

## SRV Science News October 12, 2009



**The Oldest Group-** Wow! What a busy start to the year. We have visited the garden to dig up potatoes and cook them, we went to Hildacy Farm Preserve to remove trash from the creek, and we have started our studies on Food and Nutrition. The OG has set up their first experiment to see how much fat is contained in a variety of foods (crackers, light cream cheese, butter, mayonnaise, etc.). Ask them how they set up the test.



**The Middle Circle-** We have explored common fruits to find seeds, observed and compared properties of seeds and fruits, set up a mini-sprouter and monitored and recorded changes to their seeds over a period of one week. The MC was very excited about the changes that were taking place with their seeds. They discovered that the bush bean was the first to sprout and the last were the sunflower and corn seeds. Our next experiment is with hydroponics.

**The Primary Circle-** We have delved into the study of Air and Weather. We discussed that we cannot see air, but we can feel it and see it move objects around. When asked if air takes up space about half of the class said "no" and a few were unsure. We experimented using a tub of water, a vial and a piece of paper towel to show that air does take up space. After a few minutes of experimenting with the vial they were challenged to submerge their vial with a piece of paper towel pushed into the bottom and to keep the piece of paper towel from getting wet. By the end of the class they all had succeeded. I asked the question again, "Does air take up space?" and they all agreed that it did. Ask your child to demonstrate this experiment.



**The Kindergarten-** They have started out the year by learning to make observations using their five senses. They learned how to describe an object and look at it a bit closer with a magnifying glass. We have learned about what a habitat is and what all animals need to survive (shelter, water, food and space). We saw a video about different habitats and the animals that live in them. We are now focusing on the woodland habitat. Kathy in art has jumped on board by making a tree with the KG. We are now going to brainstorm what animals live in our woodlands around the school and look for evidence.



**The Five Day Preschool-** We have taken our first field trip to the Morris Arboretum! I think everyone enjoyed themselves. We are now deep into the study of insects. They have learned what makes an insect an insect. We have searched for insects around the school. On Friday we read The Grouchy Lady Bug by Eric Carle. They learned that lady bugs are good bugs and that they eat aphids. They also learned a lesson in sharing. In conjunction with insects we will discuss the seasons and see how the seasons affects the insects. I think a favorite activity for this group is to explore the science room.