



May 2007 Newsletter

It's been a fun year at Nature's Classroom!
Make sure to log onto the website and check
the updates we will list there...especially the
PABC news as the summer rolls on.

Have a safe, fun-filled summer!



Greetings from Deepa and Mary Sue



We have had a year filled with joy and much growth. We have deeply enjoyed watching the children blossom and continue to discover much about themselves and their world. We thank you again for sharing them with us and look forward to next fall. We wish you and your family a summer filled with many new discoveries.

We have attached a few ideas for summer. Many of the suggestions might be already implemented at home. As you know, it is so important to keep the joy of learning and independence going all year.

Suggestions from Children's House.

1. **Start some type of simple collection** – plants/flowers are everywhere and once properly dried can be collected, marbles of every color and shape, coins or whatever interest them.
2. **Record and catalog information** - what type of birds, wild flowers or animals they have spotted.
3. **Visit the Zoo** - but don't just walk through it so you're done. Sit and draw the animals, figure out what they're doing. Research where the animals came from and what they eat. Have your child pick an animal to research and go back and visit the animal that they are interested in, several times. Try to come up with ways to raise money for that animal.
4. **Visit the Museum** -
 - Art museum - Have your child pick one of her/his favorite pieces of art and research the artist. Where did they come from and what other works of art are they known for?
 - History museum - Research their favorite part of history and share what information they have learned. Build a model of that part of history.
 - Science Museum - Find something that interests them in this area and have them research it. Build a machine or model of their interest. Do experiments.
5. **Go biking** - Pack a small backpack with water, snacks, and drinks.
6. **Go hiking** - Hit those trails and start walking. Find some trails that you've never been on before.
7. **Study the architect for buildings and walk around town.** Take photos or draw the different designs. Research who came up with those ideas and are those designs still used today.



8. **Work on a skit or play with your neighborhood kids.** Plan out a stage and costumes and invite the rest of the neighborhood for the production.

9. **Go to the farmers market** to see all the vendors and fresh produce.

10. **Contribute to community service work** - Pick up litter in a park, work in a shelter serving food, or contact someone to find out where they would need help that the whole family could get involved in.



11. **Visit the elderly in homes;** make cards for them and fresh cookies.

12. **Allow your child to cook and bake.** There are wonderful learning experiences in measuring and following the instructions on a recipe. The greatest reward is eating what you made!



13. **Journals** - Have them write down or just draw pictures of their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Keep them in the habit of writing.

14. **Write letters to friends and family.** Especially if they don't have email and send those wonderful works of art that are usually overflowing in your own home.

15. **Play a game** - There are many great board games and for physical games go to the Great Game List http://www.funattic.com/game_list.htm

16. **Clean the house** or organize a room. Children often enjoy creating a list of what has to be cleaned. Have your child write down their name next to the item that they have cleaned. The list really motivates them and you're not telling them what to do.

17. **Plan a vacation or trip.** Research together the area that you'll be going and get feedback as to what everyone would like to see. Give them a journal and have them write down what they did that day. They won't like doing it most of the time. When they go back the following year and read it, they'll remember certain events with fond memories.



Greetings from Miss Shannon & Miss Wilma

It is hard to imagine that a whole school year has gone by! This year we have watched the children grow physically and emotionally. It has been amazing to see the children's independence blossom. We would like to thank everyone for being supportive throughout this school year; we couldn't do it without parent support.

The following are recommended summer activities:

- Read! Read! Read!
- Take a hike and identify different species of flowers and trees
- Practice measurements while baking and cooking
- Keep a journal of summer trips



Have a fabulous summer! We look forward to seeing you again in the fall. For those children who are moving on to different schools, we wish you luck.

Thanks again!



Greetings from Elementary

We wish the best to you all, for a summer of fun and happiness for years to come!

What a full last month we have had – with the tie-dye t-shirt business, field trips, finishing up coffee and scram, salt maps, biome projects and enchilada making, we certainly have savored every last drop of the nectar of this school year. We have enjoyed working with your children – thank you for sharing them with us this year!



If you are missing any pieces of your child's apparel, please do stop by this week and visit the lost and found, located in Sycamores.



We hope that you will continue to explore the many facets of an education for life over the summer. In the last newsletter, we shared many suggestions of ways to engage with your child in their primary learning environment; the home. Mary Sue and Deepa have some great suggestions in this one as well.

Gratitude

We are infinitely thankful to Beth Norris (Charlie's Mom) for doing a beautiful job with the class books one more time, and to her friend Chris for taking some super-fun photographs of the class.

Thank you to Amber, Becky Henderson, Dawn Behne, Becky Webber and Erinn Stromberg for helping with our tie-dye t-shirt project... We are happy to have earned over \$280.00 to help our very much loved Mr. David and Ms. Kim – we're holding space for abundant health for you! Thank you also to Mr. Geoffrey for giving us the opportunity to have this business venture.

Be Well!

Miss Cathy, Miss Shella
and Miss Andi

