



Announcements:

Please note the Daisy preschool will be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday, November, 11th to observe Veterans Day.
- Thursday and Friday November, 26th and 27th, for Thanksgiving.

Please note the Daisy TK program will be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday, November, 11th to observe Veterans Day.
- Monday to Friday November, 23rd to 27th, for Thanksgiving.

Daisy Updates

Nikki Thomas

I am delighted to inform you that Nikki Thomas, our head teacher for Galaxy room, who has been part of Daisy since 2006 has won the prestigious preschool teacher award for 2015 from Habitot Children's museum . We are indeed proud of her achievement and are offering our heart felt congratulations. In addition, we are requesting parents to reach out Nikki and congratulate her on her personal achievement, thank you. WAY TO GO NIKKI!

Kindergarten Night

Our third annual Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this Kindergarten Night is to inform the Daisy community about Kindergarten options available in the area. This is the great opportunity to meet with current Daisy parents and alum. In addition, our Daisy's alum parents will provide their valuable feedback and discuss the schools their children are attending. Schools represented so far are Redwood Day, St. Paul's, and Aurora. Please join us and bring your questions!

Facebook

While we know family and friends enjoy seeing pictures of the children on Facebook daily the challenge is the picture taking and posting process takes the teacher away from the children and their activities. Based on the feedback from teachers to maintain "focus on the children at all times",

teachers will be posting pictures on weekly basis and in addition will post pictures from big events, and field trips. Therefore, in order to help assist teachers to provide additional pictures we are seeking parent volunteers that may help with taking pictures and posting them. In addition, this task will certainly count towards the monthly parental involvement task and would be much appreciated by parents and teachers.

The only exception to the above is the Star Room. The reason being these little angels are just learning to communicate and most of them are in the school environment for the very first time. Therefore, Star Room teachers will continue with Facebook updates.

Cloud Teachers

As the Cloud room parents already know, one of their teachers, Khusbu, is no longer in the classroom. Due to her personal life, she had to make a sudden move to Davis where she attends college and was unable to continue to commute to Daisy each day. We wish her luck, and have an open door if she chooses to come back at some point. In the meantime, I am filling in with Ghada in the Cloud room as we are going through the interviewing and hiring process for another teacher.

Yoga Enrichment

In an effort to add some new enrichment programs to Daisy, we are trying to work towards bringing in a highly recommended yoga teacher who has taught one of our students at a previous preschool. Beth Houghton is the founder of Bendy Berry yoga, and does a fantastic job of bringing “Movement, Meditation, Mindfulness and Fun” to her young yoginis. She is willing to offer a special discount to Daisy and we are working on a plan to share the funding between the administration and voluntary parental contributions, so that all students who want to participate will be able to do so. Beth will be offering a free demonstration class on Friday November 20th at 10:00 in Rainbow room. We hope your children will be able to come check it out!

For more information on Bendy Berry, visit www.bendyberry.com. Further information about the yoga classes will be forthcoming. If you have questions please contact Rainbow parent Colclough Sanders-Gomez at colclough.sanders@gmail.com.

Classroom News

Galaxy Room

The Galaxy Rangers were really busy in October! Halloween-themed art projects helped set the ghoulish mood for the fall festival with plastic bag ghosts, paper cut-outs of jack o lanterns, bats and witches.

The kiddos enjoyed fun tunnel races, learned jumping and spinning with activity hoops as well as acting out “Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate”. For music, the little ones learned to sing “Three

Little Witches” and “I’m a Big Fat Pumpkin Sitting in a Field”.

In addition to all of the festive fall hoopla, Galaxy Rangers examined and measured the pet Walking Sticks, experimented with making red play dough in the big yard, worked on counting skills with counting bears, decorated the letter “A” and matched various shapes on the wall! And as if that was not enough to tire our little monsters out, we planted carrots and milkweed in our garden and had a very special visit with Autumn the guinea pig in Ms. Vicky’s classroom!

The class welcomes Adrian, Archer and Lucas as the newest Galaxy Rangers!

Lastly, the Galaxy Room wants to congratulate Nikki Thomas who earned the “Preschool Teachers Make a Difference“ award from the Habitot Museum in Berkeley. Nikki was one of only ten teachers to receive the award which recognizes the enormous contributions of preschool teachers in the Bay Area and the importance of a quality preschool experience. Congrats Nikki!





RAINBOW ROOM NEWS

This month's theme is of course Thanksgiving, as well as the change of seasons to autumn, and the students in Rainbow room have been exploring several aspects of this theme through art, literacy and cooking projects. Rather than focusing on the historical aspects of Thanksgiving, we have been discussing the meaning of Thanksgiving, including being thankful for what we have and sharing that with others. Rainbow kids have been talking about what they are thankful for, and also what they have that they would like to share with others.

Several books about Thanksgiving have been popular in Rainbow room, including one about a turkey trying to disguise itself to avoid being eaten. He ends up dressed up as a pizza delivery guy and the book ends with a Thanksgiving feast of pizza!

Rainbow kids have been learning that it doesn't matter what you eat on Thanksgiving, as long as you share it with your friends and loved ones. Art projects this month have focused on Thanksgiving and the changing seasons. Students traced their hands to make their own turkeys, complete with feathers. Another set of turkeys was fashioned from their hand and foot prints in paint, adding a tactile element to their learning. They also used tissue paper and other materials to create colorful fall acorns and Native American maize.

A reminder to all Rainbow parents: Fridays are share day, when students may bring in a toy or something else of interest to show their friends and play with. However, students are encouraged to bring a book to share on any day! And if you have any good books on the theme of Thanksgiving, please send them in.



CLOUD ROOM NEWS

In the last month, the busy Cloud room kids have been learning about healthy food choices and growing fruits and vegetables. We have explored food from many angles: the food pyramid, planting tomatoes, eggplants and peppers in the garden outside, planting carrot tops and watching new growth sprout, and identifying the parts of a plant. Ask the Cloud room kids what plants need to grow!

A favorite song is, "I Like to Eat Apples and Bananas," and we also read books like "On Top of Spaghetti." We have also learned some songs and words in Spanish, including the alphabet, colors and numbers.

With Thanksgiving approaching, the Cloud room will be working on festive cooking projects: everything from corn muffins to pumpkin bread, cranberry juice to mashed potatoes. We need parent volunteers to come in and help in the mornings with —please talk to Ghada about the schedule. And please check out the list of ingredients needed.

STAR ROOM

We would like to welcome Grace Davis and her family to our Daisy community and request families to give her warm welcome. In addition, we certainly miss Lucas's presence in Star room but appreciate that he is now part of Galaxy room and are looking forward to his beautiful journey ahead.



KINDERBOOST

Kinderboost is well under way, with the expert guidance of teachers Ron, Nikki, and Ghada. In addition to working on basic literacy skills our children will need for kindergarten, such as writing their letters and numbers, Kinderboost kids have also been working on their shapes. One of the most important shapes this month was the food pyramid, which the kids created by gluing pictures of their own favorite healthy choices. This led to discussions of eating and growing vegetables, including identifying the different parts of the plant, as well as what plants require in order to grow. They each planted a small piece from the top of a carrot and have been checking every day to see how they have sprouted. Soon the carrots will be ready to come home with the students and planted. One Kinderboost insider reports, "Kinderboost is super-fun!" and marveled that "we are learning to write the big numbers"! The kids indeed seem very proud of their accomplishments and are happy to be learning these fundamental skills, "just like big kids."



