

# The Blue Horse Gazette

September 2012

Hendrickson/Hare

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What a wonderful first month of school we've had! Mrs. Hare and I have enjoyed getting to know each one of your children. They are a friendly and well-mannered bunch.

In September, we learned about one another by exploring themes relating directly to the children. Friendships were forged as children discovered similarities between themselves during presentations of their All About Me posters and explorations of their families, pets, favorites, and feelings.

## **Social Studies**

We began the month by learning what school is all about through the teaching of school manners, safety procedures, and how to find and use the materials in classroom centers. Students brainstormed and then practiced behaviors that matched our classroom rules: Be kind. Be safe. Be neat. We extended this concept by identifying, discussing, and carrying out actions that were beneficial to making friends and which ones were not.

The children explored self-awareness through the study of feelings and five senses.

Our feelings unit included the following key concepts: We all are unique individuals and are alike and different from our classmates in many ways. A range of feelings is normal. It is important to know what to do with big feelings (angry, scared, frustrated, excited). How our actions affect the feelings of others. What makes us feel happy, sad, etc.

## **Science**

Children explored their five senses using the Scientific Method of inquiry. This includes identifying or asking a question, forming an explanation, carrying out research, and communicating what we learned. It might seem formal; however, all our class activities are designed to encourage your child to have fun while learning through hands-on experiences. We explored sight by mixing primary colors (red,

yellow, blue) to create secondary ones (green orange, purple). Identifying sounds on our Sound Bingo CD and making kazoos helped us understand hearing. We created “smelling jars” and flowers using scented cotton balls. We identified and discussed various textures and temperatures using some of our science center collections. We experienced taste by testing sweet (sugar), salty (salt), sour (lemon), and bitter (unsweetened dairy-free baking chocolate).

## **Math**

We worked on sequencing and sorting theme related objects by size, color, and gender. We rote counted to 20 (or counted out loud) and practiced one to one correspondence up to five (counting individual pieces by touching them only once as we say the number). Additionally, we began to recognize numerals. Finally, we started to understand time through calendar concepts.

## **Literacy**

Mrs. Hare and I informally assessed students on both name and letter recognition.

Students learned to distinguish the shape and sounds of letters A, B, and C.

Children discovered how to identify the front and back of a book, as well as the title. They noted the difference between the words and pictures and demonstrated their knowledge of the correct direction to hold a book (which way is up) and turn the pages.

## **Art**

The children drew self-portraits and created feelings masks. We taught them how to use the materials in the art center (specifically the glue, scissors, hole puncher, and paint). Students were free to express themselves through their own creations. The most popular mediums this month were watercolors, glue, and pom poms.

## **Languages**

At this point in the year, we are treading lightly in Spanish. Mrs. Hare and I have introduced several words during conversations and lessons. However, the only word we expect students to be fluent in this month is hola/hello OH - lah). More Spanish will come later.

Children have been picking up American Sign Language (ASL) quickly. They have learned a prayer, two songs, and are mastering an impressive range of vocabulary, letters, and numbers. Here's what they've learned to sign:

Prayer:

Thank you Father, thank you Father,  
For our food, for our food,  
Many many blessings, many many blessings,  
Amen. Amen.

Song #1 Three Little Monkeys

Three little monkeys, swinging in a tree  
Teasing Mr. Alligator, "Can't catch me!"  
Along came the alligator, quiet as can be,  
And snapped! that monkey off the tree.  
\*repeat counting backwards  
No more monkeys swinging in a tree.

Song #2 Please and Thank you (To the tune of Where is Thumbkin)

Please and thank you, please and thank you  
Magic words, magic words  
Everyone should use them, everyone should use them  
Everyday, everyday.

Vocabulary

A	boy	happy
alligator	C	know
animal	car	mad
apple	cat	me
B	children	quiet
baby	clap hands	sad
bear	cold	water
bed	face	you

Thank you,  
Mrs. Hendrickson