



Elmhurst Academy  
~ RIVER CLASSROOM ~

## “Riflessione”

June 14th - June 25th, 2021

Ms. Doyle and Ms. Hart

*A private, independent Reggio Emilia inspired  
early childhood school.*

“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see”  
- John F. Kennedy



**Aquatic Days:** The River students began their week with water day! Every Monday the River students will get to go out on the cortile with various sprinklers and water toys, and play in the water. This week, the River teachers provided the students with scrub brushes, paint brushes, and many different aquatic animals to explore the water with. Some students were seen introducing the aquatic animals to the sprinklers, and others chose to use the scrub brushes to give the animals a bath in the puddles that the sprinkler created.



**Nature Photography Day:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 is Nature Photography Day. To celebrate this occasion, the River explorers had the opportunity to take Ms. Doyle's camera and take pictures of any nature items they chose. Teachers demonstrated to the students how to aim the camera and press the button, and the explorers seemed to really enjoy having the creative freedom to take pictures of whatever they wanted!





**World Wind Day:** On June 15, 2021, the students of Elmhurst Academy celebrated World Wind Day. The River students commemorated this day by creating wind chimes. Each explorer collected sticks and seashells that they wanted to add to the wind chime. River teachers prepared a large stick with some fishing line. The River explorers each spent time trying to thread the fishing line through the holes in the seashells, and with a teacher's help, secured the shell on the fishing line. Once the wind chime was complete, the River explorers hung their wind chime outside on the cortile.



**Gardening:** During their time on the Cortile, the River explorers have expressed a large interest in gardening. They have enjoyed helping teachers water the flowers and herbs that have been planted in the gardens surrounding the Cortile. The teachers have encouraged that interest by discussing the process of gardening with them and providing them with small rakes and shovels to “garden” with in a box filled with soil. Throughout the summer, the River teachers will continue to foster this interest with the River explorers.



**Spice Painting:** As we continue our exploration of the Symphony of the Five Senses for the month of June, the River explorers created spice paintings! River teachers prepared bowls of spices mixed with glue to serve as the paint, and a sheet of construction paper as the canvas. The spices that were used were cloves, lavender, and sage. The explorers got to work with their paint brushes spreading the spice paint all around the paper.



**Summer Solstice Sun Catchers:** The River explorers celebrated Summer Solstice on Monday, June 21st. The River teachers provided each student with a paper plate, some tempera paints, and a paint brush to create the frame for the sun catchers. Each explorer spent time carefully spreading the paint across the paper plate, each creating a unique pattern. The next day, the teachers cut out the middle of the plates to create a frame, and covered the open area with sticky contact paper. The explorers were given their own plate that they painted the day before, and used different colors of tissue paper to stick onto the contact paper. The teachers then covered the tissue paper with a second layer of contact paper, and hung the suncatchers by the window so that the explorers could see the sun shine through them.



**International Yoga Day:** On Monday, June 21st, the River explorers celebrated International Yoga Day by practicing different yoga poses! The students gathered on a carpet and watched as a teacher demonstrated different poses such as the butterfly, caterpillar, and ladybug pose. The explorers were then encouraged to imitate the poses as well! The explorers seemed to enjoy calming and stretching their bodies.



**Symphony of the Five Senses/Noodles:** As the River explorers continue the theme of Symphony of the Five Senses, we had the opportunity to explore the sense of touch! River teachers prepared two boxes of noodles. Using food coloring, teachers dyed one box of cooked noodles green, and one box of noodles blue. The noodles were divided up into bins so that each student had their own. Each bowl came with a set of plastic tweezers and a bowl for each explorer to use to manipulate the noodles. The explorers discovered the feeling of the noodles sliding through their fingers, and were trying to transfer the noodles from the clear bin to the bowl. This exploration is great for fine motor development, and for sensorial exploration.





**Summer Sports Camp with Mr. O:** Throughout the summer session here at Elmhurst Academy, the River students will be participating in Summer Sports Camp with Mr. O, where he will introduce the students to different sports and skills. These camps are a great opportunity for the River explorers to further develop their large motor skills, and learn to follow one-to-two step directions. To begin our sports camp, Mr. O introduced the River explorers to the game of soccer. For the first week, Mr. O brought some soccer balls onto the Discovery Play Garden

to get the explorers to be comfortable kicking or rolling the soccer ball. The following week, Mr. O brought a big soccer net into the River classroom so that the explorers could learn to kick or roll the ball towards the net.



Outdoor Explorations:



**Reminders:**

- Please remember to send a water bottle to school each day for water breaks while outside.
- Please remember to send a hat to school each day.
- We are celebrating Mud Day on Monday next week! Please refer to our email and attached flyer for further information.
- Please check in at the front office upon arrival during dropoff.