

BIG BEAR NEWS

Number 14

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Big Bear Funny Faces

We spent a wonderful morning on Wednesday exploring the Danforth Campus. Such a change from a month ago! We observed several different birds and many insects, smelled beautiful flowers and flowering trees, ate snack, played games, and climbed many steps. By far our favorite spot was under a tree east of the library.

In Our Own Words

We completed our bird poems the beginning week of April. Each child picked a page from a book with a bird theme and described what they saw in the picture. Below are parts of their poems.

Sabrina: I like cardinals. They have three different colors.

Christopher: The pigeon wanted to have a hot dog party.

Cate: I have a stuffie that's a pigeon. It can talk.

Manu: A robin standing on a wire, picking up grass.

Kenley: I think there's a thousand penguins standing there.

Sadie: The pigeon is super funny. He's jumping, he's singing.

Olivia: But birds can fly, so he tried to fly. (penguin)

Nina: He has red and black feathers, orange beak, pink claws. (cardinal)

Louis: Chickens coming out at night, eating corn on the ground.

Estella: They are parents, colorful and soft. (owl)

Chien: His feathers look like eyes. They are purple, pink, orange. (peacock)

Kyra: The owl is in the whole universe. He is looking at the stars.

Avaneesh: His shadow is in the night. He's flying to hunt. (owl)

Sonali: He got the right goose. It laid one gold egg.

Shun: Owl at night, looking at the sky.

The Past Two Weeks

Our chick eggs arrived on April 1, a topsy-turvy day when many of the signs in the room were mysteriously turned upside-down. The eggs were placed in the incubator pointed side down and warmed to about 100 degrees to replicate the mother hen's warmth. We have been keeping the environment moist with added water every day.

The writing table was humming with activity as everyone worked on their Chick Book, labeling parts within the egg and coloring in the chick developing inside.



Chick Books

Photo by Sonali



We also made bird nests from materials we collected on the playground and sculpted birds from play dough, feathers, and beads. We hid plastic eggs in Room 5, found them all, and decorated the eggs with the stickers inside.



Shun dropping an egg onto a rubber mat

Last week we did many science experiments with eggs. We soaked both hard-

boiled and raw eggs in vinegar. In both cases the shell dissolved. The hard-boiled egg was a bit bouncier. We spun hard-boiled and raw eggs on the table and observed the difference between them. We placed many heavy things on top of several eggs. They were very strong! We predicted whether or not an egg would break when dropped from varying heights and on to varying surfaces. Then on Friday we conducted our Egg Drop Experiment to see if our predictions were correct. The Teddy Bear Class joined us.



The MySci Investigation Station was enjoyed by all. There were three areas to explore, including a bat cave. Many children volunteered to hold a millipede and a Hissing Cockroach. Other classroom science activities included our March weather chart and our weekly cooking activity, Worms and Dirt (gummies, chocolate pudding, cool whip, and oreos). We also have eleven caterpillars growing in small containers.

At the art table we made pencil drawings of the birds in our poems and filled them in with water colors. We made thumb print birds and painted with feathers. Egg shapes were made beautiful with a tissue paper collage and watercolors.

We hope that you saw the displays of our bird projects on the classroom bulletin board during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. We enjoyed talking to all of you these past two days about your wonderful children! It is such a joy to spend the morning with them.

Coming Up

The chick eggs are expected to hatch any time now! They have been removed from the machine that has been rotating them. Hatched chicks need to dry for 24 hours before they leave the incubator. We will keep them in a large plastic tub with a heat lamp. They grow very fast, as we will document by weighing them each day.

We have Spanish, Science (Birds and Nests), and music next week. We will talk about the life cycle of butterflies and do some art and science activities on that theme.

~~Friday, April 24 **Red Group Show and Share** (Iris, Manu, Nina, Olivia, Sabrina, Sadie, Shun, and Sonali)

~~Friday, May 1 **Blue Group Show and Share** (Avaneesh, Cate, Chien, Christopher, Estella, Kenley, Kyra, Louis)



Pattern and Colors

Photo by Avaneesh

~~Friday, May 1 **Final Scholastic Book Order**
Thanks to all your orders, our classroom receives extra bonuses next year.

~~Friday, May 8 **Day for Mothers, Grandparents, Relatives, and Friends**
Look for details in an invitation

~~TBD **Big Bear Graduation Day**

Songs and Movement

We have been learning the Chicken Dance to welcome our chicks into the world. See if your child can teach it to you!



Tulips in front of Brookings Hall

White Coral Bells

White coral bells upon a slender stalk,
Lilies of the Valley deck my garden walk.
O, how I wish that I could hear them ring!
That will happen only when the fairies sing.

Butterfly

Butterfly, butterfly, open your wings.
Come to the garden where everything sings.
Smell the sweet roses that bloom by the wall.
Taste the sweet honey from hollyhocks tall.
Butterfly, butterfly, home is the best.
Fold your wings gently and rest.