

# News from the Blue Group

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## Starting the year..

Welcome to our first newsletter of this school year! The past two and half months have gone by so fast.

We celebrated Smartkids' 6<sup>th</sup> birthday on 2 October, and Natan's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on 4 October which was fun!

We also said goodbye to Alex, who moved to Australia with his family. We all wrote our names and sentiments on a T-shirt for Alex to wear. He read all the names and said: "Awesome!"

The children settled in well and were soon playing together, helping, sharing and taking turns together.

In the past months we discussed our world around us: Which countries we come from, what languages we speak and about our families. We also talked about the things that are French, Dutch, Colombian, Australian and Vietnamese during show & tell times as well as what we liked and didn't like..



## Birth days...



## Obstacle courses..

Right from the start of the 'school year'; the children liked to go under the mat: it became a tunnel, then an obstacle course. The Red Group got involved and a new game was born! It was a way to overcome challenges such as going through a dark tunnel, walking on chairs, jumping off a table, crawling over foam blocks and so on. It is also a great way of learning prepositions of place: 'in, on, under, through, on, over, and around' something. We didn't keep these games to the classrooms, we also did a couple in our 'swimming pools'. The children are becoming very good at helping us plan: they have to think what they want, how they want it and what materials they need to make what they want. That involves a lot of problem solving, language skills building & using their imaginations! Here's a selection of obstacle courses we have done in the past month:



We also held a Lantern parade with all the Big Kids from all three locations at Smartkids Riverside. All children made beautiful lanterns. At Smartkids Riverside, we first enjoyed snack together, then went outside where Ms. Cathy led the parade around the play ground while everyone was singing a lantern song. After the parade we asked the children what they liked best. They said: "The parade was the best one!!" After the parade they all played in the playground and had a good time..



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## Responsibilities:

During the week the children have various 'jobs' in the class as you may know, they can be "the calendar boy/girl", the table setter, the circle time leader, the story teller and more.. These jobs help the children take a responsibility and be part of deciding what needs to be done and actually be a leader in class. Some jobs are low key, others ask a lot of the child: it's not easy being the circle time leader or the story teller or even to be a line leader: you have to tell others what to do and hope that they all listen to you. It's also hard when everyone is listening to you and you have to show or tell something. This is the reason we have jobs: they choose their own jobs every day: they are in charge, not me. When they choose their job, they are ready to do them, if I choose; they may not be ready or like to do it. They are learning to be responsible.

Story Time at rest time



Show & Tell time



Changing sheets time



Circle Time leader



Reading while waiting for friends

"Project Pinkie" is still happening!!



Pinkie's house is being build! Harold & Edward are cutting out the windows, fixing the roof, and then they will paint it! Pinkie has a dress, pants, a necklace and a hat! The house will have: a table, chair, a plate, a fork and some food for pinkie so we will continue this project!



## Did you know??

Our Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held in the week of 19 to 23 November! We will hang up a time schedule soon where you can put your name in the time slot that is comfortable for you. Details will follow in the next two weeks!

We hope you enjoyed the news and pictures. Our next news letter will come in March!  
Greetings from the Blue Team: Ms. Monique & Ms. Thanh ; - )