



Shooting Stars

September 2009 Newsletter

The first month of school has passed us by rather quickly. It was a full month of learning, exploring, playing, getting to know each other, and having fun! Our Shooting Stars have adapted well to being in pre-Kindergarten. They can all greet with a happy „Good Morning!“, say „please“ and „thank you“, and say „See you tomorrow!“ with the biggest of smiles. There are still times of sadness with sharing toys, stopping play to clean up, and moments of misunderstanding between the children, but overall they are all making good friendships and following the daily routine with little upset.

September 1st-4th School routines and activities

In our first week of school we focused on the daily activities: Breakfast, Circle Time, Project, Free play, Outside time, Lunch, Washing up and Brushing teeth, Book time, and Snack. It was difficult at first to have the children understand that not every moment in the Kindergarten is „play time“. They are all getting better to try new things and are eager to practice writing, cutting, and coloring.

We learned each other's names and mastered the song "Where are you?". Everyone can now answer "Here I am, Here I am, How do you do?"

To help in cleaning up the room, the children made labels for the toys and now know where everything goes. We found that clean up time has to be fun because they do not want to stop playing. Since our children like to move and shake, we play the song "I like to move it" singing instead "I like to clean up, clean up. This works wonders, we have to room picked up everyday within 5 minutes and everyone is helping and dancing in the process.

September 7th-11th Myself- All about me

The second week of we focused on learning about ourselves. We created self portraits by first looking in a mirror and played games involving our eye and hair color. We made mobiles with our favorite color, favorite animal and country flag.

We started learning the alphabet with the letter "A". New words included apple, alligator, arm, ant, and airplane. We discovered Ai and Andrea begin with A and that 8 of the Shooting Stars have an A in their name. We mastered the song "I like to eat apples and bananas" which highlights the letters A and B.

We learned the number 1, the first number in our math book. We learned "This old man, he played one..." and "Hickory Dickory Dock" which both reinforce the number one.

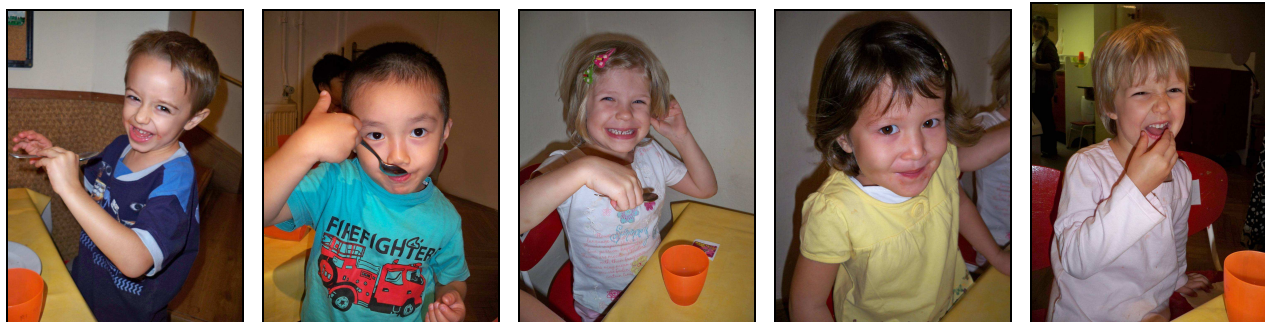
September 14th-18th My Body

After learning about ourselves in general, we went more in depth learning about our bodies. We learned body parts, how to take care of our bodies, including bathing, brushing teeth, eating well, getting dressed, and fixing "ouchies" or scratches, which everyone has experienced this first month on the playground. The children made a scratch on a drawing and

covered it with a bandage. We made a collage of clothing by cutting out all the clothes we had on. They glued on the clothes in the proper order starting with underwear, then our shirts and shorts, then long shirts, pants, socks and shoes. We discovered many new words to identify what we have on: short sleeve shirt, long sleeve shirt, short pants, pant shorts, pants, dress, shirt dress, etc. The clothing nowadays comes in every length and size and the children used their measuring skills to categorize whether they have pants, shorts, or something in between, hence the "short pant" or "pant shorts". We looked at the four food groups and made plates of something from each group. During circle they played with the plastic foods and had to make their own meal and show if they had something from each group. We have some great eaters in the class. Our song this week was "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." We learned the letter "B" for bell and banana. We made a B collage of pictures found in magazines that also started with B. Baby, ball, bread, butter, broom, bucket, bike, boy, bowling, Barbie, bottle, basket, blanket, boot and bed. Number 2 involved counting body parts. Everyone selected a part on the body and had to place a number 1 or 2 magnet on the board corresponding to how many parts they have. This included eyes, ears, arms, legs, hands, feet, tummy, nose, chin, head, and mouth. For the number two we learned the second verse of "This Old Man."

September 21st-25th Feelings and Senses

We discovered our feelings and the many faces we can make. The Shooting Stars enjoyed games of making happy, sad, angry, excited and sleepy faces. We learned a pumpkin song about emotions. Each day of the week we discussed one of the five senses. On hearing day we made musical instruments. For touch, we felt many things with blindfolds on and identified what it could be and how it felt: soft, hard, bumpy, or rough. The children made feeling boards with many different textiles. To explore taste and smell we had great fun smelling cups with various objects in them. The children stated whether it was good or bad smelling. Everyone agreed garlic and pepper are bad smelling, yuck! Strawberries, cocoa, and cinnamon are good smelling, yummy! Among other smells were onions, celery, vanilla, apple spice, cloves, coconut, peanut butter, and pepperoni. We then tested our taste buds trying a sweet pear, raisin, and tomato, then salty pepperoni (which everyone loved!), and the sour apple and lemon. We were very surprised by many of our Stars who found the lemon to be a sweet fruit and not sour. We concluded the day by first smelling corn kernels (no scent), then popped the corn and found it had a nice smell and then, of course, ate the popcorn which tasted great!



We learned the letter C this week for cat, clock, car, clap and crazy. So we "clapped our crazies out" and sang about 3 black cats.



September 25th Red Day

Thank you for wearing red and bringing in red things to share! The children had a great day of sharing and red excitement. We sang "Mary wore a red dress" using everyone's name and the type of red clothing they had on.



At circle we had red cars, a fire truck, blocks, Spiderman, a hat and scarf, many books, a pillow, a watering can, a fire breathing red dragon, and chocolates which came in a red box. To top it off, Suzuka brought in red rice treats with red beans that are normally eaten for special occasions in Japan, which made it a very special red day!

For our red day project we made red sugar cookies. Unfortunately we ate our project and there was nothing left to bring home. ☺



September 28th-30th Family, Letter D, and Number 4

The final week of September we will be focusing on family. We will talk about our family members, where we came from and special times we have with our family. The class will make a family tree and we will learn that all of our families are different, but that no matter how big or small or who we live with, we all still receive the same amount of love.

VIK (Very Important Kid)

Yuta

This month we say good bye to a special member of the Shooting Stars.

Yuta will be returning to Japan with his family. We will be very sad to see him go. Yuta is a kind, sweet boy who shows patience and accuracy in what he is



learning and doing. He loves dinosaurs, Pokemon, the color blue, eating oranges, and singing "Good Morning." On Wednesday, September 30th, we will be having his VIK party when we will get to have our last fun with our good friend Yuta. We will miss you!

September Songs

Welcome song

(Child's name)
(Child's name)
Where are you?
(Child sings and waves) Here I am, here I am,
how do you do.

Good Morning

Good morning, good morning, good morning to you. Good morning, good morning, how do you do? We're all in our places with sun shiny faces. What a great way to start a new day.

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes!

This Is The Way We Wash

(Sung to Mulberry Bush)

This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands.
This is the way we wash our hands, so early in the morning.
(Continue to wash all parts of the body.)

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
the mouse ran down.
Hickory dickory dock.

This Old Man

1. This old man, he played one,
he played nick knock on my thumb.
With a nick knock patty whack, give the dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.
2. This old man, he played two he played nick knock on my shoe.
(continue with "nick, knock, patty whack" after each verse)
3. This old man, he played three, he played nick knock on my knee.
4. This old man, he played four, he played nick knock on my door

I Like To Eat Apples and Bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat, apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat, apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat, apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat, apples and bananas

(sing additional verses by changing the vowel sounds.)

I like to ate, apples and bananas. *(long a)*
I like to eat, epples and benenes. *(long e)*
I like to ite, ipples and bininis. *(long i)*
I like to ote, opples and bononos. *(long o)*
I like to ute, upples and bununus. *(long u)*

Pat a Cake

Pat a cake, pat a cake, Baker's man.
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Pat it, and roll it, and mark it with a B.
And put it in the oven for baby and me.

Five Little Pumpkins

(To the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

1. One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin is happy.

(continue in the same way all of the verses)

2. Two little pumpkins pouting, pouting.
Two little pumpkins are grumpy.
3. Three little pumpkins yawning, yawning.
Three little pumpkins are sleepy.
4. Four little pumpkins crying, crying.
Four little pumpkins are sad.
5. Five little pumpkins laughing, laughing.
Five little pumpkins are playing.

Mary Wore A Red Dress

Mary wore a red dress, red dress, red dress.
Mary wore a red dress all day long.
(Use child's name and type of clothing)
Yuta wore a red shirt, red shirt, red shirt.
Yuta wore a red shirt all day long.

Four Little Ducks

Four little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away. Mother duck said, „quack quack quack quack” But only three little ducks came back. *(continue until no ducks come back)*
Mother duck went out one day, over the hills and far away. Then mother duck said „quack quack quack quack” and the four little ducks came back.