



Elmhurst Academy  
~ NIDO CLASSROOM ~  
"Riflessione"

October 7-18, 2019

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Rodgers, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Doyle

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

A big thank you to our four volunteers who



came in this week to help decorate pumpkins for Elmhurst Academy's annual Pumpkin Palooza. We appreciate the time and effort.



The pumpkins turned out great; each one is unique in its own way. The

students enjoyed using everything from their hands to feet to paint brushes and sponges to decorate the pumpkins. Be sure to check out the pumpkins tonight during Fall Fest!





**Art Class with Mrs. James:** This week, October 8th, Nido used ice cubes to create watercolor paintings.

Watercolors were frozen into ice cube trays. Nido students were provided a piece of watercolor paper, with masking tape outlining a boarder and a "layered-brick" pattern.

Students were able to feel the texture, as well as the cold touch of the cubes. Many students found the



cubes were not easy to hold; it would slip out of their hands very easily, the cubes would also slide on the tray when the cubes were bumped, or if the tray was lifted or tilted. When the Nido students were finished with their painting, after it dried, and the tape came off, leaving a beautiful pattern of rectangles. ~Ms. James

This week, October 15th, the Nido class explores clay and water. Ms. James provided, On a tray, a burlap square, very soft clay, some extra water, and a sponge. Most of Nido students were very interested in the sponge, holding it or squeezing out any excess water, after some time they started to touch and poke the clay, noticing quickly

after they felt it, clay would come off on their hand. ~Ms. James





**Project Approach/Textures:** The Nido students explored yarn the soft and fuzzy texture of yarn. The younger students worked on reaching, grasping and the cognitive skill of cause and effect while experimenting with yarn balls hanging from the toy bar. The older Nido students sat up the table and were presented



at

with a variety of yarn in various shades of green. After spending a few minutes touching and pulling at the yarn in balls, the teachers presented the students with sticky clear contact paper and yarn cut into strands. As the infants used their fine motor skills to pick up the strands and





examine them, the teachers used math vocabulary such as longer, shorter, wider and thinner to describe the various sizes and lengths of the yarn. The students created a textured collage with the yarn strands on the stick paper.

Another sensorial

exploration the infants participated in involved pumpkins and gourds. The teachers placed a variety of small pumpkins and gourds for the students to discover and touch. The natural materials provided the students with several different textures for them to examine throughout the week.



**Author Study/Bug Exploration:** The Nido students focused on Karen Katz's book, *Buzz, Buzz, Bugs!*. The book is all about babies looking for different bugs. Inspired by the bugs in the book the

students explored many different types of plastic bugs that were placed on a green carpet which mimicked grass. The students spent much time exploring the bugs as their teachers talked about the names of the bugs and colors.



**Author Study/Shake it up Baby:** The children of the Nido each brought home a school/home connection project. Each family was given an empty water bottle and asked to fill it with an item of their choice to create a shaker bottle. They each returned their filled bottle to school and their teachers secured the lid onto the bottles. The children listened to the story; Shake it up Baby several times during the course of the week. This interactive book had the children beating a drum and ending each page with shaking their shaker. The children



quickly caught on that each time the book was brought out the shaker bottles were a part of the story. They would gather around with their shaker bottles and listen attentively to the actions of the story. Some of the students seem to have a favorite bottle they seek out each time we gather for the story. The students enjoy holding onto the bottles and moving their arms back and forth. They are experiencing cause and effect; learning the connection that moving their arm shakes the bottle and a sound is created.



## Reminders:

- Please bring in a family picture if you have not done so already.
- Global Citizenship Committee would like to introduce the Family Connection Form. If you would like to share an important event or cultural experience you and your child participated in over the weekend, please fill out a Family Connection Form and bring to your child's classroom teacher, for the opportunity to share our experiences with each other and bridge home and school.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17feohQKsTjpAGPcjpWCazKoUy5IdqoQ8SRqcHdEBobU/edit?ts=5d83ea8a>

- Dear Elmhurst Academy Families,

As part of our peaceful beginnings to our school year, we are asking **all families** to help with our peace installation. Students worked together in painting their friendship benches for the outdoor campus.

We are now requesting parents to create a peace stone that will be placed at the foot of the benches.

**Please take a stone from the basket located in the parent resource center. You can take it home to design with permanent markers and/or acrylic paint or do it right here at the resource center.**

Thank you for your participation in spreading peace throughout the generations and helping lead our school year with peaceful intentions.

- Holiday Wreath Fundraiser  
Think ahead to the upcoming holiday season and order evergreen décor for your home early! Order forms can be found in your child's mail folder. Funds raised benefit the growth and enhancement of the outdoor campus and school gardens. Orders are due Friday, October 18th, 2019 and will be delivered the week of the Thanksgiving holiday.