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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

October 28, 2002

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## Nature Walk and Fall Collages

This past Tuesday, the class went for a nature walk in Riverside Park. The children were encouraged to listen for sounds of nature and search for animals hidden in the trees. In addition, we collected many interesting specimens of nature. These included leaves, pine cones, acorns, sticks, flowers, and seeds. This past Thursday, we took the items we found and made beautiful collages with colored glue. The children's works of art are hanging outside the classroom on our bulletin board.

## Our Famous Famiglia Pizzeria Trip

On Wednesday, we took our much anticipated trip to the Pizzeria. The children did a wonderful job listening to directions, holding their partner's hands, following directions on the bus, and obeying our class trip rules.

At the pizzeria, the children had the opportunity to watch the pizza man make a pizza from scratch. They enjoyed seeing the ovens, refrigerators, and the large boxes and bags of ingredients. I think that they would all agree that eating the pizza was the best part of the trip. When we left the pizzeria, we walked up Broadway and traveled to Barnard's campus. There the children ran around on the grass and played duck, duck, goose and red light/green light. We all had a wonderful time.

## Cooking Kuchen with Daniel's Mom

On Friday, Nancy Morgan spent the day with us and led the children in a cooking project. As a group, we made Kuchen, a German coffeecake, from scratch. We learned about yeast and how it grows. The children each had the opportunity to add ingredients to the dough, stir the mix, and taste the final product. According to our yummy/yucky chart, Kuchen was a big hit. Thank you Nancy for participating in this activity.

**\*\*Thank you to Susan Donovan, Joy Fairbanks, and Kathleen McNenny for chaperoning our trip to the Pizzeria.**

## News of the Week

**Charlotte-**When it was my birthday, I got a Buzz Lightyear.

**Daniel-** I had a dream. I was with Oliver.

**Helen-** Once it was my uncle's birthday. I made a cake.

**Jack-** One day I was camping. I went on a long hike by a river. I threw sticks into the river.

**Jasper-**I went to the dentist. He gave me cherry toothpaste.

**Jeremy-** One day, my mom and my dad went to a street fair. It had lots of games.

**Leslie-** More about the fair. I saw a big blow-up telephone but I couldn't go inside of it.

**Lucas-** My mommy is at the country house. She is going to bring Eli home.

**Maryam-** One day I went camping and it was fun.

**Nicole-** At my country house, I have a glass seahorse.

**Oliver-** For my next birthday, I will be 5.

**Scott-** I want to talk about the American flag. The American flag is used to make all countries free.

**Sophia-** Once I went to the Intrepid. I saw the Pilot's room and the Captain's room.

**William-** Last time, I went to the store with my dog, Lily.

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- Conferences are on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

October 21, 2002

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## Our Theme Concludes

This past week, we began to wrap up our first theme, food. We temporarily turned our dramatic play area into a restaurant. Several children in the class made placemats, waiter/waitress notepads, and menus for our restaurant. Using white playdough, the children cooked food in our kitchen and served their patrons at the table. All the children in this activity had fun.

Our final conclusion of this unit will take place this Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> when the class takes our first class trip to La Famiglia Pizzeria. There the pizza man will show us how to prepare and cook a real pizza. We will also get the opportunity to walk around the kitchen and observe a real restaurant at work. Parent chaperones are welcome to join us on this trip. Please let Mrs. Everett know if you are interested in this opportunity.

## Banana Experiments and Cooking

Another concluding food unit activity was to experiment with some silly food-science. Early in the unit, several children stated that you couldn't cook fruit such as bananas. On Thursday, we decided to test this theory with the children. Each child had the chance to taste a raw apple, pear, and banana and make observations about how they tasted, smelled, and looked. Next, we placed each item on a hot griddle and let them cook. Then, each child tasted and examined the cooked fruit. The children's observations can be found on our silly fruit graph hanging on the blackboard.

On Friday, we made banana bread as a class to show the children another way that fruit can be cooked and served.

**\*\*It was wonderful seeing all of the parents at Curriculum Night. Thank you for attending!**

## News of the Week

**Daniel-** When I was uh- when my brother- he always doesn't let me be pitcher or batter when we play baseball.

**Gabriella-** On Sunday is swimming day and I had a long playdate with Sarah.

**Helen-** Once I say Mrs. Everett on the bus.

**Jack-** When I was at the bus stop, I saw a mailman getting mail from a mailbox.

**Jasper-** I ate an ice pop and I watched TV. And then I went outside.

**Leslie-** I know how to go underwater for a long time and my dad counted to 30.

**Lucas-** One day I went to the children's museum with my friend Gabriella and we saw a man playing music with his head.

**Maryam-** When Leslie was having a playdate with me, I told her we could help Laurie.

**Nicole-** This day I am going to a wedding.

**Scott-** More news about the Intrepid, I saw a helicopter dropping people into the Hudson River.

**Sophia-** My fish is a beta fish. She likes her tank and I play with her and talk to her.

**William-** Last time, daddy and me got a fish.

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- To sign the permission slip for the Pizzeria class trip

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

October 15, 2002

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## Chef McDaniel Came to Visit

As we delved further into our food curriculum, we continued to discuss chefs and their role in the kitchen. The children each had the opportunity to visit the school kitchen and watch Chef McDaniel at work making our lunch. They were very interested in the rice steamer and enjoyed smelling various spices used to make the lentils. Upon returning to the classroom, the children each drew a picture of one aspect of the kitchen.

The next day, Chef McDaniel came to visit us in the classroom during meeting time. The children each had the opportunity to ask her questions about her job. We learned why she wears her blue apron, from where she gets the food and her recipes, and her favorite aspects of the job. At the conclusion of her visit, we took a class picture of Chef McDaniel with the children each wearing their chef's hats.

## Two New Class Books

We began writing two books as a class this week. The first was a planned activity. In meeting time, I began the story with the line, "a chef was working in his kitchen." Then, each child had the chance to add a sentence to the story. As the each inserted their line, we discussed the idea that every story needs a beginning, middle, and end. This exercise is a wonderful experience for the children to gain the concepts of plot sequencing.

Our second class story was written spontaneously as a group. On Thursday, we voted on what to cook as a class on Friday. After the children chose chocolate chip muffins, we read "If you Give a Moose a Muffin." Upon finishing the story, we asked what happens when you give chocolate chip muffins to a class. Below is the story we created:

"If a class makes chocolate chip muffins, they are going to want to eat them. When you give a class chocolate chip muffins to eat, they will ask for rainbow sprinkles for the top. The class will need candy and icing to make the sprinkles stick. Then, they will want a cookie for the top. If a class eats chocolate chip muffins with sprinkles, candy, icing, and a cookie on top, they will get a bellyache. If they have a bellyache, they will need to go to the bathroom and poop. After they poop, they will need to wash their hands. When the whole class washes their hands, it means it is time to eat. If it is time to eat, the class will ask for chocolate chip muffins. When you give a class chocolate chip muffins, they will ask for rainbow sprinkles for the top."

**\*\*Look for our beautifully written and illustrated class stories on our book shelves.**

## News of the Week

**Charlotte-** One time, I got a unicorn.

**Daniel-** Once I had a very fun dream. I took a taxi and a bus.

**Gabriella-** Yesterday I went apple picking and I bought a pumpkin.

**Helen-** The other day, I had a Spanish class.

**Jack-** This morning, I saw Apryl in the elevator.

**Jasper-** I ate a hotdog and after I ate the hot dog, I watched TV.

**Jeremy-** More news from the Game Farm: besides the boa constrictor there was a tortoise.

**Leslie-** One time, Donny, Grandma, and me went to a fair in Montana.

**Maryam-** I saw Apryl walking down the street.

**Nicole-** One time we were walking on a trail and it was cold and we walked Lucky.

**Oliver-** I did something cool. Me and Isabelle hugged each other and I holded her.

**Scott-** More news about the Intrepid, my daddy and me went there and there was a helicopter dropping people into the Hudson River.

**Sophia-** I got a new pet, it's a fish. I named it Butterfly.

**William-** When it is dark out, someone is going to baby-sit me.

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- Curriculum night is on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

October 7, 2002

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## Specials Have Begun

During this past week, our classroom specials were added into the curriculum. On Monday morning our new movement teacher, Ms. Jeanne, worked with the children. They played with the parachute and sang fun songs together. On Thursday, half of the class worked with the new art teacher, Ms. Naomi, in the classroom. During their art time, the children worked on folding and gluing paper. Their work is hanging in the classroom on the purple bulletin board. On Wednesday, the other half of the class will take part in this activity. On Friday, our music teacher, Ms. Colleen, sang songs and played games with the class. The children were thrilled to have Ms. Colleen back in the classroom and cheerfully participated in all of her fun activities. The children are excited about these new curriculum areas.

## Cooking Fridays

One of our favorite times in the classroom is Friday morning work time. Each week, we cook a recipe together as a class. During the last month of school, we made playdough, rainbow toast, pancakes, and pita pizzas. The children are able to measure ingredients, crack eggs, and stir the batter. At the conclusion of our cooking activity, the children taste the food and decide whether it was "yummy" or "yucky." They graph their answers on our classroom chart. We also rewrite the recipe together with the children. Cooking Fridays always bring a smile to their faces.

## Chef's Hats

This past week, we discussed chefs with the children. They decided almost unanimously that chefs wear hats. Therefore, each child got to make his/her own chef's hat. Everyone in the class paper maché their own hat. They got their hands covered in glue and water and worked extremely hard to cover their entire balloon with the paper. After the first step dried, every child chose a color to paint his/her hat. Some chose the traditional white while many opted for a rainbow of color choices ranging from yellow to purple. They look adorable!!

**\*\*A special thank you to Susan Donovan, Helen's mom, for "churning" butter with us on Thursday during meeting time.**

## News of the Week

**Charlotte-** More news about the zoo: There were polar bears and big honey bears.

**Daniel-** I ate Chinese food two days in a row.

**Gabriella-** I wanted to read, "New York." I jumped on my father's bed and he said, "stop it!" But I didn't stop it.

**Jack-** I made up a little song.

**Jasper-** I don't like sugar anymore. I don't like it in my teeth.

**Jeremy-** More Game Farm news: We went into a cage and saw a kind of snake, a boa constrictor.

**Leslie-** One time, my daddy met the Prince of Denmark.

**Lucas-** The book is about races and the turtle wins.

**Maryam-** I saw Nicky having a cold today.

**Nicole-** Now, I have a weekend house.

**Oliver-** Well I have one more thing about Nana and Papa. I said, "I love them."

**Sophia-** I saw ET last night. At first, I was scared and then I got used to it.

**William-** Last time when it was nighttime, somebody babysat me.

Children without "news of the week" were either absent on their news day or chose to pass during their news turn.

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- Curriculum night is on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

September 30, 2002

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## Family Involvement

Your child's classroom becomes their home away from home. It is a second place where they feel safe and *secure to explore and interact with the world*. One way to make this transition easier and more exciting for your child is to become a part of their classroom community.

We invite you and your family to become active members of our classroom community. Different families have varying strengths and abilities. We ask you to share your special skills with our classroom. If you love to cook, let's arrange an opportunity for you lead a cooking experience with the children. If playing an instrument or story writing is your skill, please feel free to share these abilities during a pre-arranged circle time activity. In addition, we welcome older siblings to visit our room and read a favorite book to the children.

In addition, some simple ways for you to participate in our classroom experience are to bring in a special snack for the class, to join us on an adventure to the park, or to arrange to have lunch with us. Please speak with us if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

## Our Theme: Food

This past week, we began to examine our theme. We started with a conversation questioning, "what is food." The children's answers varied from something you eat to something you can make. We continued our study by asking, "where does food come from?" After many children answered the store, the market, and the street fair. We asked, "where does the store get the food?" Quickly, they caught on. As a class, we discussed that all food comes from the ground or from an animal.

We helped to support their learning by reading, "Pancakes, Pancakes" by Eric Carle. In this book, a little boy must collect grain from a field and grind it into flour before his mom can make him pancakes. In addition, he collects milk from the cow to churn butter and eggs from the chicken for the pancake batter. We culminated this stage of our theme, by making delicious pancakes together as class on Friday. They were yummy!

**\*\*The children worked together to create a beautiful garden mural. You can find it hanging outside our classroom.**

## News of the Week

**Charlotte-** Yesterday, I went to the zoo and saw lots of bats.

**Daniel-** I saw a man on top of a bus in the newspaper.

**Gabriella-** One night the baby was in mommy's tummy. It kicked so much.

**Helen-** Once I went to my mom's mom's house.

**Jack-** I think I watched JJ on TV last night but I don't remember.

**Jasper-** I had pasta for dinner last night.

**Jeremy-** There's more news from the game farm. We saw lemurs. It's a kind of monkey.

**Leslie-** Well, my mommy is away in Somerset, PA. She is working on a show.

**Lucas-** I have more about the game farm. There were lots of animals that bite but not the sheep.

**Maryam-** My friend and I had a bad time. I said something mean. I said, "sorry."

**Nicole-** One time, I went to Grandma's house.

**Oliver-** I have more news about Nana and Poppa's vacation.

**Scott-** I went to the Intrepid. It is a boat.

**Sophia-** Yesterday I saw a street fair on the road. I saw puppets.

**William-** I had pancakes for breakfast. My daddy made them.

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- Curriculum night is on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

September 23, 2002

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## A Theme Develops: Food

At the Weekday School, we try to create a curriculum around the children's interests. After watching the children play, interact, build, and enjoy their time in our classroom, a recurring theme has emerged. Various types of food and food service activities have become integrated into their play in the classroom. The children have been playing ice cream shop on the playground, the "oven game," restaurant, and grocery store in the dramatic play area, enjoyed searching for seeds on our walk to dolphin park, and thoroughly enjoyed participating in our first cooking project, Rainbow Toast. Therefore, we have decided to dedicate our first thematic unit to the study of food.

On Monday, we will begin discussing this unit with the children by asking the question: "what is food?" Then, each child will watercolor a picture of their favorite food. In addition, we have stocked our classroom bookshelf with books about food, seeds, nutrition, and restaurants. We look forward to watching this theme blossom into a unit with the children.

## Our Emerging Literacy Program Has Begun

This past week, we introduced the children's personal notebooks to them. In these notebooks, we write down stories and ideas that come directly from the children. Over the course of last week, every child had the opportunity to write and illustrate their own story in their notebook. These notebooks can be found in our writing center and are always available for the children to decorate with their pictures and ideas. The next step in this process is to dramatize their stories during circle time. We began to set up this program by acting out the story, "The Carrot Seed," during group time. Next week, we will continue by dramatizing various other books in our classroom library and then turn our focus to the children's stories.

In addition to the above literacy activities, we learned our first poem as a class this past week. The children each illustrated the hippopotamus poem for their poetry notebook. It has been exciting to watch the beginnings of our literacy program develop.

**\*\*The children have completed their first class portraits. You can locate them hanging around the classroom.**

## News of the Week

**Daniel-** One time when we were in Rochester, Christopher feeded the birdies.

**Helen-** I have room inside my tooth.

**Gabriella-** I had cinnamon toast yesterday. First, she didn't let me have it. Now, I have to have raisin bran tomorrow.

**Jack-** I have some kind of bad news because my two cousins can't come camping.

**Jasper-** I build a zoo.

**Leslie-** One time my mom and dad caught a real live katydid.

**Lucas-** One day, I rode an elephant in the country.

**Maryam-** Today in the morning, my mommy said we could go to Rye Playland again.

**Nicole-** When I was going on a trail, I saw a picture of a birdie. Then you were supposed to find the birdie. I found one.

**Scott-** No news today. I might have some news my next news day.

**Sophia-** Yesterday my tooth had a birthday. I went to the dentist.

**William-** Later in 3 days, I'm going to Mickey Mouse's World.

**Children without "news of the week" were either absent on their news day or there was no school on their day.**

## **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- The Pot Luck Supper is this Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You**

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# ROOM 717: WEEKLY NEWS

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Mrs. Everett & Ms. Pollitt

September 17, 2001

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## The First Week

The children have adjusted well to our school day and schedule. During the first week, we focused on getting to know each other and teaching the children the basic routine of the classroom. As a group, we have learned names, played games, and worked together to become a classroom unit. We have discussed basic rules of the classroom and our daily schedule with the children.

All the children appear to be handling our schedule well and have adjusted wonderfully to our classroom environment. We have been thrilled to watch the children's imaginative play, artistic work, and interactions come to life. Overall, we have had a good start to a new school year.

## The Jewish Holidays

On Thursday and Friday, we discussed Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with the children. As a class, we celebrated Rosh Hashanah by reading a story about the world's birthday, singing happy birthday to the world, and eating challah and apples dipped in honey. A special thank you to Jasper's family for bringing us the special holiday snack.

To recognize Yom Kippur, we read the story, "The Hardest Word." This lovely story reminded the children about the importance of apologizing for their mistakes and accidents. Upon finishing the story, we went around the circle and took turns telling about an event where we were sorry for our actions. The children's wonderful reflections can be found hanging on our blackboard for all to read.

**\*\*The children have completed their first classroom book named, "Our Summer." You can locate their work in our book corner.**

## News of the Week

The children have really enjoyed having their time to share news and "show & tell" with the class during circle time. Below is the news from our first week.

**Charlotte-** I did a letter for mommy, Christel.

**Daniel-** One time when I was four, I went to Rye Playland.

**Helen-** The other day was my half birthday.

**Gabriella-** I did lots of stamp parts today.

**Jack-** I am gonna go with my best friend and cousin camping in NJ.

**Jasper-** Nothing

**Jeremy-** One day, I went to a game farm on Fire Island.

**Leslie-** As soon as I woke up, I ran to my mom and dad's bedroom and said it was time to wake up.

**Lucas-** One day my father said, "a plane crashed and the pilot died."

**Maryam-** When I was four, I went to Rye Playland.

**Nicole-** I am going to Grandma and Dick's house after school.

**Oliver-** I went to a lot of places so far.

**Scott-** The Twin Towers fell down a long time ago.

**Sophia-** Yesterday, I had a playdate with Leslie, Jillian, and Helen.

**William-** Daddy was in China and brought Chinese money for me.

### **Parents, Please Remember ...**

- To arrive on time daily for School
- To bring in a family photo
- To sign up for snack
- To bring in a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport.

**Thank You**