

News from the Blue Group

May 2015 - page 1

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

The year has gone by so fast and we are already in the last term of this year. This means there will be lots of planning ahead, talking about what will happen in the summer and where children will be in August when a new exciting year full of adventures starts. All this 'looking ahead' brings with it a lot of emotions, feelings of happiness, some sadness, some anxiety and mostly excitement. That is why the third term has as title: 'Imagine what I feel'. We will be discussing who will stay at SmartKids and who will leave to start a new adventure' in a 'Big School'. But for now let's have a look at the past 3 months. Some exciting events have happened there...



We had a great Lion & Dragon dance show for the Vietnamese Tet celebrations in February. The children were so interested in looking at the lion up close, it took some time for them to realize they should do some posing too!

It's the year of the goat, kids!



The 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'

After creating a goat family for the landing upstairs we introduced a familiar story about three goats who cleverly found their way across a bridge without being eaten by a troll. The children enjoyed the story and soon chanted its familiar lines whenever it was read. They even used the words in their own version in play. We introduced masks as children generally enjoy acting out familiar characters. Everyone had one mask, some even two. It wasn't long before a play was set up. While acting in front of others can be a challenge, everyone wanted to join in and play. They were so proud when it was finished: They did it!! After the first time we invited some of the older children from the kiddies groups. They enjoyed it too. The Big Kids first showed their masks, that they were not the 'real thing' and then slowly put them on their faces.

Encouraging children into taking on a challenge and supporting them in this, helps to boost their self-esteem and confidence in themselves. They will be better able to take on the next challenging activity. This also helps develop problem solving skills which they need in everyday life, for the rest of their lives.



The 3 Billy Goats Gruff



News from the Blue Group

page 2



Living and non- living: plants, animals, people, buildings and more..

From learning about plants & flowers we moved on to other living and non-living things. The children learned that living things breathe, eat/drink, grow and make more of themselves. Non-living things are often things that people have made or can move only when manipulated by people. 'What about dead leaves?' was an often heard question. Together we came to a solution that they were alive before but are dead now. This theme gave many interesting discussions in which the children found their own answers. We took a walk around the compound to find living and non-living things. The beauty was that we saw insects on flowers, in the process of taking on nectar and spreading it around the area, helping to 'make more flowers'. The walk was therefor more than just finding living / non-living things, it was a nice closure of the past weeks' themes.



Easter

The beginning of April saw Easter coming along and the children enjoyed creating their own patterns on eggs, and a table. We hid the eggs in various places in and around the building so that the children really had to search.. Everywhere! They were also told that they had to help each other if they found someone else's egg. This they did and it was a great success!

The tadpoles we had, have moved safely to new ponds and gardens as it turned out we had frogs and toads!!



Other news..

In the coming weeks we will be working on the End of Year party. The children will be creating their own creation of 'Frozen' which will be performed in June. With this big theme there will be planning involved, constructing, working together, listening to all ideas and choosing the best ones. But also mathematical things such as measuring, estimating, comparing, matching, sorting and using various tools and materials, of course with the teacher's supervision! Thank you for your ongoing support!!

Bye! Ms. Monique, Ms. Shendie and Ms. Juliette (who is now in SmartKids TND).