

Fairville
Friends
Newsletter
May/June
2013



Art Show

On May 30th we celebrated Fairville's 40th Annual Art Show, exhibiting some of the works of art that the children created during the 2012-2013 school year. This culminating event has a long history and rich tradition at the school and while it has changed over the years, the desire to honor the children's artistic creativity has not.

Throughout the school year, teachers observe children working carefully with pencils, markers, crayons, pastels, paints and a host of other art materials. Concentration is obvious, and dialogue often accompanies the children's strokes on the page. From the first light marks with a crayon to a complex garden scene created by one of our

oldest Kindergarten students, the joy of creating is obvious. Showing respect for children's artistic endeavors by carefully mounting and framing artwork, then sharing it with the school community, speaks to Fairville's belief in the importance of valuing the creative spirit within each child. We hope that this year's show will leave you with a lasting memory of your child's 2012-2013 school year. We are honored to have had the joy of working with your child this year and watching his/her creativity and skills unfold.

Wishes to you all for a joyful and relaxing summer!

Warmly,
Sharon



Creating a Garden Mural...

We decided to honor our very first Kindergarten class by giving them the opportunity to create a mural in the school dining room. After reading several garden-related picture books and engaging in a fair amount of discussion, the class decided to create a flower garden (with pumpkins). Having had previous experience painting two murals on cardboard, the Kindergarten got right to work on the sky and earth background sections of the mural. Each child chose a particular flower to practice drawing on paper, then the children painted the flowers on paper, and finally they worked in small groups to paint the flowers directly on the mural. Class meetings were held to determine what else should be added. The children decided to add birds, a birdhouse, toads, a rabbit and a snake! These were drawn with pencil first and then painted by the children. The Kindergarten class is very proud of their finished mural and we are pleased to have an art installation created by our very first Kindergarten class! Best wishes to all of our young student artists as they head off to their next schools: Ryan Astle, Gianna Cottone, Sophia Kelly, Zoe Nichols, Joseph Pizano, Charlotte Rasmussen, Tinley Sutch, Claire Suto and Finn Tuleya. We will miss you!



THANK YOU

Merci

Gracias

There are so many members of this community who donate time and/or dollars to our school. Some of you helped to beautify the school campus on Green-up Day. Others invited grandparents and special friends to visit the school, volunteered to promote and help with some aspect of the Fun Fair, or told friends and neighbors about Camp Aka Maka. You drove on a field trip, shared talents in the classroom, donated items to the school or baked treats for the teachers. You worked together to provide the faculty and staff with a delicious Teacher Appreciation lunch, attended Meeting, came to a playground play date, or supported our Annual Giving Campaign or our recent Playground Fund.

Gratitude and thanks to all of our volunteers and donors this year—we know that we couldn't run the school without your generous support! We look forward to working with you again in the Fall!

Join us for Camp Aka Maka

Ages 3 through 7

There are still spaces left in all 8 weeks of summer camp. Join us any week, June 3rd through July 26th. Camp runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each weekday. Campers can register for either 3 (TWR) or 5 (M-F) days per week for a cost of \$150 (TWR) or \$200 (M-F) per week. 20% sibling discounts are available as well as discounts for registering for more than three weeks of camp.

Events Calendar

Monday, June 4th—Camp Aka Maka Begins 9:00am-12:00pm

Friday, July 26th—Last Day of Camp

See you in September!

In the Classrooms.....



The morning Ladybugs finished the school year by observing and reading about bugs and learning simple things that they can do to “go green”. They revisited favorite classroom songs, books, art projects and finger plays as a fun way to bring the school year to a close.

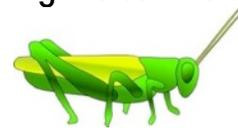
The afternoon Ladybugs continued to explore the outdoors and have fun making art indoors. The class really enjoys playing together and taking time for Meeting and singing. What a wonderful and calm group of children!



The Bumblebees talked about letters of the alphabet and read several alphabet books. The class was so interested in the ocean, though, that the last two weeks of school were spent on an ocean unit. The class also had fun checking on their garden and exploring the many creatures found outdoors on Fairville’s play yards: worms, ladybugs, bats, snakes eating frogs, groundhogs, spiders, deer and many, many stink bugs!



The Fireflies spent the last few weeks of school planting and growing watermelon, kale, radishes, and sunflowers. They took the sunflowers home as gifts, but not before spending time on measuring and writing activities related to the height of the mature sunflowers (5 ft.). The class used 5 ft. tape measures to see what they could find around the school that was nearly the same size as the fully grown sunflowers. We will be watching the Firefly class’ watermelons grow during the summer!



After the chick study, the Grasshoppers became interested in other animals that hatch from eggs. Mary Merkle kindly brought the class a clutch of frog eggs that quickly hatched into tadpoles. The class loved observing them as they grew into frogs and just after the end of the school year, Amy and Andrea were able to release the little frogs into the pond! Painted Lady butterfly eggs were also raised in the Grasshopper classroom. The children observed them turning from eggs to chrysalises and finally into butterflies. The Grasshoppers released their butterflies outdoors at the end of the school year so they could fly free—a wonderful end to a spring filled with life cycle studies!



The Butterflies embarked on a construction theme as their final theme of the school year. They worked with hammers, nails and wood (with supervision, of course) and built a giant cardboard skyscraper—it was taller than most of the staff! The children used many measuring tools as part of this theme, and parent volunteers came in to help them build block cities using the unit blocks. At the end of the year the Butterflies also raised Painted Lady butterflies like their friends in the Grasshopper room. They observed the butterflies' metamorphoses and also released butterflies on the play yard.



In addition to the mural mentioned on page 2, the Kindergarten class was busy tending and harvesting food from the class garden, doing campus service projects, reading to children in the younger classes, comparing and contrasting wild and domesticated rabbits, and learning a little bit about whales. The class enjoyed a day of outdoor water exploration and hosted a publishing party to share a final piece of "kid writing" with their families. It's so much fun to listen to our young readers and writers share their work!

In the Gardens....

During the summer we look forward to having families volunteer to help with watering, weeding and harvesting our garden beds. We are looking for a few more families interested in signing up. You are welcome to keep what you harvest. If you would like to help, please contact the office.



A Special Note of Thanks

We are especially appreciative of everyone who donated to our playground fund at the end of the school year. To date we have raised \$2460 toward the purchase of new playground equipment. The staff will be choosing a new piece of equipment soon and are grateful for your generosity.

*With our sincere thanks,
Amy, Andrea, Betsy, Judy, Laurie, Liza,
Meaghan, Michele, Rita, Sandy, Sharon,
Taryn, and Vicki*

Regards to the Fairville families who have offered to stop by my hutch on select summer weekends to make sure I have food and water. Thank you so much for helping me to stay cool and supplied with food!

Love,
Oscar

