PVCC MWF Class News 2018

Creative Arts

Children will initiate new musical activities with voices or instruments. There are multiple ways in which we support these opportunities. The rhythm instruments are always available to the children during play time. They will often select a drum or the xylophone to experiment with. At times these are used in conjunction with their pretend play and at others they are simply explorations of sound and beat. We have several songs that we use during routines of the day like clean up or gathering as a group. As the children have become familiar with these, they often spontaneously use them to signal their understanding of what is expected at that moment.

Early Mathematical Discovery

Children will compare the measurable attributes of two or more objects and describe the comparison using appropriate vocabulary. While this work is always a component of the children's building as they compare their structures, there are also activities which are designed to develop this skill. One example was the measuring strips we did with the children's current height and an estimate of their length at birth. There were many conversations comparing the two strips of paper, talking about how much they had grown and how they compared currently to classmates as well.

Early Scientific Inquiry

Children will observe how heating and cooling cause changes to properties of materials. The clearest example of this work within the classroom was the experiment we did with bowls of snow. We brought three bowls of snow inside the classroom. We placed one on the science table, one in the refrigerator and one in the freezer. We asked the children to predict what would happen. On the following day we examined the bowls to check our predictions and to closely observe the changes. While melting and freezing are concepts that children are familiar with, especially at this time of year, the opportunity to intentionally examine the processes up close allows for a deepening of their understanding.

Social Studies

Children will demonstrate a beginning understanding of change over time; in topics such as their own growth and family history. Our examination of babies addressed this standard. Through the pictures and their memoires, children recognized the ways in which they have changed. We also talked about the ways in which families change as new babies are born and added to the group. All of the living things in our classroom are examples of this type of change over time.

Upcoming Events

We are using Valentine's Day as a vehicle to examine mail, how it works, why we write and how mail arrives at our homes. The children have created cards for their families and Monday morning we will walk to the Post Office to mail them. We hope to get a little look behind the scenes there. We will follow up the visit with more information about the process. In addition we hope to establish a writing center/Post Office in the classroom to offer the children the chance to continue writing notes to families and classmates. Exploring the ways in which we use print to express and share ideas, as well as specific letter formation and signatures will make this a rich learning area.

The best way to teach science to preschoolers is to inspire them to wonder. Let them be scientists. Let them come up with questions. Let them explore.

This quote from Mike Huber is part of our decision to spend the second half of the month studying the moon. There is a new moon on Feb. 15, with a full moon on March 1, so there will be ample opportunity for the children to observe the phases of the moon. We will work with them to record their wonderings, to explore their questions and to build their understanding of what is out there. I would like to encourage each family to spend a few minutes over the month pausing to observe the moon, to wonder aloud with the children. If you want to take a picture of the moon from your home or email me some of the ideas that come up, I would be very grateful. We will be following the children's lead with this investigation and believe that topics covered will include where it gets its light, what it is made of , what it looks like up close and why it changes over time. It should be a wonderful time.

One more quiote:
Try walking around with a child who's going, "Wow, wow! Look at that dirty dog! Look at that burned-down house! Look at that red sky!" And the child points and you look, and you see, and you start going, "Wow! Look at that huge crazy hedge! Look at that teeny little baby! Look at the scary dark cloud!" I think this is how we are supposed to be in the world—present and in awe.
–Anne Lamott