Welcome to the first Newsletter of this 'school' year!

It is November already and the children have done a lot of things in the past weeks! Lets begin at the beginning. Our class was really empty at the beginning of the year; there was no cover on the windows of the blue door, nothing on the walls or the back door which has bigger windows. We asked the children what they would like to decorate our class with. All agreed on a rainbow. And most of you have seen the results!

The children decided on sparkles to make the colours. Some colours we didn't have so we found sequins.

By letting the children decide on materials and ideas for decorating, they gain ownership of their class, it becomes 'their class'. With that they learn the following: How to make a plan, thinking about something and telling it to their friends. Then deciding who is doing what, choosing who makes what colour or shape. All this builds up lots of language. They also use their creativity and solve problems as they build up their art work. They learn to share tools or take turns, and do a lot of sorting and matching. This way the children become part of the group. All of this together builds confidence: I can do this!! There will be more 'projects' like this happening in the near future..

Show and Tell time

From day one, children enjoyed taking toys to our class to show us. They really enjoy showing us what they have, and where words are not yet there, the toy helps to tell the story. It also showed me that Show and Tell time should start straight away in the first week. We made some rules together too. For example, can you play with your toy while a friend is talking? No! The children understood that. So we decided together that toys are in front of their crossed legs and hands are on the knees. If you can't stop touching your toy, the teacher will put the toy in the middle of the mat and give it back to you when it's your turn. Now when somebody touches his or her toy or object; other friends are telling him / her that they shouldn't do that and tell that friend the rule. It is accepted and it works: I don't have to remind the children: they remind me!

International Day

It was great to talk with the children about where they come from and who is in their families! They were interested to see the shape and colour of their country on the world map and to know their flags. It was also interesting to see how the children drew their families and how they made themselves with clay.

To celebrate our heritage we asked you to dress the children up in their national clothes or colours and it was wonderful to see that!

We joined with the big kids from Smartkids Tran Ngoc Dien and Street 10 to have a get together, greet each other in their own language (if they could) and sing some songs and do a dance. What was nice was that some friends knew each other and played together a lot.

Doing the Chicken dance together; pretty much an international dance…

Pulling funny faces is becoming a SmartKids tradition.. Sorry ;-))

SmartKids turned 8!!

October 2nd was the birthday of SmartKids. We celebrate this with all three locations. This year we decided that a mural of international hands outside would go well! It fits well with the focus of this year: All our senses! The children loved it: The paint felt cool, soft, wet and smooth and had beautiful colours too!

A beautiful structure!! Well done!

Show and Tell, who dares take a turn????

Other news..

Our parent information evening was a great adventure and success! It was great seeing you play and learn, just like your child does every day! Thank you so much for your support! We as teachers enjoyed it too!

November is also the time of year for report writing and Parent-Teacher meetings. They will be held from 17th – 21st of November.

There will soon be a time schedule hanging outside the class to book your 'spot'. More information follows soon!   Bye! Ms. Monique, Ms. Shendie and Ms. Irina.