



“I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else.”

-Pablo Picasso

Elmhurst Academy

~ RIVER CLASSROOM ~

“Riflessione”

March 29-April 9, 2021

Mrs. Webber and Ms. Nowicki

A private, independent Reggio Emilia inspired

early childhood school.

Cutting: The River Classroom as a whole worked on cutting with safety scissors. The children were exposed on how to properly grasp the scissors, and how to make initial cuts on the scrap piece of paper. The Toddler III's were given a challenge, and were asked to try to cut on the dotted line drawn on the scrap piece of paper.



Lia and Lily manipulate the safety scissors, to see how they could use them to cut.

Science Experiment: Hidden Colors: The students took part in a science experiment that involved making a hypothesis to predict what colors they could find and mix. First, we placed droplets of food coloring and watercolors into open easter eggs. Next, the students scooped baking soda over the coors to "hide" the colors. Finally, the exciting part came when the students each used a turkey baster to squeeze vinegar onto each of the eggs. The results were incredible as colors began to pour out from one egg onto another causing fizzing to occur throughout the tray. The students continued to request for more and more of the ingredients as they worked with one another for at least a half hour. In the end, the students could not wait to place their hands into the colored mixture and used their sense of touch and sight to explore the texture!

You can easily do this project at home, we are certain the students would truly enjoy sharing this with their family: <https://busytoddler.com/2017/04/easter-science-activity/>



"More purple" Maddison exclaimed as she added the baking soda.



Tyler finds the "orange" hidden underneath the baking soda.



The beginning, middle and the end of the experiment!





Colin and Lolo painting their binoculars purple.

Bird Watching and Binoculars: The month of May we will be learning about "Things With Wings" through Environmental Education. The children kicked off this exploration by creating binoculars for bird watching. The children were guided to pick a color out, and then decorate their binoculars. The teacher used paper towel tubes cut in half to make the lenses. The students then took their learning outside and used their binoculars to look for birds flying around the campus.



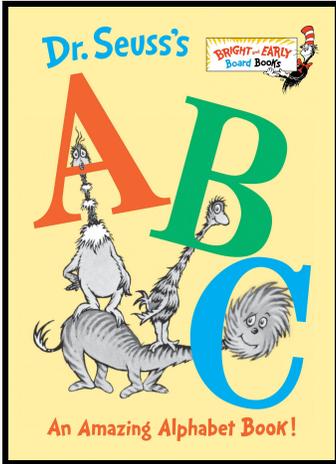
Watch Live Bird Cams!:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>

Author Studies: Letter Stamps: To wrap up our month long study of Dr. Seuss, we read Dr. Seuss's ABC's. After singing the Alphabet song and reading the book, the students used letter stamps to create letters on paper. They selected different letters and colors and pressed their stamps into the stamp pads and then onto their paper. Many of the students could be heard re-singing the ABC's while they were using the stamps. We also began to identify different objects that began with the letters they were using.

Madison calls the lower case J an "I" and began to sing her ABC's.

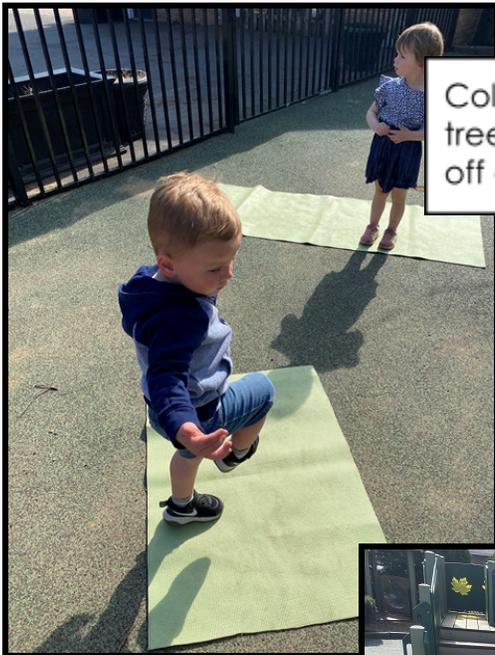




Lily uses the letter "C" to stamp on her paper.



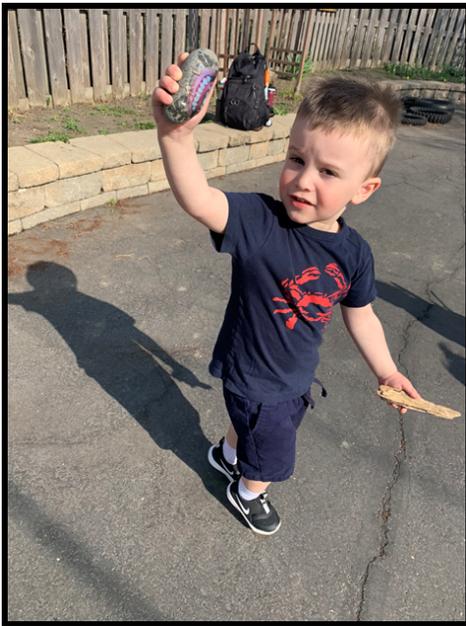
Nature Yoga: The River Classroom is celebrating "Every Kid Healthy", to start the month off of healthy tips and habits, we did some yoga! The children participated in mindfulness as they did some nature yoga. The students pretended to be plants that were growing from the sunlight and water they received. We ended our practice by being in tree pose. The students and teachers enjoyed getting some fresh air and soaking up the wonderful sunny weather.



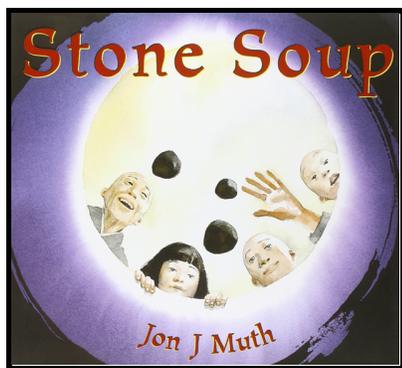
Colin and Giada worked on tree pose, as she lifted one leg off of the ground.



Author Studies: Jon J. Muth: Throughout the month of April, we will be reading books by the author Jon J. Muth. Jon J Muth's highly acclaimed picture books are beloved around the world and have been translated into more than ten languages. The first book we read, *Stone Soup*, which tells the story of villagers who work together with monks to create a stone soup for their village. After reading the book, the students became villagers of their own and collected rocks, pine cones, sticks and seashells to create their own Stone Soup. The children gathered the materials and placed them in a large pot. Water was added and the students used spoons and ladles to stir their soup. They served the soup to each other and their teachers. This was certainly a feast to remember.



Sebastian finds a "potato rock" to add to the Stone Soup.



Read Aloud:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqbWMIQyEK8>

"This is so yummy" Laurel tells her friends.

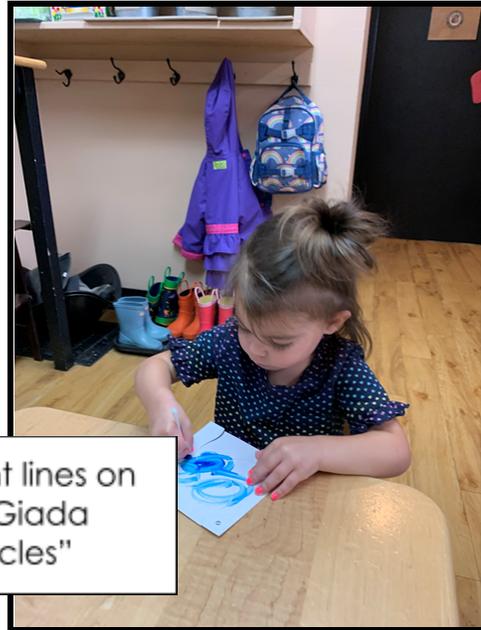


Project Health Hero: The River Classroom has been participating in honoring students that show healthy habits and good manners. This week we started our first week of passing out medals to those children who display these honorable acts. We saw that Madison helped clean up the entire classroom, and she demonstrated good manners at mealtime. Way to go Madison!

Throughout the year, the teachers have been working with all the students to wear their masks as often as consistently as possible. We talk about being "Super Heros" Just look at all the of our River Super Heros! Mrs. Webber and Ms. Nowicki are so proud of you!!!



Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention: The River Classroom created pinwheels that will be on display outside the school. April is celebrated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue is the color dedicated for supporting this very important cause. The students used q-tips to paint their pinwheels and we are excited to take a walk and try to guess which pinwheels were made especially by our talented students.



Tyler made different lines on his pinwheel while Giada chose to make "circles"



Toddler III's: The Toddler III's continued to work on their Jolly Phonics this week. The new letter they were introduced to was the letter "H". The students learned the action that went with the letter sound as they mimicked the motion of breathing out, to make the "h,h,h" sound. We collectively went over the song and action a few times for added practice.

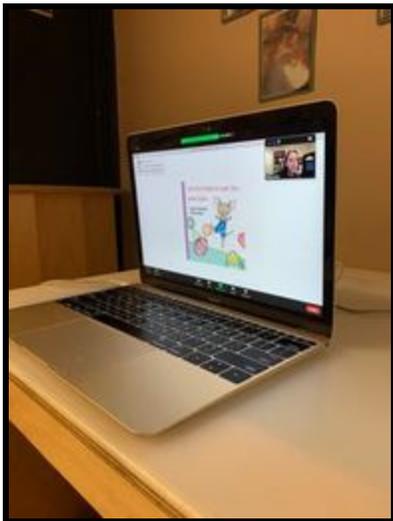
The Toddler III's also worked on their HandWriting Without Tears, as they worked on tracing letters on the mini chalkboards. The students all worked on tracing the first letter of their first names. They were given a wet sponge and the board with the letter already written on it. Then it was up to them to do the tracing!

Sebastian working on the "h" sound, while Lia practices tracing the letter L.



Enrichments:

Foreign Language: In French class, students have been practicing colors. We read *Joyeuses Pâques, Souris*, naming the colors of the eggs Mouse found. Then, they practiced colors as they searched for eggs beneath colored shapes. Musical learning reinforced colors with *La Pomme est rouge*. They also began studying author of the month Jon J. Muth as we read about l'automne in *Hi, Koo* and watched a video about fall. ~Mrs. Lardin



Creative Dance and Movement with ~Mrs. Burdi



Art: 3/24/21

The month of April is art in motion! River artists will be creating a mobile inspired by the colors and movement of monarch butterflies. Ms. James provided the River class with orange cotton fabric, black tempera paint, and paintbrushes. - Ms. James



Parenting Tip:

List of WildFlowers Native To Illinois:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildflowers/directory.cfm>

Springtime Activities:

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/spring-themed-learning-activities-kids/>

Classroom and School Reminders:

- We will encourage the children ages 2 and up to wear a mask as much as the child can tolerate it in the classroom. We ask that you practice as often as possible with your child at home. Thanks for your support.
 - Please be sure to label your child's mask.
 - As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, please be familiar with the enhanced health and safety changes that Elmhurst Academy has implemented to ensure the safety of all the children.
 - We will continue to monitor the situation and any new and/or modified protocols from our local health and licensing organizations will be communicated with parents as soon as we receive them.
 - Drop off times for students will be between 8:00-9:00 a.m. Parents should be prepared to allow an extra 10-15 minutes for arrival . All parents and students older than 2 years old are expected to wear masks during arrival and departure to the school.
 - Most importantly to note is our hours of operation have been modified during this time to accommodate extra time needed for teachers to perform additional sanitizing protocols at the beginning and end of each school day. **Our hours of operation until further notice will be 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.**
- A Before School Program is offered from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and an After School Program is offered from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Persons who have a fever of 100.4 or above will not be admitted to the facility and may not return for 72 hours until they have been fever free without fever reducing medications. Parents are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Some symptoms to watch for may include: *Fever (100.4 degrees or more), *Dry Cough, *Shortness of Breath *Loss of Smell or Taste, *Body Aches, *Headache