

# YELLOW GROUP NEWS

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## Language Arts

We kicked off a study of a mentor author, Mo Willems. The girls are enjoying reading his hysterical books. They are emulating his writing style and techniques in their own pieces of creative fiction.

Reading groups have been working together to do a lot of collaborative word study, such as sorting by long vowel patterns (rain, cake, hay) and matching consonant blends to word endings (bl-ack, sc-rape).

We have been focusing on "Borrowers," letters that borrow the sounds of others ("q" borrows the sound /kw/, "c" borrows /s/ or /k/, "y" borrows long /e/ or long /i/, "x" borrows /ks/).

## Math

- Geometry - Describing, comparing, combining, and constructing 2-D and 3-D shapes and their attributes (circle, rectangle, triangle, square, hexagon, trapezoid, diamond/rhombus, pentagon, oval, cubes, spheres, prisms, cones, pyramids, and cylinders)
- Number Sense - Decomposing numbers
- Accurately counting and keeping track of quantities to 20
- Developing and analyzing visual images for quantities up to 10
- Describing arrangements with numbers and notations

## Social - Emotional

Collaboration and cooperation have been the name of the game recently. Much of our math program has involved partner work. We've done a bunch of small group projects, including building different types of homes with blocks and designing "Fuzzylands" in groups of 3 and 4. Along the way, we've been teaching valuable skills such as taking turns, listening to and sharing ideas before taking action on a project, letting a partner go first in a game, and offering compliments and words of encouragement.

## Gratitude

Paola Casey for making delicious cookies with the girls! • Lisa Hockin for making scrumptious fruit smoothies... blended to order! • Thanks to all of you parents who helped the girls come up with awesome science-related sharing this week. How cool was it to see the girls blow up balloons with vinegar and baking soda, float blueberries in carbonated water, explain why a rubber rat toy melted in a laundry dryer, and make Jello? Very cool, indeed.

## Farm to Table

It's been a busy few weeks! Our potatoes are growing successfully in the garden; we made fresh fruit smoothies with Sophie and Lisa Hockin; we did a "green audit" of our classroom; we've learned about all-important rain, rainbows, and the color spectrum; and Antonia and Paola Casey shared a family cookie recipe popular at birthday parties in Chile, Argentina, and Brazil!

## Upcoming Dates

4/15 - 4/24 Spring Break



Building an apartment building after a class meeting about different types of homes.



Mmm, smoothies!



Planting potatoes that are now thriving in our school garden!