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In the classroom this week...

This week began with a continuation of the use of inks to add color to transparent fish or to create a crystal for the group chandelier. Our school of fish swimming at the studio window has grown sizably, and the chandelier is nearly complete. On Tuesday, we celebrated Jane's birthday with a visit from her father, and some beautiful bouquets of dafodills and tulips from KKELC kids. The children enjoyed



reading with Mr. Dunn and he was very impressed with such an attentive and respectful audience. The arrival of flowers set us up for a still life painting area that received much attention. Children began the experience using flowers as their theme, and quickly their own passions and interests began to show up in their work! Many children made

Valentine's Cards for a family member and



asked for a page of the words they wanted to add to their work so that they could write their own sentiments on their pieces. In preparation for the upcoming holiday, children were enticed with hearts served up a variety of ways. Heart tracers were available so that

children could challenge their fine motor abilities through tracing around the outside of a heart (much more difficult than tracing inside of a template) and then cutting out the heart with scissors in preparation for a decoration of sand painting, drawing or watercolor. Also available was a sponge



painting experience. Children used paper heart doilies over which red, pink, or purple paint was dabbed. Once completely covered, the stencil was lifted to reveal the print underneath. They were slated by the children as holiday cards for a loved one (one with a request for a special treat at the end: "I love my mom and dad and sister so much, and will you buy me a trampoline?") We also began creating decorated Valentine's bags to use as a receptacle for a card exchange next week. A class list was emailed to families.

We excitedly began '**Cooking with Claudia**'





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this week with the creation of mini-tacos. Each child was asked to participate in this experience that allowed children to practice counting, measuring, following directions, spatial skills development, expand their taste experiences, support early literacy, and work collaboratively. This week's recipe was from Molly Katzen's 'Salad People' cookbook was very well received. You will find the recipe later in the newsletter. At the end of this



week, we re-introduced color mixing (an old favorite) with a couple of new twists. Children worked together on the light table to mix primary colors with the added vibrancy that the light provided. We supplied two trays for four people which created a 'sharing situation'. They worked very cooperatively and respectfully together. Along with this, we provided clear, flat lids for children to work with colored water and droppers at the overhead projector. Joy emerged as kids



realized that they could stand in front of the screen while a friend 'dropped' colored water on the heads or bodies of their classmate. The squeals of joy were contagious. This ultimately led to the discovery of shadow patterns cast by objects as one child noticed another's face bearing the pattern of the woven backing of the rocking chair in the shadow room. Light, shadow and color make for intriguing



discoveries, and very little passes by the observant eyes of our sharp Kachemak Kids!! As testimony to the cohesiveness of our students, collaborative explorations are popping up more frequently around the classroom. What

began as a one-on-one teacher and child interaction ended as a cooperative group watercolor effort. Once a theme had been established (boat/island/ underwater sea life), children worked together to produce a highly



detailed piece with bright and controlled color. The 'Magnadoodle' and wooden blocks received much use this week and children enjoyed sharing their creations with teachers and friends. A solution to the problem of a block structure that needed to



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be disassembled before group time was found with the suggestion that a photo be taken of the construction that could serve as a plan in the rebuilding of the structure later on. And, a fairly detailed American flag was created by someone using the 'Magnadoodle' near mid-



week. Finally, we began reading the Misadventures of Seldovia Sam series by Amy Meissner this week with book one: Seldovia Sam and the Very Large Clam. In the book, Sam sees a geyser. Our children speculated on what a geyser was. We dished out a family homework assignment to research geysers and to bring info to share next week. We hope you will have fun discovering with your child.

Cooking With Claudia - The Recipe

Tiny Tacos

- 1 standard package tortilla chips (small, round, flat ones work best)
- One 15-ounce can refried beans
- 1 cup guacamole
- 1 cup fresh salsa
- 1/3 pound jack or cheddar cheese, grated

- 1- Lay the chips on a plate.
- 2- Spoon a small amount of refried beans on each chip.
- 3- Spoon on dabs of guacamole and salsa.
- 4- Sprinkle on some cheese.

5- Eat open-faced or add chips on top to make "sandwiches."

Yield: enough for 6 kids to snack heartily.
(Recipe taken from the Salad People and More Real Recipes by Mollie Katzen)

KKELC Outdoor Play Policy

Outdoor play is a very important aspect of the program we offer at Kachemak Kids. We do go outside most days, and we will plan on staying inside only if the temperature is below 10 degrees (actual temperature or with wind-chill). While we may not get outside in the morning, temperatures may warm enough to permit noon or later outdoor play. Please send your child to school each day with clothing appropriate for the weather as we will try to spend an appropriate amount of time outdoors should temperatures permit.

IMPORTANT - YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED!!!

As many of you have realized our current location is quite cramped, so the KKELC Board of Directors is actively looking into options for a new home for the center. At this time we feel that we need a minimum of 1700 sq. ft. with two toilet rooms, outdoor play space and frontage that can accommodate at least four cars - all within the bounds of "downtown Homer". If any family members have any ideas on how we can procure adequate space, or have leads on a good space, please contact the BOD Secretary Caroline Storm @ 235-0580 or caroline34@acsalaska.net

KKELC Community Service...

An important part of the 'social lesson' for children is talking about the ways that we can give to the communities in which we live. Over



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the next two++ weeks KKELC children and families are asked to bring in items needed for the Homer Animal Shelter. The lists of needed items are:

- *Baby blankets*
- *Big blankets*
- *Towels*
- *Cat litter*
- *Toilet seat covers (for cats)*
- *Pet food (no brand specified)*
- *Treats*

Please bring these to KKELC and we will be setting a time to travel to the shelter to drop off our donation before the end of the month. Donations can be placed in the basket on the table in the art studio.

WE NEED WOOD SCRAPS AND MORE

We are in need of some items that you may have:

- **Small wood scraps (thin plywood, and multi-shaped pieces such as dowels, rods, square stock, etc.**
- **Colored Cellophane/Mylar**
- **Wires of all gauges**

Staff Email Accounts Now Available

You may now email KKELC staff directly at the following email addresses:

jane@kachemakkids.org - Jane Dunn

sierra@kachemakkids.org - Sierra Smith

director@kachemakkids.org - Jon Kulhanek

SAVE THE DATE:

On Mon., Feb. 25th, Paula Kulhanek will lead a book discussion on Dr. Gordon Neufeld's book "Holding On to Your Kids". Books can be purchased at the Homer Bookstore or online. We look forward to you joining us.