we explored the amazing qualities of the material by investigating a mountain of clay before moving to the actual creation of our sculptures.



Anthia, Riley’s and Karter’s mother, making nutritious fruit pizzas with the children

Room A Family Engagement



Morgan, Gracelyn’s mother, helping children create spider webs through a weaving project



Drama Project

Lights, Camera, Action!

Drama is a powerful medium that has been linked to social and educational benefits. Engagement in role playing cultivates skills such as changing posture or voice to portray a character. Through drama, children begin to understand and interpret the world in different ways. Children learning English and children with special needs are given the opportunity to develop vocabulary appropriate for a variety of situations in a nonthreatening and safe environment. With the help of parents, staff is beginning to collect props to support story dramatizations and finger plays that families can take home to explore. Get ready to take a role & have fun together!



Story dramatization of “The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything” Clomp, Clomp, Wiggle, Wiggle, Shake, Shake, Clap, Clap, Nod, Nod, Boo, Boo, Boo!!!



Room B

Rock, Paper, Scissors! And we are not talking 'Roshambo', we are talking Henri Matisse! The children learned about Matisse's life and how he first became a painter. When he was forced to give up painting due to a serious illness, he began to work with paper and a pair of scissors, cutting out forms at will. This provided the perfect bridge to explore scissors and paper which naturally captures the interest of preschoolers. The children in Room B readily engaged in exploring "cutouts" and produced their own creative Matisse-inspired artwork.

The children also started to share their experiences at home. After reading the book, "Henri's Scissors" at school, Siena went home and gathered some paper and a pair of scissors and proceeded to create her own Matisse-inspired project. Clark went home and talked about Henri Matisse. His father mentioned he should check out his grandparent's poster that featured one of Matisse's most popular cut-outs. It is amazing how Henri Matisse has traveled through people's homes and across the time continuum and continues to speak to all of us!

"There's a boat, a house, a flower, and the sky and clouds. I cut it like Matisse does."



Room B Family Engagement

Shelly, Amaya's mother, came in and made orange playdough with the children.



Elisabeth, Isabella's mother, spent time eating lunch with the children and then read pumpkin books until rest-time.

"You have to know how to preserve that freshness and innocence a child has when it appreciates things."

Henri Matisse

Drop, Cover and Hold!



In October, the children participated in the annual Great American Shakeout along with the rest of the students on campus. A few days before the event, we practiced what to do during an earthquake and also practiced evacuating the building as part of our fire drill. Ensuring children's health & safety is a primary goal here at the Center. Preschool children deserve to live and play in secure environments and although, it is primarily the responsibility of adults to keep children safe, they do develop an early awareness of health & safety, realizing they can control some aspects of their safety through a sequence of actions that comes with practice. Talk to your child about what you will do at home. Be safe!

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Our friends from Middle College organized an amazing Halloween Carnival with lots of fun experiences including pumpkin decorating, hand-painting and a number of fun-filled physical fitness activities.



Calendar of Events

November 5 — Creating Process Oriented Art with Your Child at Home at 3:30pm Morgan Katcher-Sylverster

November 10 — Dia de los Muertos Celebration at 11:00am

November 19— Parenting Workshop: Ready Set Go Helping Your Child's Transition to Kindergarten at 3:00pm

Oct-November — Family/Teacher Conferences

December — Musical Experience w/ Kelp Instruments, Krys Bobrowski, Date TBD

December 10 —Holiday Celebration With Families at 3:00pm

Check-Out the New Addition to Our Family Lending Library



Carina, Isaac's mother, reads aloud a book from our Family Lending Library.

In our Family Lending Library, we have a wide variety of quality children's books for families to check out and read aloud together at home. We also have parenting books on a range of helpful topics such as, toilet learning, understanding children's response to separation & divorce, fostering children's healthy self-esteem, encouraging children's healthy eating habits and more.

A newest addition to our Library is entitled "The Family Nutrition Book" by William Sears, M.D. & Martha Sears, R.N. A guide to help you become your own family nutritionist.

Clay Sculptures by Ava & Mila

