



October 11, 2019

SUN BEAR NEWS

Washington University Nursery School



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Our theme the week of September 30 was camping! We learned about how to prepare for a campout, what kinds of adventures can happen in nature (thanks to a couple of classic "Curious George" books), and set up activities in the centers that piqued their interests about the great outdoors.



The week culminated with setting up a tent in the 4th classroom during free choice. The children brought in books to read by flashlight, and pretended to roast marshmallows over a fire. One Sun Bear family shared that they decided to camp out soon in their own backyard. Another child shared that he camps out all the time and loves everything about it. A-camping we will go!

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

Professional Development Day:
October 18, No School

Halloween Celebrations: October
30; 2:15 pm for Sun Bears

Parent/Teacher Conferences:
October 31 and November 1

Developmental skills practiced within the "Camping" theme:

Fine motor: Strengthening fingers happens with art and pre-writing activities

Social/emotional: Communicating wants/needs/ideas as small group play evolves at centers improves language and cooperative skills

Creativity and resilience: Pretend play provides safe space for confidence, cooperation, and self-esteem building

During the week of October 7, our theme in Sun Bears was "Pets/Stuffed Animals." Each child selected a gently-used/donated stuffed animal from a pop-up pet store set up in the 4th classroom last Monday. All the Sun Bears learned to be responsible with their pets, and we didn't lose a one! The children made a paper plate "bed" for their pet, a name tag, wrote a book about what they liked about their animal, and could hardly wait for Friday when it was time for their animal to come home. We read the classic "Corduroy" and its sequel, "A Pocket for Corduroy," as well as "Knuffle Bunny" and "Knuffle Bunny Free". This provided a great discussion on what was the same/what was different in each book. Our veterinarian prop box was a hit this week, and animal stencils and cat and dog collages were favorites at the centers. See if your Sun Bear can remember whose pet was whose.



Until next time,
Colleen & Katie