OWL'S Weekly Update

August 15-19, 2022
Dear Owl Families:

It was another exciting week in the Owl’s Nest, and we are pleased to see how quickly the children are settling into their new school routines. This week we continued to build our classroom community, and we have had a lot of fun working on several collaborative projects and activities. The Owls are doing a wonderful job of working together as well as regularly demonstrating the Acorn School’s shared expectations to be kind, safe, respectful and have fun!

As a reminder, please be sure to sign your children in and out each day using the QR codes posted on the parent communication board and on the 18th Avenue playground, if you are picking your child up after 5:00pm. Thank you!!

Have a wonderful weekend, and please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Nea and Bryan
READER’S AND WRITER’S WORKSHOP:
The Owls have been working on various literacy skills this week, such as, reading, building and writing sight words, matching letters and sounds, and exploring "WH" question words like, who, what, when, where and why to deepen their comprehension of a variety of books and texts. They have also been engaging in activities to further develop their fine motor skills to build stamina and confidence for writing and art projects! The Owls LOVE reading books by favorite authors like Mo Willems and Leo Leonni as well as fact finding in non-fiction texts!
In **MATH/STEM** this week, the Owls engaged in a new engineering challenge to build a bridge with big blocks! This created space for the Owls to think outside of the box and to utilize math and engineering skills to complete the challenge!

We also explored with ten frames and practiced counting and quantifying objects. We then extended this activity and tasked the Owls to build their own ten frame with popsicle sticks and then test their success by determining if they could in fact place ten objects in their ten frame.

Through each of these activities, the Owls demonstrated critical thinking skills, creativity, spatial awareness, and persistence.
The Owls have truly enjoyed exploring and investigating Earthworms. This topic of interest has served as a provocation for research and learning as well as the inspiration for many creative projects. This week we created a class KWL Chart and then spent time doing research with non-fiction texts to uncover answers to our questions and wonderings. Using what we learned about Earthworms, we have begun creating a mural depicting the bottom layer of soil where Earthworms live. The children have been busy drawing, labeling, and cutting out Earthworms, leaves, and pine needles as well as drawing an underground root system.

Our other big and very exciting project has been to create a giant Earthworm out of cardboard! Next week we look forward to painting our Earthworm as well as adding more details that we have discovered during our exploration. Did you know that Earthworms have five hearts and breath through their skin?

We are deeply appreciative of the Owls curiosity, enthusiasm, collaboration and problem-solving skills!
NATURE EDUCATION:

WE’RE GOING ON A SNAIL HUNT!

This week we embarked on a nature adventure to look for snails. While the weather appeared to be a bit too dry and warm for the snails to poke their heads out, we had a wonderful time exploring the Scarritt Bennett campus and the beautiful neighborhood surrounding the Acorn School and the Owl's Nest. We were very excited to discover some interesting insects, birds, squirrels, and nests along the way!
Another fun project we have been working on is transforming the outdoor space in front of the Owl's Nest. We have been encouraging the children to make this space their own, and they have risen to the occasion! We have experimented with planting bamboo that we can decorate with a variety of nature items, which has required a great deal of digging in some rocky soil! We were also pleasantly surprised to see the Owls decide that muddy handprints on the brick are far superior to paint! We are excited to continue working on this project during the school year and to see what develops throughout the course of this creative process!
HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE BACK AT SCHOOL ON MONDAY!