



## September Buzz from the Bumble bees

Our first month of school has been off to such a wonderful start! We have an amazing group of kids and feel blessed to be a part of their lives! To celebrate the beginning of fall we made some pumpkin bread and enjoyed it together. Cooking and baking encompasses reading and following directions, measurements and math, good hygiene, patience and taking turns. The kids have been decorating leaves that will go on a large family tree display in our room.

The Mammoth Sunflowers we planted in the spring are finally ready to be harvested- too bad we didn't notice before the birds got to them! We were able to "save" one flower for harvesting the seeds, which the kids love pulling out. We will boil them and roast them next week after they've dried. We have had a beautiful show of Blue Jays and Steller's Jays along with crows, right out our back door. The step stool has come in handy for the smaller children to enjoy the bird show!

We have been talking about our "Cosmic Address". We are in Camas Montessori School which is in Camas, inside of Washington, inside of the United States, inside North America, inside planet Earth, inside the solar system which is inside the Milky Way. We have beautiful nesting boxes that give the children a great visual representation of this. Everyone has been wanting a turn with it as well as some great collaboration when working together!

We also have been talking about our emotions and peace. "Love Light" is a term we use for the children when we explain that there is a light inside of each of us. When we feel good and are happy or helping others, our love light shines bright. When someone is mean to us or hurts our feelings, our love light starts to dim a bit. The more it dims, the more we may feel upset and tend to lash out at others. Children are not always mean-spirited. Sometimes they are tired or hungry and it makes them grumpy or sad. The children are understanding how we individually act towards others and how it can make them feel happy or sad (as well as many other emotions!). How we act as a group also affects how our love lights shine. We have yellow circles that the children can clip on to their shirts when they would like to show others that their love light is shining bright. This is just another very visual way for them to understand an abstract concept.

We have been practicing sign language in preparation for Sage's birthday celebration so that we can all sing and sign Happy Birthday to him and his family. The children all love learning the different animal signs and next week we will introduce colors and some signs for fall vocabulary.

October brings us our fall conferences, Friday October 13th. A sign up will be available soon. There is no school this day but childcare will be available for free, during the time of your conference. We will have a Halloween party on Wednesday October 25th. This is an early release day. We understand that Halloween is not until the following Tuesday but we have found that that day is crazy enough with excitement for

the evening's festivities that a party during the day leads to extra tiredness and more meltdowns! For those new to Camas, on Wednesday October 25th, downtown camas puts on "Boo Bash" from 3-5pm. Businesses along 4th Ave, beginning at the library and heading west towards the mill, pass out treats to trick or treaters. It is a wonderfully fun family event!

We had a few birthdays this month. Sage turned 5 on the 29th, Leia turned 3 on the 23rd and Trenton turned 4 on the 12th. Happy Birthday!

~Jessica & Danae

### **Here are some of the things your child has been working on this month:**

**Nora** likes easel painting and other art activities. She enjoys working with our farm animals and sewing. She has almost mastered the buckle frame and is learning how to tie. Nora is one of our earliest children to arrive and she loves helping get the classroom ready in the mornings and prepare snack for her friends!

**Julian, Owen and Nora** all enjoy the sink and float activity. They fill a bowl with water and using tongs, drop items in to find out if they sink or float. The items are then separated into the two categories.

**Aspen** wants to paint every day and she makes wonderful masterpieces! She frequently takes out the sound cylinders and matches the different sounds to one another, or grades them from softest to loudest. **Julian** and she love playing sound bingo together. They hold up cards with letters on them and match them to their bingo sheets. It is a fun way to practice letter sounds and recognition.

**Jean** loves the *magnetic/non-magnetic* work, which works much like the sink and float activity. He also likes small objects and often uses the mystery bag, refining his sense of touch. He closes his eyes and reaches into a bag and feels an object before naming it. He then pulls it out to see if he made the correct guess. He is also learning how to zip with our dressing frames which is preparing him to zip his jacket up all by himself in the coming colder months.

**Davin** likes the sandpaper letters and is counting and identifying numbers with the clock work. He enjoys writing his name on everything and is interested in writing other letters. Davin likes the walking on the line activity where he is practicing balance and coordination as well as patience. He also likes puzzles and folding cloths.

**Daisy** has been learning sounds with our sandpaper letters. She likes matching the letters to pictures that begin with the letter sound (a-apple, m-mop). She is working on the spindle boxes where she takes a certain number and matches it to its corresponding quantity. She likes to do large, multi-step works such as scrubbing the floor and washing the window. These activities help build large motor control as well as focus and concentration in following through with many steps- something that prepares children for longer math lessons later on.

**Mackenzie** is learning more puzzle (sight) words which is helping to strengthen her reading. She has been absorbed in the Cosmic Address work and finished writing all of the words in her booklet, of which she was so proud! She loves organizing small groups and acting as a teacher where she can lead games and activities.

**Sawyer, Emma James** and **Mackenzie** started pinpricking the World Map. They take out our world map, trace a continent and then use a pin to poke around the outline. When all of the continents are pinpricked, they get to glue them onto poster board as a display of the world. Pin pricking strengthens the fine motor muscles in their hands and helps to perfect their pencil grip.

**Ava** and **Daisy** have been practicing tracing letters together. Every day they ask for a lesson on a new letter! Along with **Hank**, they enjoy making “parts of” booklets where they learn to follow directions, practice writing, and of course, learn the names of animal parts.

**Julian** enjoys the lock box. It is filled with many different locks and he is excited to be able to do them all. He also uses the dressing frames and has almost perfected buttoning, snaps, and the zipper! He also can be found using the sink and float work and the magnetic/non-magnetic activities.

**Owen** loves sink and float activity and metal insets. Metal insets are a precursor for writing. They learn correct pencil grip and also the names of shapes. He likes playing the memory game where he picks a number, remembers the number in his mind, and walks across the room to retrieve that quantity of objects. **Hank, Sylvanna, Davin, Jean** and **Julian** love joining in on this work as well.

**Trenton** enjoys building the tower (cubes) and stairs (rectangular prisms). The children need to grade these cubes in the correct order for it to stand tall and strong. He likes the farm and he loves the I Spy game where we listen for the beginning sound in words. He loves the small objects we use with this game which makes it more fun!

**Sawyer** has been interested in learning about the United States and the continents. She had a new lesson on the teen beads and the hundred board. Both of these activities take a while to set up and complete because there are a lot of pieces and a lot of counting! She was excited to finally be able to finish them!

**Emma James** has been wanting to read daily with our phonetic readers and she is beginning to memorize puzzle words. She enjoyed the binomial cube lesson and was one of the quickest we have ever seen complete it and was ready for the next one, the trinomial cube. These algebraic puzzles are increasingly challenging and help prepare children for higher math lessons.

**Sage** has been learning about addition with the strip board and reading phonetic words with the object box. He was excited to have a lesson on sewing as well. He had a lesson on the addition strip board where he takes strips that vary in length and

correspond to numbers 1-9 and lays them side by side and counts them. He was on a mission to finish an addition booklet in one day!

**Violet** and **Davin** have been working with the snake game. This is a linear counting work and is a preparation for addition and understanding how place value and trading works. They both also enjoy the change game with the golden bead material. This work introduces children to the decimal system with numbers 1-9999. **Violet** has been practicing tracing more letters and use the sandpaper letters to learn more sounds. She also loves anything art-related!

**Hank** loves to draw and color. He likes to play the sound bingo game with friends. He is flying through all of the “parts of” books and I may need to invent some new ones! He has been using the playdoh almost daily as well and has finally figured out how to use a rolling pin to flatten the dough just enough to put a cookie cutter down and make a shape that holds together.

**Ava** has been loving to write lately with our letter tracing sheets and “parts of” booklets. She also loves helping the other children. She has been more talkative this year and enjoys telling stories in group. Ava likes to paint with the watercolors and counting with the colored bead stair.

**Sylvanna** loves the I Spy game, listening for the sounds in words. She has started counting and identifying teen numbers with the teen beads and likes to work with the clock. She also enjoys working with the puzzle maps, learning the continent names and countries in North America.

**Leia** enjoys the pouring activities which is strengthening her hand-eye coordination and preparing her to pour her own drink at snack. The cylinder blocks are another favorite activity where she grades cylinders from largest to smallest and then inserts them into a base. She also likes the mystery bag and doing puzzles.