

Monthly Newsletter



October 2022 #3

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- 11-7 Bishop Museum Field Trip
Bus leaves at 8:30
- 11-8 Picture Day
- 11-11 Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL
- 11-12 Sunshine Staff's Craft and Food Fair @Sunshine School 8am-12pm
- 11-14 Kid's Holiday Craft Fair Forms DUE
- 11-24/11-25 Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL
- 12-9 Holiday Date Night 530-9pm FREE. Early sign up required
- 12-12/12-13 Kid's Holiday Craft Fair
- 12-19 Winter Break Begins

October Recap:

Seedlings: Seedlings have been using their senses to learn more about the world around them. They've been noticing what they see around them, smelling different scents and spices and guessing what it is, and exploring touch with activities like drawing in shaving cream.

Sprouts: Sprouts did a mini unit on feathers. In class they added different feather accessories to dramatic play: a boa made of turkey feathers, a belt made of rooster feathers, and various other feathers. Then they started a pumpkin investigation unit and opened up a Pumpkin Kitchen- a real working kitchen where kids learned to follow recipes and cooked up things like pumpkin waffles, pumpkin muffins, and pumpkin cream cheese.

Shoots: Shoots learned about local plants like coconut trees, noni plants, ti leaves, kava roots, and olena (turmeric). They've also been incorporating more STEAM activities like building towers out of Cheerios and noodles.

Whole School: Everyone went on a Library Field trip this month, the first walking one in a long time! We got to hear 3 stories read by Aunty Lori and even got to purchase our own books from the bookstore.

Our first two fundraisers this year: Panda Express and Scholastic Books were both super successful, raising us just over \$300 each. Thank you to everyone who purchased books at the book fair and Panda's for dinner!

Curiosity Approach Check in: The staff has been hard at work working through our accreditation. Part of that work included coming up with a list of values that we find important and that will work on instilling here at Sunshine School. We narrowed it down to the following 12 values:

Respect ~ Compassion ~ Love ~ Responsibility ~ Teamwork ~ Authenticity ~ Creativity
~ Good Attitude ~ Happiness ~ Independence ~ Friendship ~ Thankfulness





Asking Open Ended Questions

Article adapted from NAEYC Family Communications

A question like "What color is that block?" evokes a one-word answer. But an open question, "Tell me about the blocks you are using" encourages a child to describe the blocks or explain what she is doing with them. There is no right or wrong answer here.

An answer to an open-ended question gives us a window into what the child is thinking and feeling. And the response is sometimes wonderfully creative. In explaining or describing, children also use language more fully.

In our program, we try to think of good questions to ask children. You might notice we ask things like:

- Tell me about your picture (versus: "I like your picture" or "that's a nice flower")
- What else can you do with the playdough?
- What could you use to make the tower stand up?
- What do you think would happen if...?
- Is there another way to...?
- What could you do to solve....?
- I wonder why/if/what...?

It is difficult to change the closed-end question habit. But when we ask open-ended questions, children reap the great benefits as they think through their responses to express what they want to say. And with their answers, we find out more about what they think and feel.

Children's Corner: What you can ask at home besides "How was your day?"

- What made you smile today?
- What did you do that was creative today?
- Did anyone do something silly that made you laugh?
- Did you do something kind today? Did someone do something kind for you?
- Were you brave today?
- What made your teacher happy today?
- What was the most fun today?
- Who would you like to play with tomorrow?

