

***Hawk Happenings - Week of May 27 - May 30, 2025***

***The Final Hawk Happenings of the 2024-2025 School Year***

**PHOTOS**

**COLOR DAYS**

Thank you to everyone for providing colorful food! Each day's donation was highly anticipated and appreciated!

Check out the photos for a glimpse of our **COLOR** activities.

**FINAL JOKE OF THE YEAR!**

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Noah

Noah who?

Noah more school - it's summer vacation!

After 162 days, the year draws to a close. We've loved spending it with your wonderful children. Off they fly to change the world with their curiosity, kindness, and perseverance. Please stay in touch! Once you join the CBI family, you're always an important part of our whole.

**Shalom & Love,**

Anne & Erika

# Hawk Happenings - Week of May 19 - May 23, 2025

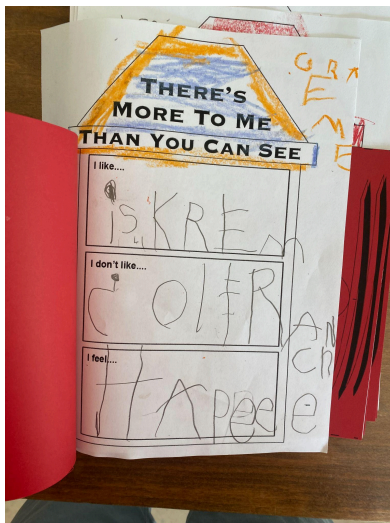
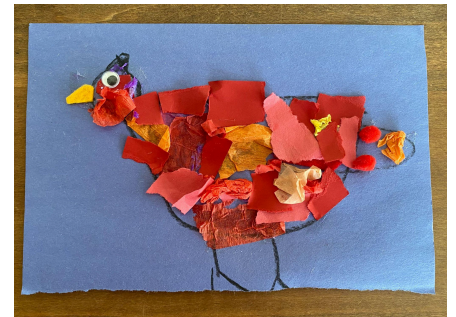
## PHOTOS

### COLOR DAYS

**White:** Our Hawk spelling detectives used their digraph knowledge of wh & their sight word knowledge of it & their silent e knowledge to write the word: white. We brainstormed a list of 20 white things and reviewed color blending (i.e. **red** + **yellow** = **orange**, etc.). The kids collected nature items and made gorgeous white/black prints.








**Red:** Reading about the color red, making beautiful red cardinals, writing about our feelings on Red Day, and displaying our brightness in the forest



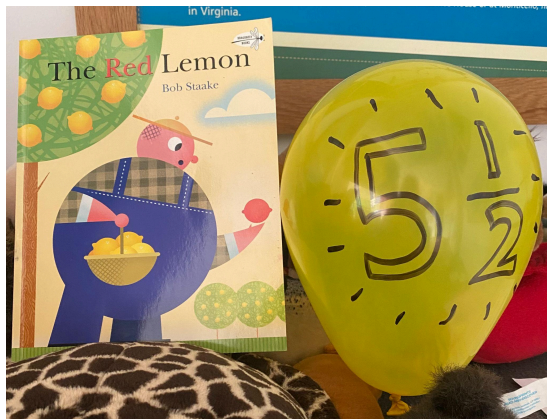


**Orange:** Did you know there is no word that rhymes with orange?! We thought about the color through our senses, and then brainstormed a list of how the rainbow colors make us feel. The Hawks explored different shades of orange and feasted on lots of orange food!

 hot scared happy mad Christmas	 fiery Halloween happy watch TV	 rainbows dandelions sunshine happy stars sunny finding gold sun very hot rich Easter hungry
 growing Christmas apples sleepy Caribbean	 sad Ocean thirsty blueberries sweets happy	 rainbows grapes Halloween ghosts dancing skeletons spooked happy Easter eggs bouquet of violets

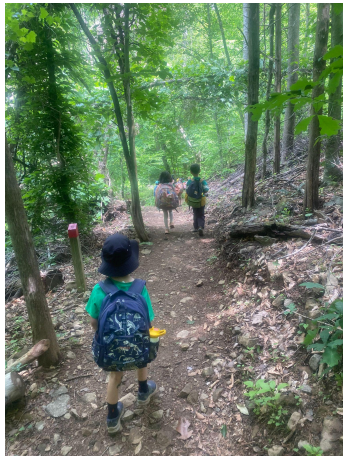
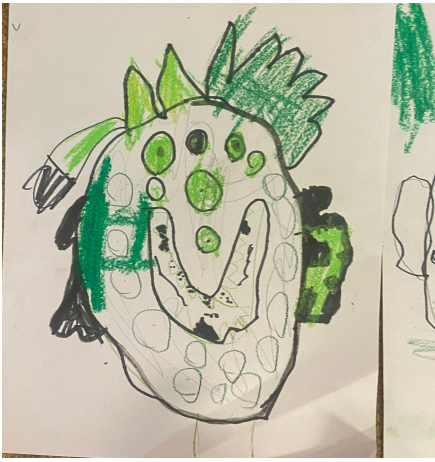


**Yellow:** *When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.* The Hawks used their 5 senses to truly experience a lemon today and that helped them understand the above adage. We used yellow watercolor to magically reveal secret drawings.





**Green:** Big green monsters & Ivy Creek!



**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks learned about the upcoming holiday of Shavuot which commemorates the Jewish people receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai. Haya and the Hawks talked about a few of the 10 commandments and the kids designed their own tablets.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What kind of swimming do sheep like to do? The baaaackstroke

What kind of haircuts do bees get? Buzzcuts      What are a snail's favorite fruits? Lemons and slimes

What goes ha, ha, ha, THUD! - A monster laughing his head off

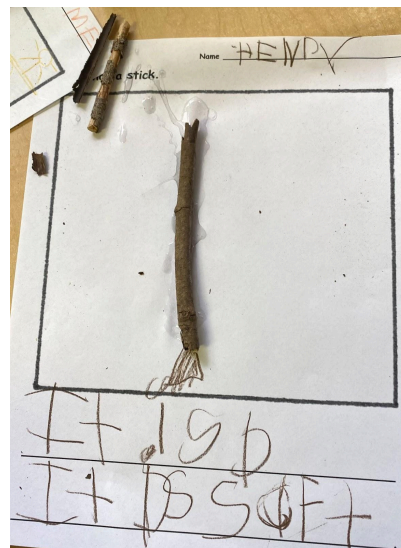
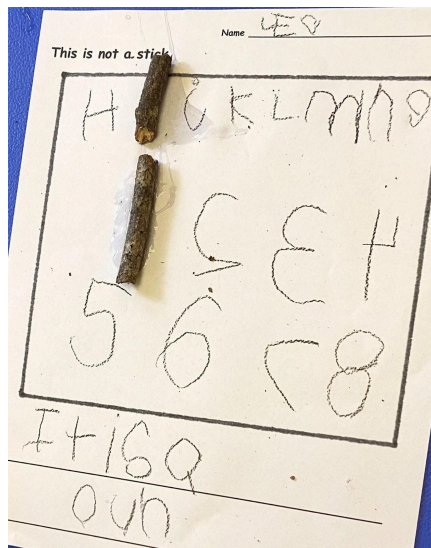
What did the lemon say after it sneezed? Ex-squeeze me



## **Hawk Happenings - Week of May 12 - May 16, 2025**

### **PHOTOS**

**READING** - Reading comprehension practice (who, what, when, where, and most importantly, why) - comparing and contrasting books with similar settings and characters but different plots and resolutions / reading sight words / Word family contests / Is a stick always a stick? No! Sometimes it's a magic wand - or a toothbrush - or a hammer! The Hawks imagined all sorts of creative/out-of-the-box uses for a stick and described them in writing.



**MATH** - Addition & Subtraction/ Using all our math tools to solve addition and subtraction equations / Learning about patterns in number families ( $8-3=5$  /  $8-5=3$  /  $3+5=8$  /  $5+3=8$ )

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - Working together and cooperating makes things easier.



Not only do we work together as a whole class, but also with partners. **Symmetry** drawings slowed us down and made us concentrate to mirror what our partners drew. You can see these drawings in our photo link!

We all have BIG feelings sometimes. They affect each of us differently, sometimes making our bodies feel different. How do you calm yourself when you're buffeted by strong emotions? Nishi, our class sloth, led the class in a special breathing exercise that we can use at home.

As we start to wind down the school year, we're preparing ourselves to say goodbye to our very special classroom friends (Fuzzy, Nishi, Shababa, Sammy, Mama & Baby Owl, and Hank. And our friends are adjusting to the fact that they won't see us anymore. The Hawks spent time describing (with adjectives) each animal friend and then we wrote all of our friends a letter to help them remember us.

Nishi	Shababa
slow quiet does breathing exercises fuzzy eats leaves	sloth - 3 toed slow bigger than Nishi big breathes

Mama Owl	Baby Owl
big teaches + feeds Baby Owl fly	small snuggly glides

Fuzzy	Sammy	Hank
eats honey fuzzy funny black nose does flips	likes acorns wild he repeats fluffy fuzzy crazy noisy does flower breathing overwhelming climber	hawk eats fish flies fast brown boy sharp beak fuzzy

Dear Fuzzy, Nishi, Shababa, Sammy, Mama & Baby Owl, and Hank,  
 I like when you do flower breathing. I like when Fuzzy does flips. I like when Sammy says things 3 times. I love them all. I love Hank the Hawk. I like when they're snuggling together. Mama Owl, thank you for taking care of Baby Owl. I love that Hank the Hawk has a funny voice. They all make me happy. I love their hugs and kisses and "high paws." I like them so much that I don't want to go to first grade.  
 Love,  
 The Hawks



**JEWISH STUDIES** - This week, the Hawks learned about the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer and its customs.

**JOKES OF THE WEEK**

- Where do mother boats take their babies when they get sick? To the doc.
- How do eggs get out of a chicken? Through the eggz-it
- What kind of cheese do you eat on Passover? Matzarella
- What do turtles do on their birthday? They shell-ebrate it.
- What do you call turtles who are only awake during the nighttime? Noc-turtles.



## PHOTOS

**READING** - Writing C-V-C words / Phonetic writing exercises / Poetry (rhythm, rhyme, syllables, sight words, compound words) / Comparing & contrasting plot lines & details in Gingerbread Man stories/Sight word review

**MATH** - Addition facts & families (How many ways can we add to 10?  $9 + 1$  /  $7 + 3$ , etc.), #20 / Review of all the math tools we use to solve problems (fingers, drawing, 10-frames, dice, tallies, number lines, Rek-n-reks, manipulatives)

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - "I like me" - The Hawks wrote about what parts of themselves they appreciate.

I like my	
Andrew-	Madeline-my whole body because it makes me Special and helps to stretch me out
Booker- muscles and my mouth	Mira- love
Finn-	Leo-kindness and my legs because I can run super fast
Gabe- stretch	Tali- legs because I can run lungs because I can breath
Graeme- eyes because I can see	Talya-
Henry- brain. It makes me so smart nose so I can smell	Theo-
Jude- eyes because I can see far	Zeke- my smarts

Name BOOKER SS/RT




I like me!

5 things I like about myself.

SPLEEN

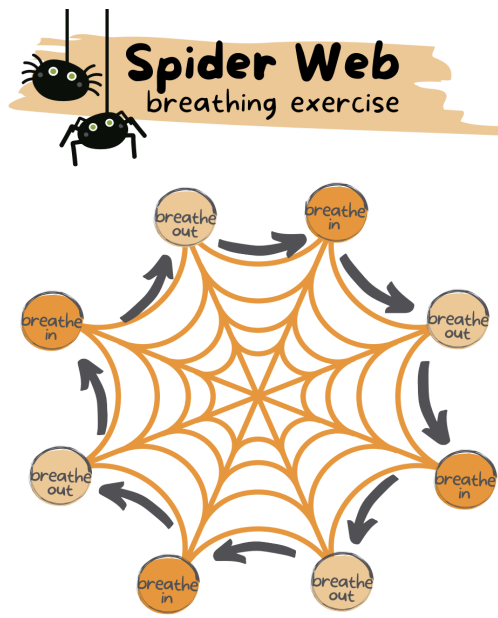
SPINE

LUCK



We also explored how music affects our feelings. The kids listened to 4 different classical music selections from Beethoven, Mussorgsky, and Brahms and drew how the music made them feel ("scared / calm / wanting to dance / gave me energy / made me sleepy", etc)

At Forest School, we see spiders in different locations. The Hawks delved into how spiders spin webs using radial and orb lines. We watched an amazing time-lapse video of a spider building its web. We also used webs to help us practice mindful breathing.



**SCIENCE** - Not only have we been learning about Reduce/Reuse/Recycle, but we've been practicing them daily. Turning off the sink, using less paper towels, picking up trash - these are all things the Hawks are doing to protect our planet. The kids also designed and created unique art and utilitarian objects out of recycled materials.

We want to take care of the world, and another way to do that is through beautifying it! The Hawks assembled seed bombs which you can throw anywhere you want beauty to be seen. They came home in backpacks today!

We had a WONDERFUL trip to the Botanical Garden this morning, after hiking there with the Oak class. We had a tour by BG guides and learned much about plants, trees, and the stream.



**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks practiced Hebrew greetings and learned about *Counting the Omer* (a ritual practice of self-reflection for 49 days). A story about King Solomon making a tough decision led to an interesting class discussion.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What do ghosts wear on their feet? BOOts! What did the mother rope say to her child? Don't be knotty!  
How did the baby tell her mom she had a wet diaper? She sent her a pee-mail.  
Why did the tomato get embarrassed? Because he saw the salad dressing.



## **Hawk Happenings - Week of April 21- April 25, 2025**

### **PHOTOS**

**READING** - Digraphs practice (wh,th,ch,sh)/ focus on b,d,g,j (often tricky sounds/letters to write), vowel practice and using them correctly to write words / Phonetic free writing exercises (describing an alien - see below)

**MATH** - #20 / Identifying pennies, nickels, dimes, & quarters , recognizing and writing their values / using addition and subtraction to determine the value of various groups of coins / review of place value with 10's and 1's

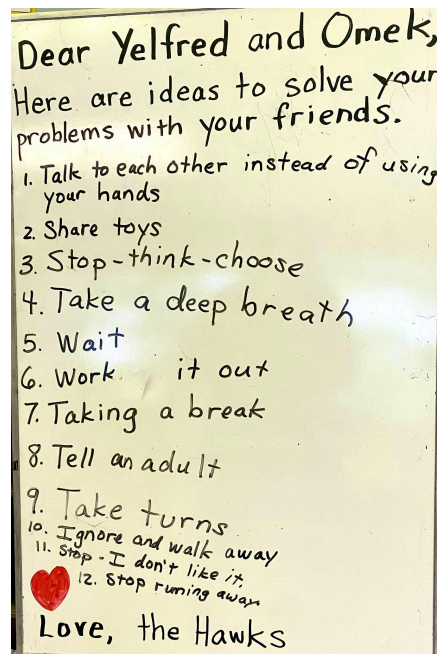
**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - Our trip to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad was a wonderful learning experience. The kids asked many questions, toured the station, and got to sit in an ambulance. The First Responders were delighted by the kids' cards and games. We appreciate all the care and efforts of our fellow community members!



We also were thrilled with a visit from Shababa and Nishi, our class sloths, who shared facts about themselves as well as their slow, mindful approach to life.



After reading a story about aliens who have trouble negotiating conflicts, we decided to write the characters a letter with suggestions for resolutions. The Hawks sure know a lot about conflict resolution!



**SCIENCE** - As budding stewards of the Earth, the Hawks have been learning about reducing, reusing, and recycling. We talk about specific ways we each can save energy, such as turning off sinks, using less paper towels, picking up trash, etc.

**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks learned more Hebrew vocabulary this week and practiced counting in Hebrew. Haya shared several Israeli symbols with the class before they collaborated to make a beautiful "Mural for Peace" which now hangs in the hallway at MACAA. Everybody also got to smear on a bit of mud from the Dead Sea.



Ask your child about his/her passport & plane trip to Israel

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Why did the fastest cat in class get kicked out of school? He was a cheetah.

What did one hat say to the other? You wait here, I'll go on ahead.

What does a knight need to go to sleep? His night-light

How does a lemon answer the phone? Yel-low!

Why did the melon jump into the lake? It wanted to be a watermelon.



## Hawk Happenings - Week of April 21- April 25, 2025

### PHOTOS

#### **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Next Monday (4/28) the Hawks (as part of our emphasis on kindness and gratitude) will be visiting the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad at McIntire & the Bypass. We will bring special gifts for the emergency workers. The kids brainstormed a list of questions & asked to sing a kindness song as well.

**READING** - Sight word review, punctuation mark review, checking books for punctuation marks and for every sentence starting with an uppercase letter / Writing CVC words to reinforce short vowel sounds



**MATH** - Pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters - recognizing - counting their value - understanding that they are like fractions - parts of 100 / computing how many of each coin are in \$1

**NATURE STUDIES** - The Hawks wrote their own nature poem by using their senses while in their sit-spots.

*In Spring, at the creek...*

*I see logs in the river, big fish with stripes, and the wrinkling water. I hear babbling, bubbling water and birds.*

*I smell wood and good leaves. I am greeted by the plants, butterflies, and crows.*

We continue to add birds to our bird journals - this week: Green Heron & Mallard. We have spotted 17 birds so far!



**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - The Hawks were eager to share their understanding of the word mistake and how making mistakes affects their lives. We pondered the idea that mistakes are useful because they help you learn. And, they provide opportunities for us to activate our imaginations and turn mistakes into "Beautiful Oops." Everyone shared (and received "oohs & aahs") beautiful oops that they created out of paper.



The Kindness Ninjas struck this week, performing a RAK for the Owl class.



**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks learned about chesed (loving kindness). They put this character trait into practice by acting out interactions between people (greetings, cheerfulness, offering refreshments, focusing on the conversation and saying farewell).

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Why couldn't the flower ride its bike? It lost its petals. How do baby trains eat? They choo-choo.

What do you call a dog at the beach in the summertime? A hot dog

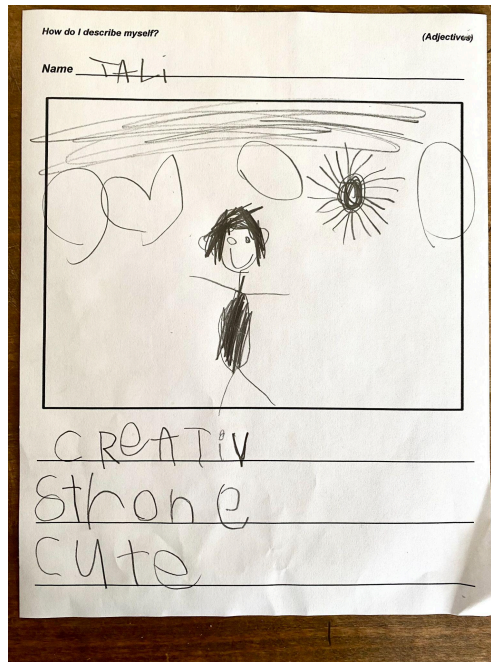
Why weren't the two 4's hungry? Because they already eight What is a ball you don't throw, bounce, or catch? An eyeball



# Hawk Happenings - Week of April 14 - April 18, 2025

## PHOTOS

**READING** - Phonetic writing (Using adjectives to describe ourselves and our lovies / b & d review / introduction of -ing / Reading and writing -ing words / -ag & -et word families



**MATH** - Adding to 10 with number families / Place value for teen numbers (How many 10's? How many 1's) / Graphing the types of Lovies we brought / Skip counting by 5's & 10's and recognizing the patterns in that skip counting (15, 25, 35, etc.)

**SCIENCE & NATURE STUDIES** - A new approach to "sit spots" - adding a sketch of what you notice around you / Pulling apart a flower to see first hand all the different parts / Learning the names and functions of each part of a flower / observational drawings of azaleas





**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - The Hawks have befriended members of the Charlottesville Retreads, a local seniors softball team. We watch them practice, warm-up, and play. They graciously chat with the kids. This week, we talked about how it's important to have fun when you're playing a game and that can be more valuable than winning or losing. We rooted and cheered for players on both teams. They even invited us to run the bases!



We also talked further about how the players persevere on the field and revisited the ways each one of us continues to persevere, even when something seems really difficult.

**JEWISH STUDIES** - We learned about how pyramids were constructed and built some mini-ones of our own.



## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

When do you go at red and stop at green? When you're eating a slice of watermelon  
How can you tell if a tree is a dogwood tree? By its bark! What do bees chew? Bumble gum  
What has two legs but can't walk? A pair of pants!  
What do you call a bumble bee trying to make up its mind? A maybee.



## **Hawk Happenings - Week of April 7 - April 11, 2025**

### **PHOTOS**

**READING** - Following Dr. Seuss's rhyming themes, the kids sounded out words that rhyme & determined which word in a set was a real word (& which was nonsense) / Alphabetical order: becoming familiar with letters on a printed alphabet so you can check your writing / Poetry - writing a class poem using rainbow colors as similes (as red as... as blue as...) / Introduction of ing / Silent e review & practice - changing vowel sounds / Digraph review and introduction to hearing and reading digraphs at the ends of words (*ship /fish*).

**MATH** - Number of the week: 19/ Arranging numbers (while counting by 10's) in order from 10-100. Representing numbers by tallies and numerals. Graphing goldfish (a la Seuss's One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish) / The Hawks have learned to count by 1's, 5's, and 10's to 100. Now they are learning to recognize numerical patterns when counting by 5's and 10's.



**NATURE STUDIES** - Spring has sprung! The Hawks learned to identify parts of a flower. As everything is beginning to bloom around us, we connected this period of renewal to the Passover holiday and talked about how items on a Seder plate represent new life.

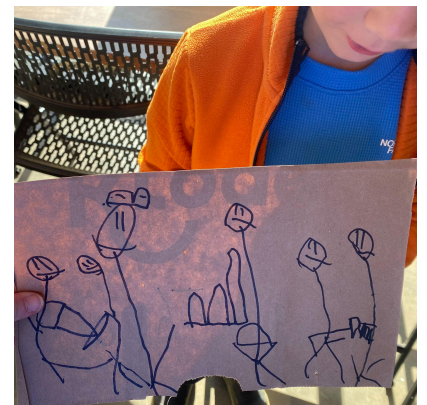
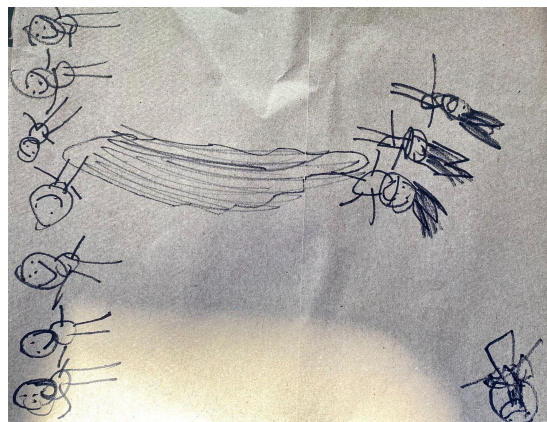


Tali: "I didn't know there could be so many shades of green!"

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - The growth that occurs over the course of a school year is momentous on all levels. It's important that the kids take note of how much they've each changed and all that they've accomplished. One poignant way to share their development is to have them examine their Fall self-portraits and compare them to the Spring portraits they made this week. Can you see the difference?



**JEWISH STUDIES** - We told the Passover story through "Godly Play" (a creative, imaginative method that allows children to find their own meaning within a story). Afterwards, the Hawks illustrated what part of the story resonated most for each one of them. The Hawks also tasted matzah & talked about why we eat it on Passover. They examined Seder plates and practiced singing the "Four Questions" (an important part of the Seder which explains why we do what we do on this holiday). Flashback time - [Matzah Man!](#)



## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What is a monkey's favorite month? Ape-ril

What is the best flower for a boy to give his mom? Son-flower!

What kind of candy do you get at the airport? Plane chocolate!

Why did the frog go to the hospital? He needed a "hopperation"

Why did the toilet paper roll downhill? It was trying to get to the bottom!

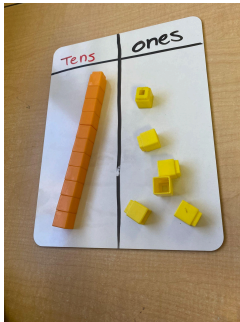


# Hawk Happenings - Week of March 24- March 27, 2025

## PHOTOS

**READING** - We continue to reinforce our understanding that words in word families rhyme and therefore we can write and read many words once we know the family (dog,log,hog,bog, jog). The Hawks also concentrated on sequencing plot lines in stories and reviewed those confounding b's & d's.

**MATH** - #18, fractions, Number placement and bundling by 10's and 1's (18 is 1 group of 10 and 8 ones)



**SCIENCE** - Just as we pause each day to think about where our food comes from, this week we paused to think about where some of our clothes (those made from wool) originate. We began with sheep and discovered how wool that grows on a sheep is turned into wool. The kids felt different types of wool clothing and began weaving with wool (a wonderful fine motor skill activity!)



**Magnet Exploration** - The Hawks learned about the invisible force of a magnet which exerts a push or a pull on another object. They experimented with the North & South poles of a magnet and discovered what materials are magnetic. The Hawk scientists made predictions and formed hypotheses about whether magnets would work through paper and through water.



Question	Hypotheses	
	yes	no
1. Do magnets work through paper?	Leo Henry Talya Theo Finn Mira Andrew	Booker, Madeline Zeke
2. Do magnets work through water?	Zeke Leo Mira Theo	Finn Henry Andrew, Booker, Madeline Tali Greene



**NATURE STUDIES** - The Hawks explored giant dirt mounds at LCEC, and went on a hunt for grubs. They discovered several, including Eastern Dobsonfly Larva!



**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - We've been working on perseverance all year and using our Ometz Levs (brave hearts) on a regular basis as we continue to tackle new challenges. It's been a delight to see the transformation in so many of the Hawks, who began the year with trepidation ("That's too hard! I can't do it.") and now bravely take on new investigations with excitement and curiosity. The weaving above is just 1 example of this. Another shift we've observed is the kids' willingness to take risks. At the beginning of the year, making a hypothesis felt too much for a number of Hawks because they feared being wrong. Now, we recognize that we're curious people and in the process of learning new things, we must be willing to think/wonder/guess/experiment.

And... the Kindness Ninjas struck again! This time, they performed a R.A.K. for the Bluebird class! Shhhhh! The element of surprise is crucial!



**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks continue to practice conversational Hebrew. This week we began talking about Passover traditions and learning what foods belong on a Seder plate.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Why is Winnie the Pooh yellow? b/c he eats a lot of honey

What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel

What kind of dinosaur loves to sleep? A stega-snoreus

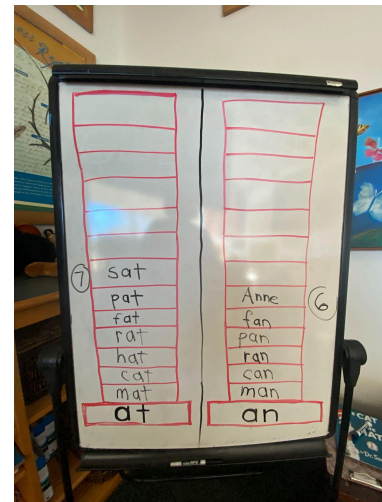
What is faster - hot or cold. Hot, because you can catch a cold



## Hawk Happenings - Week of March 17 - March 21, 2025

### PHOTOS

**READING** - Dr. Seuss's books are inspiring a lot of rhyming. Ask your child about, "Stop! You must not hop on Pop!"

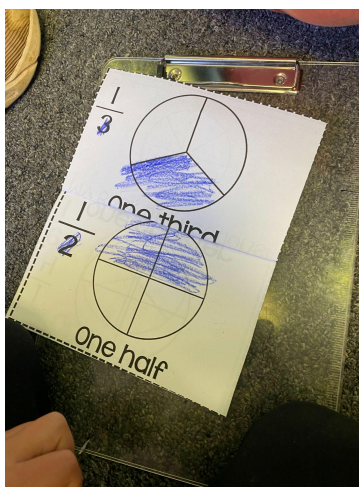


After reading The Cat in the Hat, we had a Word Family race to see how many words we could write for each word family. We love Magnatiles in our class and used them to help form words from various word families..

We've begun a mini-unit on poetry, listening to Shel Silverstein poems. We wrote our own class poems, based on "I" statements (I am \_\_, I see \_\_, I feel \_\_, I wonder \_\_, I understand \_\_, etc.

New vocabulary: *Fortunately, Unfortunately* - The Hawks narrated a class story using these terms repeatedly in the plot line and then illustrated their own tales.

**MATH** - Fractions! The Hawks learned that a fraction is part of a whole and all the parts have to be equal.



The kids can determine whether shapes are divided into equal parts and have been working with  $\frac{1}{2}$ 's,  $\frac{1}{3}$ 's,  $\frac{1}{4}$ 's,  $\frac{1}{6}$ 's &  $\frac{1}{8}$ 's. We've been studying how to write fractions and what goes above the fraction line and what goes below it.

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - It's tick season so the Hawks learned how to identify ticks and how to avoid attracting them. Can you tell the difference between poppy seeds and ticks?



We urge you to watch [this video](#) with your child. The kids know the chorus!

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - The Kindness Ninjas will be performing another RAK next week for the Bluebird Class. This week, the Ninjas drew bluebirds and wrote a story about a bluebird that will be shared with the little birds.

**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks continue to practice greetings in Hebrew. This week's Torah story is about Joseph revealing his identity to his brothers. The big ideas are forgiveness and speaking softly. The Hawks talked about the difference between responding angrily and physically versus taking a breath and responding with quiet determination and clarity.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What is a pony's favorite juice? Lemo-neighed

What do you get when you mix a frog with a rabbit? A bunny ribbit.

What do you call a fairy who never takes a bath? Stinkerbell

When do doctors get mad? When they run out of patients.

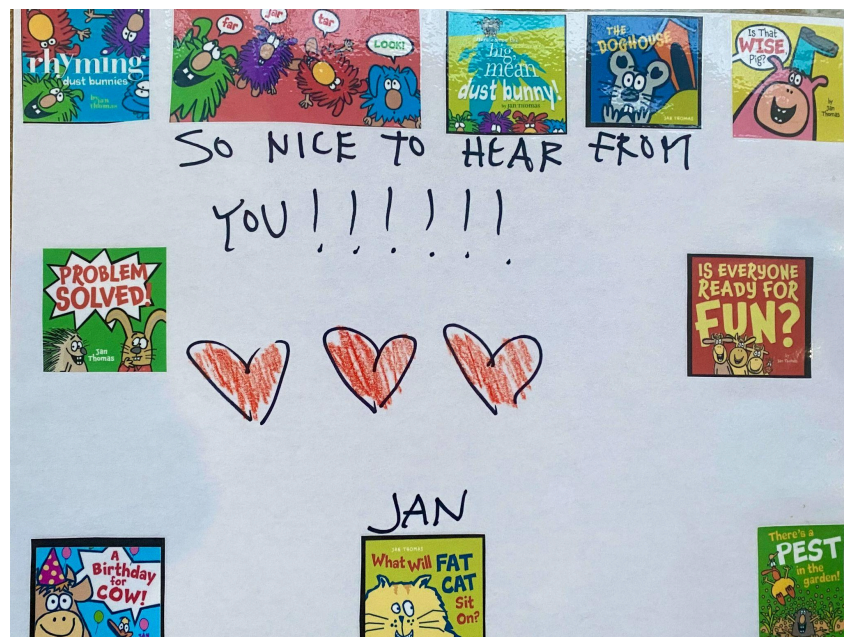
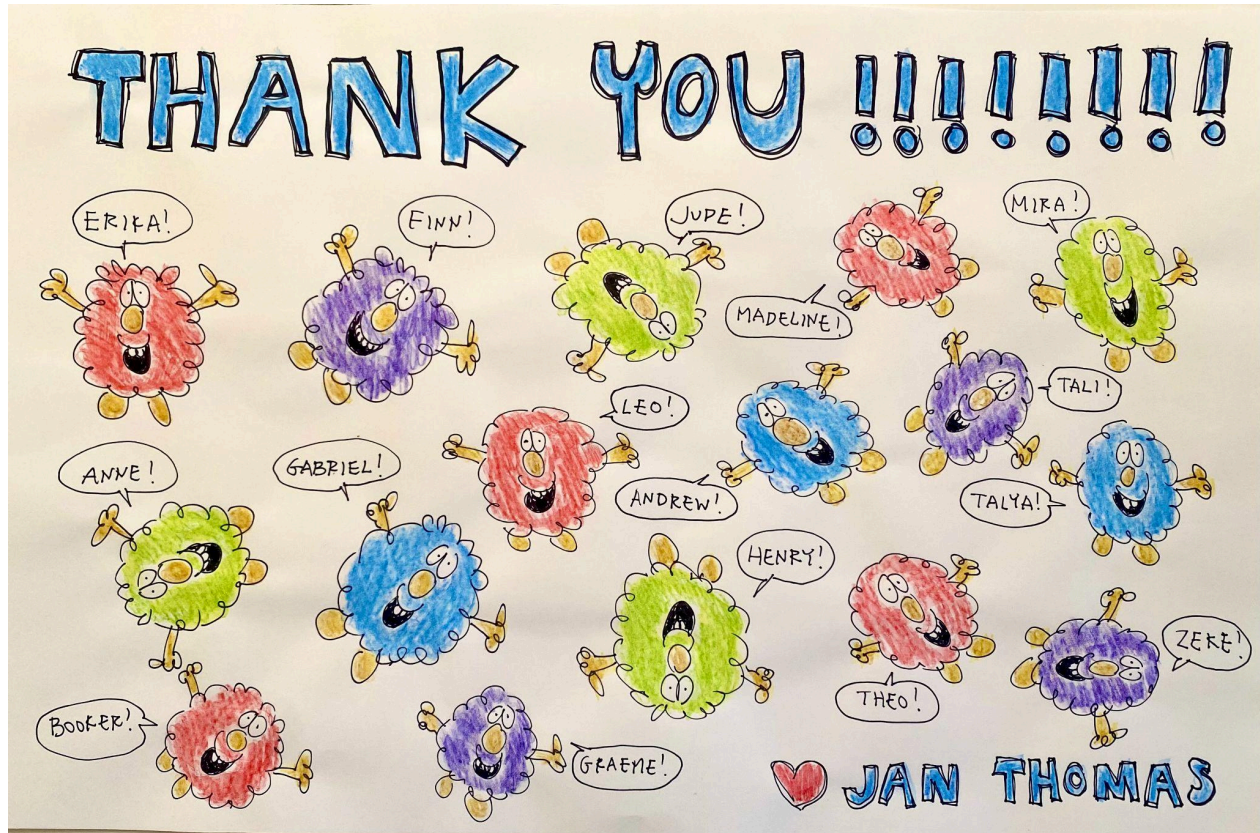
What kind of insects like toast? Butterflies



## Hawk Happenings - Week of March 10 - March 14, 2025

### PHOTOS

Way back in January, the Hawks wrote a letter to their favorite author, Jan Thomas. We told her why we love her books and talked about our favorite characters. We sent drawings, photos, and even a video of us acting out Rhyming Dust Bunnies. Well, Jan Thomas wrote back and sent us a wonderful gift! Such a fun way to make a connection between the books we love and the authors who imagine and write them.



Keep reading :)

**READING** - Lots of work with word families! The kids were amazed (their teachers were too!) that they could read 88 words, including these:

cap	nap	sap	tap	lap
hot	not	pot	lot	dot
den	ten	pen	hen	men
mug	rug	tug	jug	hug
get	met	bet	set	let
big	dig	fig	pig	
hop	mop	top	pop	
pan	tan	man	ran	

"Silent e (magical e) - an "e" on the end of a word makes the vowel say its name (cak → cake)

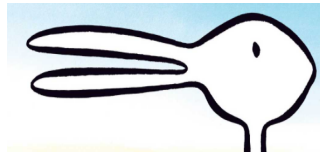
Lower case writing review / Sight word review using our word wallets / What's the difference between a poem and a story? Each child read a poem about Spring that contains many sight words as well as visual cues to other vocabulary..

**MATH** - #17 and other teen numbers, more practice telling time to the hour both digitally and in analog form, numerical patterns on a 1-100 chart

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - We're continuing to log in our Bird Journals all the birds we see. We've been listening to their calls, both in the forest & then later from a special bird app.

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - What is the difference between fact & opinion? A fact is something that is always true - you can prove it. *Poison ivy can give you a rash.* An opinion is what you think or feel. You can't prove it. *Broccoli is the best vegetable.* It's ok for people to have their own opinions. It's ok to see and think different things.

For example, what's your opinion about this picture? Is it a duck or a rabbit?



**JEWISH STUDIES** - We acted out the story of Purim and learned how Queen Esther and Mordechai both had Ometz Levs (brave hearts). The take-away from Purim is that it's important for everyone to be brave, to take care of others, and to speak up when someone is not being kind. The Hawks pondered the question: "Why was Haman so mean?" "I think someone taught him to be mean?" "Maybe someone was mean to him first." "Maybe someone took something that was Haman's and he got mad." "He didn't like people who were different and did different things." The Hawks learned how to say Happy Purim in Hebrew (*Purim Sameach*) and made paper hamantaschen filled with kind words.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Why does Humpty Dumpty like autumn the best? Because he had a great fall

Why did the farmer plant seeds in a pond? He was trying to grow a watermelon.

What's on your dining room table that makes you sleepy? Your napkin

What do you call a plant that roars? A dandelion      Why was the dog sweating so much? She was a hot dog



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of March 3 - March 7, 2025**

## **PHOTOS**

**READING** - Tackling those pesky b,d,p, q letters/Review of reading sentences and pointing to words with 1:1 correspondence, upper & lower case letter review / S-Blends (st, sm, sn, sc, sk, sl, sp) / Dr. Seuss mini-unit - Hop on Pop (-op word family) - rhyming - reading lines from the book

**MATH** - Telling time to the hour, digitally and in analog style, drawing hour and minute hands on clock faces, reading clock faces to determine the time / #16 and more work with teen numbers

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - As part of our study of time, we created 3-d representations of the earth revolving around the sun and the moon rotating around the earth (resulting in night and day).

We hiked the woods around LCEC, hunted for signs of winter and of spring and found both! We've been birdwatching and are filling up our bird journals. Such an important lesson in being *quiet* so as not to frighten our avian friends.



## **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL**

**Ninjas and Buckets** - both crucial components of the week. We learned all about **bucket fillers** and **bucket dippers**. Ask your child about his/her/your **invisible bucket** and how it gets full or empty. Hint: Acts of kindness!



And... (shhhh...this is a surprise which your child may or may not have told you): We have become

## **The Kindness Ninjas!**

Kindness Ninjas can't be seen. But you can see and feel the kindness they spread in the world. Kindness Ninjas don't brag, they just want to make others happy. Kindness Ninjas believe in the power of kindness because they know that kindness spreads happiness all over the world. How do they spread kindness? Through RAK's (Random Acts of Kindness). The Ninjas sneak around and perform acts of kindness without the recipients knowing. Stay tuned as the CBIFS Kindness Ninjas begin to surprise members of our school community! We have told the kids that it's important to keep the element of surprise so the recipients don't find out who we are. That's why they may or may not have mentioned any of this to you. :)

**(keep reading - there's more!)**

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

New Hebrew vocabulary: "*sameach*" (happy)

Introduction to the upcoming holiday of Purim, sharing the story of the holiday, learning about the major characters, and singing Purim songs.

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Which is the best day to go to the dentist? Tooth-day.      Where do pencils go on vacation? Pennsylvania  
How do piggies say goodnight? With hogs & kisses      What do you call a train that sneezes? Achoo-choo train.  
What do you call a peanut who wears a spacesuit? An astronut



## **Hawk Happenings - Week of February 24- February 28, 2025**

### **PHOTOS**



**READING** - Sight Word review - Can your child read all these words?

Lots of practice this week with C-V-C words, writing and reading them, with an emphasis on vowels & final consonant sounds.. It's very cool that you turn 1 word into another just by changing 1 letter / Digraph review and practice (sh, th, ch, wh) / Breaking down words into syllables to make it easier to phonetically write (wa-ter-me-lon) - Ask your child how to do a "quiet yell" to determine how many syllables are in a word.

**MATH** - Teen numbers (how many 10's, how many 1's) / #15 - Counting to 15 using 1:1 correspondence, what comes before and after #15/ Can your child write the numbers 1-20?/Assessment time!

The big conclusion to our measurement study was visiting the "Doctor's Office" and measuring height, weight, heads, arms, feet, and even giving shots.



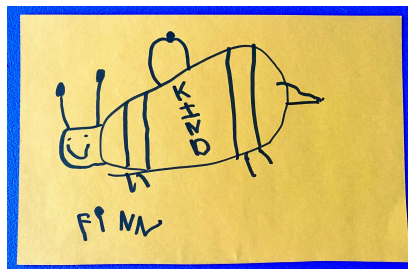
The Hawks also played around with tessellation, creating Stars of David out of 12 triangle shapes.

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - The Hawks worked on knot tying, an important skill when you're out in the forest and you need to set up a shelter. We finished our unit on shadows/sun & moon/day/night.



## **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL**

What is the difference between **bragging** & being **humble**? Ask your child about examples of both and about the biggest creature in the ocean. We made Be Kind bees, get it?



As you've heard, we are filling up our class Bucket of Kindness. Did you know that everyone has an **invisible bucket**? When you do something kind or someone does an act of kindness for you, you get a drop in your bucket. If you do something hurtful or someone does something hurtful to you, you lose a drop from your bucket. We endeavor to fill everyone's buckets!

## **P.E.**

In keeping with our math theme of measurement, the Hawks demonstrated how fast, how high, and how far they could move their bodies.





## JEWISH STUDIES

The Hawks are learning to have conversations in Hebrew. This week they added "tov/tovah (good). They also learned part of the Torah story about Pharoah, and Joseph and his brothers. The story's theme is teshuvah (forgiveness). The Hawks talked about the power of feelings and whether it's ok to cry. They also thought about the idea that when we judge others favorably we add holiness to the world.

## JOKES OF THE WEEK(s)

What flowers get the most kisses on Valentine's Day? Tulips

What do sloths throw in the winter? Slow-balls

What did 1 slug say to the other on Valentine's Day? Will you be my valenslime?

What did the raspberry say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day? I love you berry much

What sound do porcupines make when they kiss? Ouch! What kind of nuts always have colds? Ca-shews!

What did the ice cube say to the glass of water? I'm cooler than you! What do you call a bagel that can fly? A plane bagel

# **Hawk Happenings - Week of February 3 - February 7, 2025**

## **PHOTOS**

**Monday (2/10) is our 100th Day of school!**

**READING** - Sight word review / Review of lower case letter formation / blending sounds /t/ + /en/ = ten/ / How do you change pot to pat to cat to cut to hut ?

**MATH** - #14 / Measurement with non-standard measuring tools and with standard measuring tools, such as a ruler / How do you actually use a ruler? / Rounding up to the nearest inch / Teen numbers (14 has 1 set of 10 & 4 ones - you write the 1 first and then the 4 - left to right)

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - Everyone was excited to taste our Pine Needle Soda - "Yum! Can I have more?" We began our study of shadows, learning that the earth travels around the sun, creating day & night as well as the seasons. The Hawks tried shadow drawing.



Thanks to the generosity of a friend, the Hawks got to visit baby chicks and learn how they react to sound, movement, and food.



We had a lovely day at Ivy Creek, observing and listening to Bluebirds, Robins, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, a Hawk, a Red-bellied Woodpeckers, House finches, and Crows. Since it was Tu B'Shevat, we designed birthday cakes for the trees out of nature objects and made Happy Birthday cards for the trees in our Nature Journals. Be sure to check out all the pictures in the link above!



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

The [chorus of our newest class song](#) is: "Kindness, kindness, oh whenever you find this - You will see the world's a better place. Kindness, kindness, oh whenever you try this - You could bring a smile to someone's face." One of the ways to practice being kind is to think about how kind words taste versus mean words. We now have a new hallway display that your kids created to illustrate acts of kindness and share thoughts about how words might taste. [Take a look!](#)

## P.E.

The Hawks had a blast trying out a ropes course with Steve and practicing making all the knots we've learned.

## JEWISH STUDIES

Hebrew conversation: greetings, counting, & body parts / discussing the story of Joseph and his brothers and its theme: *Do you sometimes feel jealous of friends or siblings? What can you do when you have strong feelings?*

## JOKES OF THE WEEK

What do ghosts put on bagels? Scream cheese    What do you get if you throw butter? A butterfly  
What is the scariest plant in the forest? Bam-boo!

Which planet sings a song? Nep-tune.    What kind of vegetable likes to look at animals? A zoo-chini

# Hawk Happenings - Week of 1/27-1/31/2025

## PHOTOS

The "countdown" has begun - our 100th Day will be Monday, February 10th!

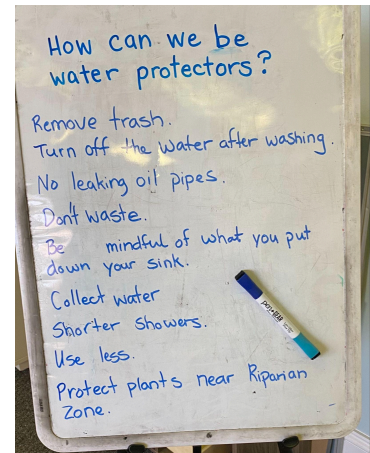
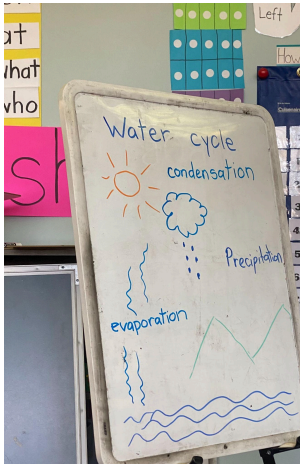


What's up with the balloon? Ask your child!

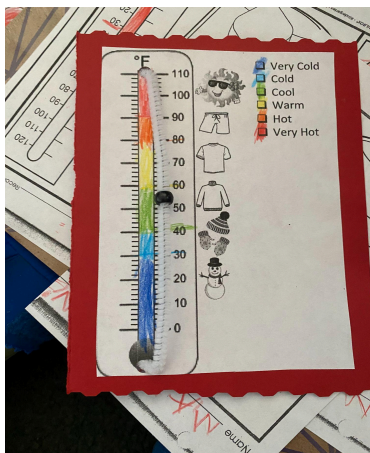
**READING** - Digraph review, Whiny "a" review (i.e. can, man), Sight Word review - Journal writing using sight words / "Little Bo Peep" - using all our reading skills (1:1, punctuation, identifying words, spacing, etc.) / Isolating final sounds in words

**MATH** - # of the week: 13 / Place value: Ask your child how many 10's & how many 1's are in 13.  
Measurement: Weight (heavy / light) & Temperature

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** We began studying the water cycle with a cloud experiment, creating condensation! And we brainstormed how we can be water protectors.



We've been counting by 1's, 5's and 10's all year and this week, that paid off as we began our study of temperature and made our own thermometers!





We collected lots of pine needles at Unity Field and after cleaning them thoroughly, the kids watched Erika make "Pine Needle Soda." We'll get to taste it on Monday!

Ask your Hawk about wolves in Yellowstone Park. Hearing the true tale of how wolves disappeared and then were reintroduced to the park, reminded us of how all of nature is connected and dependent on all its separate parts.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

One new vocabulary word this week was cartographer. The Hawks are cartographers and we're so excited to collect their bedroom maps!

We also learned about Punxsutawney Phil from Punxsutawney, PA - a.k.a. The Official Groundhog. If Phil sees his shadow: 6 more weeks of winter. If he doesn't: Spring is coming soon! On **Sunday, February 2**, make sure to check the news and let your child know Phil's 2025 forecast!

### JEWISH STUDIES

The Hawks learned about brothers, Jacob & Esau and how they asked forgiveness from each other. They also learned that Jacob changed his name to Israel and then the Hawks talked about their own Hebrew names.

New vocabulary: "Hayom shemesh" - Today is sunny

We also began learning about the upcoming Jewish holiday, Tu B'Shevat - a celebration of trees (the perfect Forest School holiday!). What is the same about me and a tree? How can we show gratitude to trees? We even ate edible trees!



### JOKES OF THE WEEK

How do you know the ocean is friendly? It waves. What do you call a dancing lamb? A baaaaa-lerina

Why can't the bicycle stand up? It's two-tired. What is worse than finding a worm in your apple?  $\frac{1}{2}$  a worm

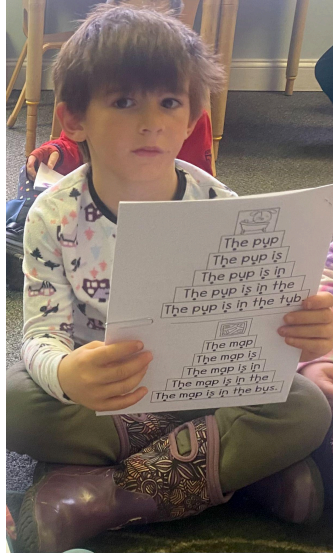
What's the difference between a teacher and a train? A teacher says spit out your gum and a train says chew, chew

# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 1/21 to 1/24/2025**

## **PHOTOS**

### **READING**

Digraph review (wh, th, sh, ch) and we added a new ending digraph - ck. B and d review (At home you can play our game - say a word and if it starts with /b/ pretend to bounce a ball. If it starts with /d, you can dance. Up the ante by writing the words instead of saying them. One-to-one correspondence: with "Hey Diddle Diddle." This rhyme segued into Social Studies as we made a placemat map with dishes, spoons, etc. The poem also helped us practice the comprehension skill of sequencing. We began reading our new Sentence Book, adding 1 word at a time to a sentence.



Has your child mentioned: **Jan Thomas**?! We have read 10 of her books and love each one. We've been examining her characters, comparing and contrasting her stories, & acting them out. Best of all, we wrote her a fan letter! We're hoping she writes back!



### **MATH**

Number of the week: 12 - Measurement: height & length using non-standard items for measuring





## NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES

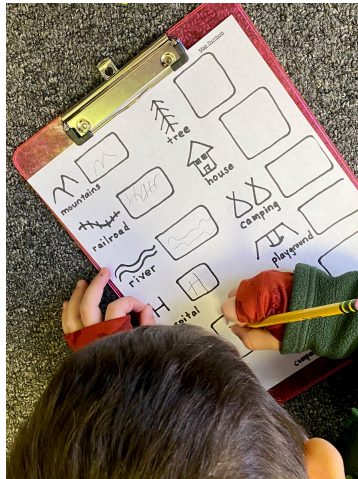
As part of our studies of the states of matter, we took advantage of the chilly temps to turn a fluids into solids. With the gorgeous ice we created, we made even more beautiful art!



Our Hawk scientists formed hypotheses about whether a piece of peppermint candy would *dissolve* faster in cold water or hot water.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Maps! The Hawks are learning about **map keys** and **symbols**.



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Perseverance, Kindness, and Impulse Control: The all-important Hawk triad. This week we began filling a Bucket of Kindness, dropping in a pom-pom for every true act of kindness that really helps another person. Our goal? Overflow the bucket!

## JEWISH STUDIES

The Hawks added 2 new Hebrew vocabulary words: yeled (boy) / yaldah (girl). They also learned about this week's Torah portion, talking about families, believing in others, and the rebound effect of kindness (if you're kind to others, hopefully they'll be kind to you).

## JOKES OF THE WEEK

Who comes to a picnic but is never invited? Ants

What kind of shoes do spies wear? Sneak-ers

What does a frog say when it washes a window? Rub it, rub it, rub it! What has 4 legs but can't walk? A table

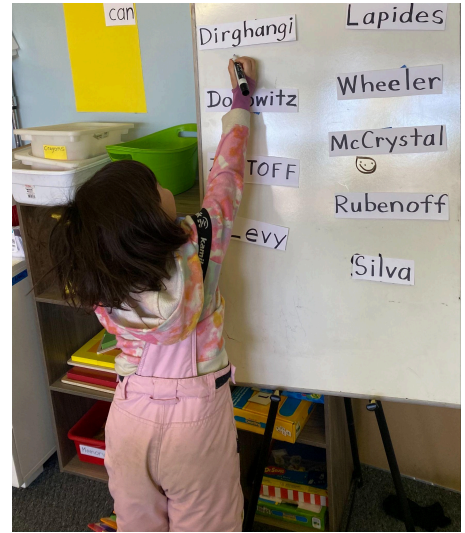
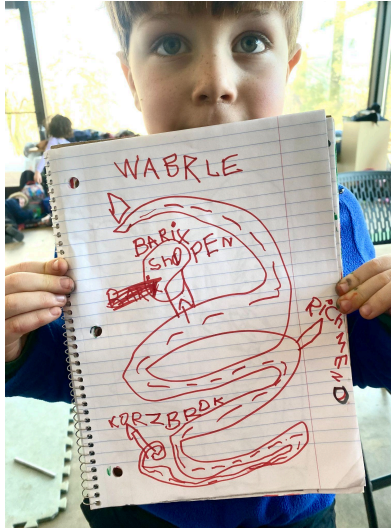
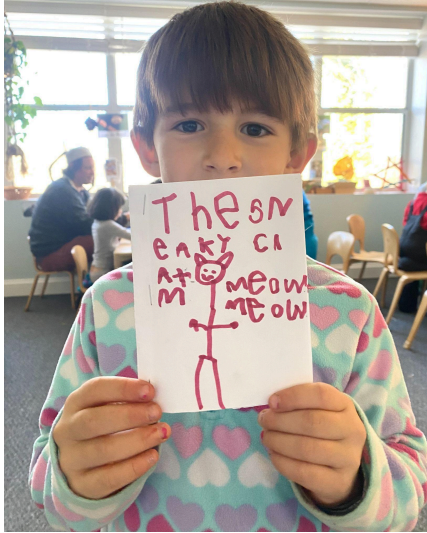


# Hawk Happenings - Week of 1/13-1/17/2025

## PHOTOS

### READING

Identifying beginning sounds and ending sounds (the trickiest part) in words / 2 new sight words; what & who. Vowel & digraph review (with a heavy focus on wh). We read a mini book containing our new and old sight words. Every Hawk is learning to recognize his/her last name in print. The kids practice phonetic spelling daily and of late we're seeing an **explosion** of self-motivated writing (letters to family/friends, mini books & maps)!



### MATH

Number of the week: 12 - Measurement: height & length using non-standard items for measuring - Sequencing numbers (what comes before/after) / Place value (for example: 18 vs. 81)

### NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES

We began our study of the 3 states of matter (liquid, gas, solid). Studying these states meshes perfectly with all the snow, as we get to observe it in the 3 different forms! The Hawks also learned 3 knot-tying strategies and practiced tying these knots with ropes. This took great perseverance!

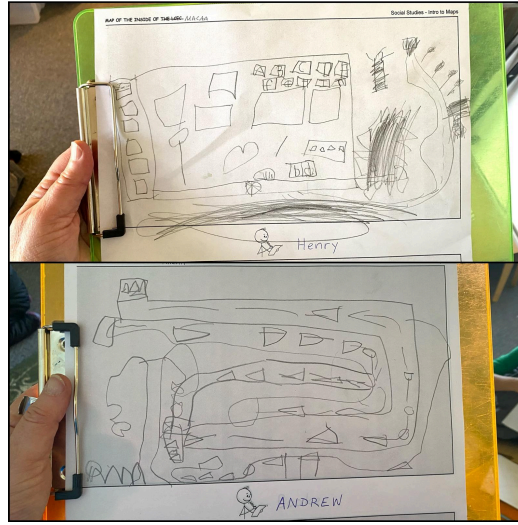
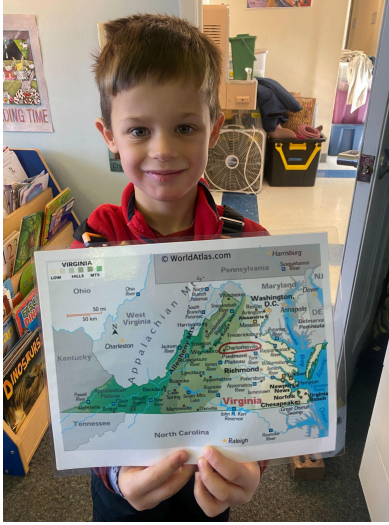
The Winter Dioramas that came home today are the results of a multi-step project and part of our study of how animals adapt, hibernate, or migrate in the winter. The kids collected nature materials, painted the boxes, and worked with the air-dry clay.





## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

We are delving deeper into our study of maps and directions. The kids know the difference between a globe and a map, understand different ways maps are used and created, and are learning about map symbols, including a compass.. They also are learning the difference between a state and the whole USA. This week, everyone drew a map of the inside of our MACAA classroom (though a few shifted and just made general maps...).



## **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL**

**Stop, Think, and Choose / Perseverance / Kindness** - These are 3 of the most important themes of our K year. It's been delightful to listen to the Hawks talk about all the big and small ways that they are each persevering. Ask your Hawk what he/she is working on! We'd also like to note that in the map activity above, not a single child balked ("I can't do this! It's too hard! I don't know how to do this!") In fact, the room was silent as each child planned, drew, and applied her/his knowledge in a new way.

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

The Hawks continued their study of conversational Hebrew with the addition of *Ima & Abba* (mother and father). Haya shared the Torah story about Jacob & Esau which led to a class discussion about sibling relationships and ways to solve problems and conflicts.

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

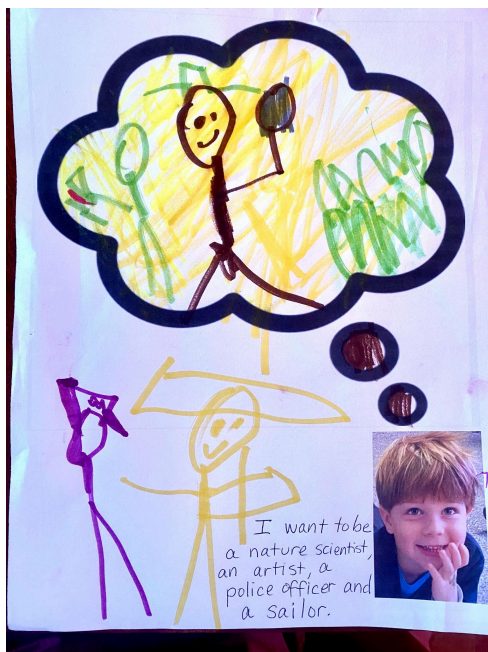
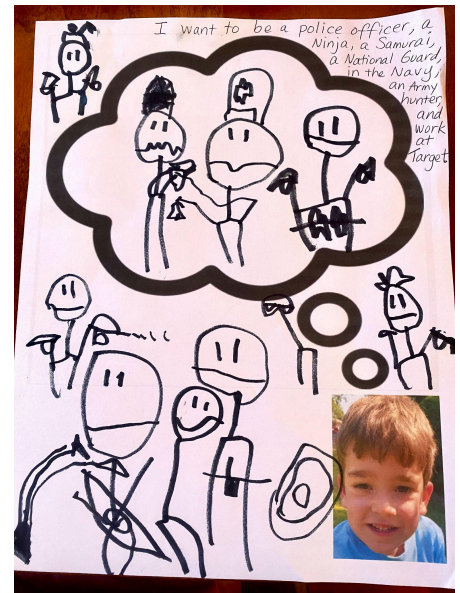
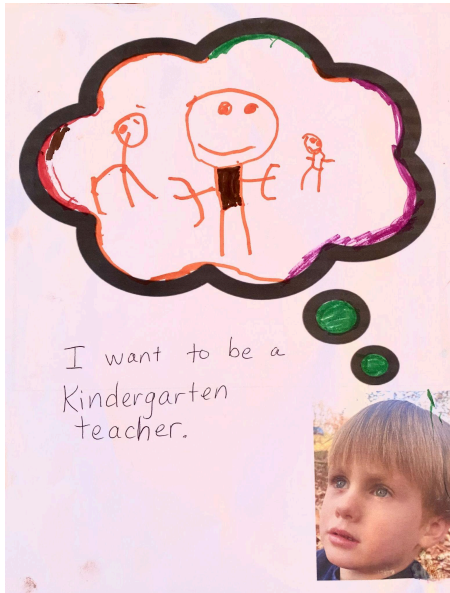
What kind of bean never grows in a garden? A jellybean      What kind of ball doesn't bounce? A snowball  
What is a bear's favorite dessert? A blue-beary pie  
A fish met a shark & said, "It's very nice to meet you!" What did the shark say? "It's very nice to eat you!"  
Why can't you tell a joke when you're ice-skating? The ice might crack up.

***"Shout-outs" are an integral component of the Hawk experience. We'd like to give a huge "Shout-Out" to all of you for sending your children in layers and just the right outerwear. We appreciate all the effort you've put into keeping your kids warm!***

## Hawk Happenings - Week of 1/9-1/10/2025

### PHOTOS *A snowy start to 2025!*

We are delighted to be back together again! Before break, we talked about resolutions. As a start to the New Year, we dreamed big about what we each want to be when we grow up. These pages are now part of our newest class book!



We also talked about the 3 most important themes of our year: **PERSEVERANCE, KINDNESS, AND IMPULSE CONTROL** (otherwise known as "Stop, Think, & Choose"). When kids get older, they usually don't remember much about Kindergarten. But it's our hope that these 3 character traits will stick with the Hawks throughout their lives.

### JOKES OF THE WEEK

Why was the snowman looking through a bag of carrots? He was picking his nose!

What has 4 fingers and a thumb but is not a hand? A glove



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 12/16 to 12/20 - *Last school week of 2024!***

## **Photos! (scroll down for the newest!)**

**READING** - Punctuation - the difference between a statement, a question, and an exclamation / More practice with b's & d's / correct lower case letter formation/ finding letters on an alphabet strip / Helping Fuzzy to write C-V-C words - beginning, ending, & middle sounds / Xx, Yy, Zz sounds and formation / sight word review

**MATH** - Place value (10's and 1's) / Teen numbers - What is  $10 + 6$ ?  $10 + 2$ ? / Correct number formation / 1:1 counting / Counting forwards and backwards - A rousing game of dreidel helped the kids count, recognize symbols, and practice sportsmanship.

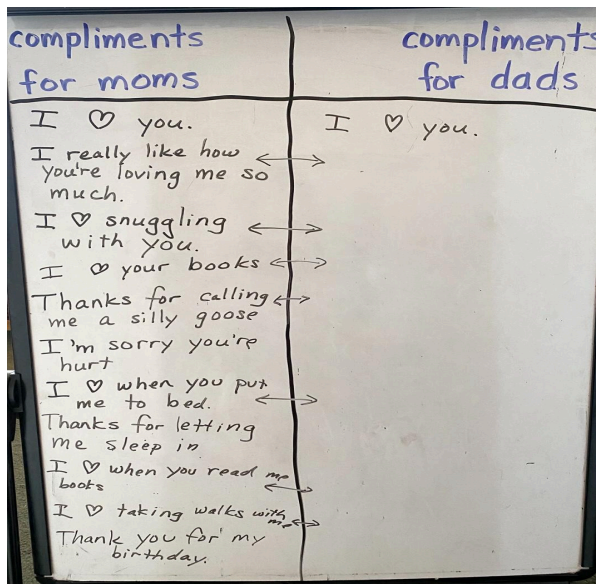
**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - We've been exploring new trails at LCEC, discovering beaver chews, sand pits, and fantastical spots to play in the woods. As the Winter Solstice approaches, we are noticing & appreciating the many evergreens and conifers that surround us in the forest.



**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - A fabulous story, *Seeds and Trees*, provided an opportunity to talk about kind words versus mean ones. Kind words, in the tale, became green seeds which grew into beautiful trees. Mean words became dark seeds which grew into spiky invasive species. We are paying attention to our words and using the idea of green seed words versus dark seed words to help us recognize when we need to adjust our speech.

***"I think this tree is so spooky! Maybe it grew out of dark seeds because people said mean things like, "I don't want to play with you. Or, you can't come to my birthday party."***





**Compliments** are certainly green seed words. What kind of compliments can you give to your parents?

Since we won't see each other again until next year, we talked about **resolutions**. What will we each **persevere** to do in the New Year? Want to find out what kind of resolutions Kindergarteners might have? [You'll find the Hawks' ideas right here!](#)

**JEWISH STUDIES** – This season people around the world celebrate light. We find connections between all our celebrations. Those who celebrate Diwali make special oil lamps, much like the ones used by the Maccabees. The kids made oil lamps out of clay, painted them, and added a wick & decorations. All you'll need to do at home is pour in oil and voila, light! We also pondered how each one of us can be a source of light in the world. Like the **shammash**, a helper candle used to light all the others, we can be helpers.

Haya reinforced the idea of "light" as it pertains to Hanukkah. The kids made their own torches. Using their little lights, they joined together to make one big light and chase away darkness with a special dance.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What color is a burp? Burple	What is fast, loud and crunchy? A rocket chip!	What do snowmen call their kids? Chill-dren
What do you call a cow that plays a musical instrument? A moo-sician		What is a tree's favorite dinosaur? A tree-rex



**Here's to a New Year filled with good health, wonder, growth, and gratitude.  
Have a wonderful break and we'll see you in January!**



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 12/9 to 12/13/2024**

**Photos!** (scroll down for the newest!)

**READING** - Reading sentences that contain our sight words and C-V-C words (Can you see the sun?) / ? versus . / **ch** digraph + review of sh & th / Rhyming Dust Bunnies! - ask your child about them - they teach us about word families + what happens to words when you substitute different initial consonants? / 2 new sight words: look & at.

**MATH** - Following patterns of adding 1 or 2 to sets of objects. If you have a set of 3 apples, and then a set of 5, what set would come next? Ordinal numbers - Find the 5th object from the left / the 2nd one from the right / Counting to 100 / Recognizing and writing teen numbers

**NATURE & SCIENCE STUDIES** - Adaptation/Migration/Hibernation - The kids know the meanings, behaviors, and animals associated with all 3 of these wintertime adjustments. The Hawks are hard at work on a multi-step project to create winter habitats (using your donated shoe boxes!).

We continue to study fire building. And, we enjoyed roasted apples cooked over hot flames!



**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - Inspired by Jeremy's Dreidel, a story about a boy with a blind parent, we imagined what it be like to be blind and have to depend on our other senses.



We examined letters in the Braille alphabet. The Hawks also have a special new song that reminds us to calm down and let go of "small stuff" that's bothering us.



**JEWISH STUDIES** - Why do we eat foods cooked in oil on Hanukah? The Hawks tasted latkes, some for the very first time!



We listened to Haya retell the Hanukah story through Godly Play. The class learned about the Jewish value of creating light (Yotzer) and brainstormed ways they could each bring light into the world. They also added a new Hebrew phrase to their conversation studies: "Nahim me-od" - Nice to meet you.

We've also been spinning dreidels and learning what the letters mean. We hope you enjoy your keepsake Dreidel Game Board that came home today. Your child worked hard on it and we hope your family enjoys it for years to come!



**JOKES OF THE WEEK**

Where do books like to sleep? Under their covers  
What do you call a dinosaur toot? A blast from the past

What is a bee's favorite snack? Sting cheese!  
What gets bigger when you turn it upside down? 6

What is the same size and shape of an elephant and weighs nothing? His shadow.

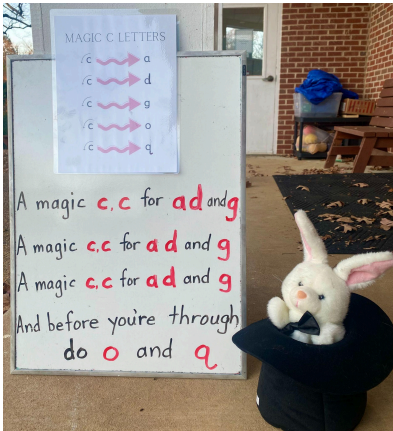




# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 12/2 to 12/6/2024**

**Photos!** (scroll down for the newest!)

**READING** - (Click [here](#) to hear our Magic C Rap! "C" is magic because it's the key to writing a,d,g,o,& q.



Tricky b's, d's, and p's - lots of practice identifying and writing/ Vowel review / Identifying missing vowels in C-V-C words / Writing C-V-C words

**MATH** - Review of #10 and all shapes / Sequencing: what number comes before - what number comes after - Understanding the difference between adding 1 and taking away 1 / Edible graphing!



**NATURE STUDIES** - *Flame Bond Crackle?* That's the name of the fire the Hawks built with "tinder, mouse tails, pencils, thumbs, and arms." Those words relate to the size of the wood collected by the kids. The Hawks also learned 2 ways to build a structure for starting a fire: the log cabin method & the lean-to.



As part of our seasonal nature study, the Hawks learn about the 3 ways that animals handle winter: Hibernation / Adaptation/Migration. We use compasses to help us find our way and birds use internal compasses to find their way south to warmer climates.

**JEWISH STUDIES** - We shared the story of Hanukah and its meaning and tied it to having an **Ometz Lev** (a brave heart). The kids were surprised to learn that each one of them already has a courageous, brave heart. We conducted a dreidel spinning extravaganza and learned what the letters on the dreidel mean. Hanukah is celebrated all around the world, even in Antarctica! The Hawks were mesmerized by the true story of a scientist who created a hanukiyah (menorah) on the ocean floor in frigid conditions. Ask your child what that hanukiyah was made out of!



Haya shared this week's Torah portion and the Hawks added "Nayim Me-od" (nice to meet you) to their Hebrew conversations.

### **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What did the duck do after he listened to lots of jokes? He quacked up  
What do you call extinct animals when they sleep? Dinosnores  
Where do books like to sleep? Under their covers  
What do you call a snake that builds buildings? A boa constructor.  
What did the daddy snake give his child at night? A goodnight hiss



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 11/18 to 11/22/2024**

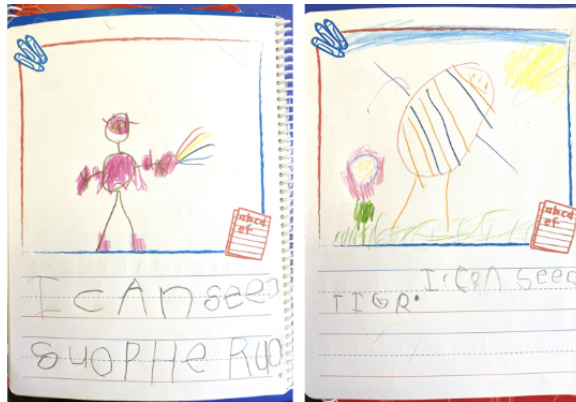
**Photos!** (scroll down for the newest!)

**READING** - Sometimes "a" makes a whiny sound like in can, jam - This song helps us remember (tune: Farmer in the Dell)

"A spells /a/ - - - A spells /a/. But /a/ with /m/ or /n/ - a spells aah (whiny sound)

Word families (-am & -an) / New SIGHT WORDS: can, you / Big focus on first and last consonant sounds in C-V-C words /

New letter: Qq (Qq always is seen with its buddy: u / Distinguishing between lower case b, d, p, and qu / Journal writing using sight words to write phonetically: *I can see a \_\_\_\_\_* . We're so proud of how the kids are tackling phonetic writing without hesitation or fear of making a mistake.



The Hawks also have the option to review sight words during Quiet Time.



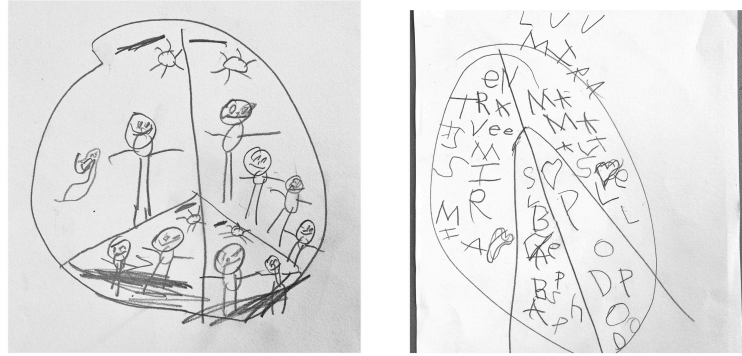
**MATH** - Number of the week: 10 / Practice with ordinal numbers / shape drawing

**NATURE STUDIES** - This week we explored new trails at LCEC and spent time in "sit-spots." sitting quietly and listening to the sounds around us. "That made me feel peaceful!" The Hawks also wove gorgeous wreaths out of bittersweet vine and different berries. We added opossums to our study of nocturnal animals, learning about their diet, habitat, and behaviors. We hope you enjoy the gorgeous wreaths your children wove out of invasive species. These contain bittersweet berries which are beautiful and festive, but toxic if ingested. If you would like to display them, we suggest hanging them outside, especially if you have younger children prone to putting things in their mouths in the household.

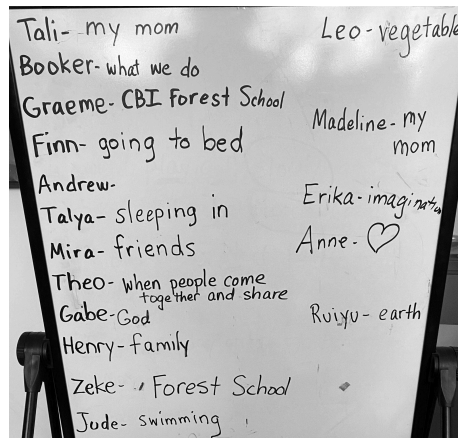
**SOCIAL STUDIES** - The Hawks studied a globe this week, learning about land masses, bodies of water, the equator, and the Northern and Southern hemispheres. We located Charlottesville on the globe and compared globes to maps.

**Continued below...**

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - As part of learning about globes, we talked about how when people argue it creates conflict. Even grownups struggle with this and that's why we have wars around the world. The kids decided that kings, queens, and Presidents should try listening to each other the way we do at school. Just as we wish in our daily snack blessing that everyone will have enough food, we also wish peace for everyone in the world. The Hawks learned how to draw the symbol for peace and added their own illustrations and words to explain what makes them each feel peaceful.



As we gear up for Thanksgiving break, we talked about how to say thank you in Hebrew (todah) and shared what we are each thankful for. Their words and illustrations will be part of our 3rd class book!



## **JEWISH STUDIES**

The Hawks learned the meaning of "Lech Lecha." This is the story of Abraham's big adventure when God asks Abraham to trust him and go on a special journey to a new place.

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What happens when you step on an orange? You hurt its peelings.

Why is a tree like a dog? They both have bark

How do you spell mouse trap with 3 letters? C-A-T

Where do dogs park their cars? In the barking lot

What do frogs order when they go to a restaurant? French flies



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 11/11 to 11/15/2024**

[Photos!](#) (scroll down for the newest!)

**READING** - Review of e,k formation / New letter: y-yellow-/yuh/ - Those tricky b's & d's - practice identifying & writing both/ Vowel review & identifying missing vowel sounds in C-V-C words / Introduction of our 1st digraph (sh)

**MATH** - Number of the Week: 9 / Color: Brown / Shape: Oval / Counting by 1's, 5's, 10's - Can your child tell you how many days are in a week and what they are? How about the months of the year? Recognizing numbers up to 20



**NATURE STUDIES** - How do invasive species affect the forest? They take over and don't allow other plants to thrive. The Hawks demonstrated this in a race with beanbags (invasive species teams - ran, non-invasive - walked). Who collected the most bean bags? The invasive species of course. As part of our study of nocturnal animals, we learned about owls, what they eat, their habits, and which owls live near us.

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - We hope your kids came home with their Bug/Wish cards and shared their meaning with you. This is another technique to use to solve conflicts. "It bugs me when you knock down my structure. I wish you wouldn't do that anymore". We also met Sid the Squirrel who taught us about squabbling & sharing, and how the latter is much preferable to the former. We also met Nishi the sloth's cousin, Shababa (both their names have the -sh sound!, who taught us meditative breathing. .



**JEWISH STUDIES** - The Hawks learned the story of Noah's ark through the method of Godly Play. They created their own rainbow (like in the story) out of beautiful fall leaves.

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What do you get when you put 3 ducks in a box? A box of quackers. What animal never tells the truth? A lion  
What do you do when an elephant sits on your toe? Call a toe truck What is the worst animal to play cards with? A cheetah  
What did the naughty little rattlesnake say to his big sister? "Don't be such a rattle-tail!"

# Hawk Happenings - Week of 11/5 to 11/7/2024 (a short week)

## Photos!

### MATH

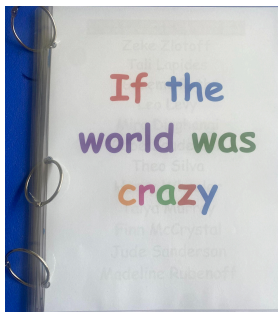
We celebrated our 50th (!) day of school this week. Is 50 a big number or a small one? (How long does it take to do 50 claps, 50 jumps?). "I would eat 50 \_\_\_\_\_, but not 50 \_\_\_\_\_." The Hawks reviewed 7 and moved on to 8 (writing the number and representing it in different formats (subitizing). Graphing and patterns practice too.

I would eat	50 <sup>th</sup> day	I would <u>not</u> eat
chocolate cakes	Booker	vegetables
carrots	Zeke	teeth
pineapples	Madeline	bathtubs
pieces of chocolate	Graeme	licorice
leaves	Finn	skins
peppers	Henry	blobs of mud
cones of cotton candy	Mira	vegetables
chocolate muffins	Theo	vegetables
pieces of paper	Andrew	big piece of paper
balloons	Tali	leaves
plums	Talya	pieces of paper

### READING

Since it was the 50th day, we practiced upper & lower case Ff. And then we segued into Gg (both of which begin with forming a magic "c"). That led to an exploration of the word family (-og) which we explored through rhyming words, and changing the initial consonant to form new words. We've also added a new book to our class library and a new sight word to our Word Wallets (in).

If the world was crazy		
eat	wear	do
Zeke-chocolate Underpants	Jude-paint made out of chocolate	Zeke-take a bath in my toilet
Leo-a chocolate sword	Andrew-a cookie house	Madeline-eat my dog
Gabe-pumpkin stem	Erika-wear roller skates on my hands	Finn-take a bath in my body
Tali-my shoe		Booker-eat my mom
Graeme-chocolate pants		
Henry-eat mud		
Talya-my sunglasses		
Theo-mashed up marshmallows + choc	Mira-drink sewer water	



**NATURE STUDIES** - Since 8 is our # this week and the octagon is our shape, we studied spiders who have 8 legs.

The Hawks frequently see spiders, so learning about their characteristics and role in the ecosystem helps dispel fears and desires to squish them. As part of our study about nocturnal animals, we read and learned about foxes, and made our own fox faces!

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** - In our daily snack blessing there's a line: "Maybe one day no one will be hungry and everyone will be fed." Some families don't have enough money to buy food or toys, so kids around the world persevere and make their own toys using recycled materials. Ask your child about *galimotos* (and check them out in the photo link).

### JOKES OF THE WEEK

What do turtles use to call their friends? A shellphone How does a frog feel when he has a broken leg? Unhappy  
What is the same about the letter A and a flower? They both have B's coming after them.



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 10/29 to 11/1/2024**



[Photos! Scroll down for the newest](#)

## **READING**

Last week as part of our word family learning, our friend Batman helped us with -at. This week Batman brought his friend, Capman, who introduced us to the -ap word family / Focus on hearing and writing initial consonants in words / Sentence structure (a sentence is a group of words separated by spaces, that starts with an uppercase letter & ends with punctuation) / Syllables - counting how many parts are in 2,3,4 syllable words/ New letter: **Kk** - lots of practice writing this tricky letter / WORD WALLETS! Each Hawk now has his/her own Word Wallet to hold (& practice) all the sight words we're learning (we added and & like). .

## **MATH**

Number **7** writing / Counting (by 1's, 5's, 10's) / Patterns / Graphing / Estimation (The Hawks estimated how many seeds were in a pumpkin and then they counted them all, by 10's. The total? 342!

## **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL**

Has your child ever interrupted you while you're speaking? We're assuming 100% of you will answer in the affirmative. We compared our mouths to volcanos that erupt and talked about how it feels to be interrupted. The kids brainstormed actions they could undertake instead of interrupting. And we continue to promote perseverance, even when things are difficult.

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

The Hawks learned how to be a "sofer" (a Torah scribe) and even practiced using feathers to write and draw. They also began learning how to sing the alphabet in Hebrew.

## **NATURE STUDIES**

As most of you know, superheroes, villains, & pirates are popular themes with this year's crew. This week the kids learned about *Invasive Species*, plants with superpowers. Some can grow super fast and steal the sunlight from other plants. Some, like stiltgrass are super villains that poison the soil so no other plants can grow. We went on a hike to spot invasive species that are all around us.

We also learned what a lifecycle is by studying how a seed grows into a pumpkin. Eric Carle's, The Tiny Seed reinforced the idea of life cycles and helped us understand why a flower (or pumpkin) needs so many seeds to keep the species alive..

## **QUICK QUERIES**

Did you see any invasive plants this week? What does perseverance mean & do you know a song about it? What is the life cycle of a pumpkin? What in the world is a Word Wallet?! What was your favorite P.E. game this week (Ninjas?)?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What did the little tree say to the big tree? Leaf me alone

What letter is part of your head? I

What do Snowmen call their KIDS? Chill-dren.

What do you call a dinosaur that never gives up? Try-Try-Try-ceratops!

What did the paper say to the scissors? "Cut it out."

# Hawk Happenings - Week of 10/21 to 10/25/2024

[Photos! Scroll down for the newest](#)

## READING

Dd formation (lower case always starts with a "magic c" / Humpty Dumpty reinforced lots of reading skills and the kids even put him back together again! / Do you know the [Batman theme song](#)? We sang it many times, but substituted different consonants for the **-at** word family - B,b,b,b,b,b,b - Batman - F,f,f,f,f,f,f,f - Fatman, etc. The Hawks were hysterical about this!) / Rhyming words - reading and writing - Word family races!

⑦		
stat		
scat	④	
fat	den	③
rat	hen	wig
mat	men	jig
sat	Ben	fig
cat		
bat	ten	pig

## MATH

Number: 8 / The kids brainstormed 8 different ways to show the number 8 (dice, tallies, etc) / Simple addition with Magnatiles (which we pretended were made out of chocolate!) - "I ate 3 pieces of chocolate and then 2 more. How many did I eat?" / Estimation - The Hawks estimated how many acorns we had.

How many acorns?	
Theo - 100	Talya - 21
Jude - 6,462	Leo - 122
Zeke - 50	Graeme - 150
Mira - 5000	Finn - 5
Gabe - 15400	Tali - million
Madeline - 14	
Booker - 1600 million	
Henry - 160	

We sorted them into groups of 5 and then counted by 5's: 300!

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

This week we introduced the idea of PERSEVERANCE, a topic which we will return to regularly throughout the year. Everyone shared different things they're persevering to do ("not yell at my parents, put my head underwater, clean the kitchen"). Our take-away: If you think something is hard to do, does it mean you'll NEVER learn to do it? NO! It just means you haven't done it YET, and you keep persevering!. In fact, the journey of 1000 steps starts with just one. [Meet the Perseverance Bird](#) who is now beloved by your kids.

Teamwork + Perseverance - The Hawks worked in teams to use a set of blocks to make towers. This required planning, cooperation, kindness, and a lot of perseverance.



*Keep reading, there's more below!*



Listening + imagination = Cooperative storytelling - The Hawks regularly invent stories as a whole group, taking turns adding to the plots. One of the values we learn is how to take care of ourselves, other people, and the world. What if everyone... was an important theme this week. What if everyone picked flowers off a bush? What if everyone picked up their toys? What if everyone stayed up all night? What if everyone left no trash behind?

## JEWISH STUDIES

The Hawks focused on Sukkot this week, learning about the lulav, and the meaning and parts of a sukkah. They also made decorations for our MACAA sukkah.

## NATURE STUDIES

The Hawks fanned out in the forest to collect sticks, pine cones, and all manner of fauna to build their own sukkahs. They also made leaf crowns, necklaces, and even a pirate eye-patch!

## QUICK QUERIES

What page did you make for our class book - "What If Everybody . . ." ?      How did you put Humpty Dumpty together again?!

How did we count acorns (sorting by 5 in muffin cups)      What happens if you change the first letter in Batman to: (c, f, h, m, p, r, z)?

What's hiding inside a **d**? (a magic "c")      What did the perseverance bird try to climb?      What's your favorite part about Hammock Hill?

## JOKES OF THE WEEK

What nails do carpenters hate hammering? Fingernails      What kind of fruit do scarecrows like to eat? Strawberries.

What did the horse say when he fell down? I've fallen and I can't giddy up!      What does a lemon say when it answers the phone?" "Yellow!"

What's a shark's favorite game? Swallow the leader

## Shabbat Shalom!





# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 10/14 to 10/18/2024**

[Photos! Scroll down for the newest batch](#)



## **READING**

Review and practice matching upper and lowercase letters / Learning how to use an alphabet strip to find a letter you don't know how to

write / New ❤️ & ⚡ words: the, yes, no / Review of all sight words / Reading sentences containing our sight words

## **MATH**

Number of the Week: 7 / color: pink / Shape: trapezoid

AB AB / ABB ABB / AAB AAB / ABC ABC patterns - Number 7 writing

Introduction to graphing (How do we graph? Bottom to top, left to right) - practice with counting and graphing the results

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

Exploring the upcoming holiday of Sukkot, a week-long holiday celebrating the fall harvest and the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert. The kids built tiny sukkahs (3-sided structures like the Jews used in the desert). They learned the phrase "Baruch Habah" (Welcome), and sang blessings for dwelling in a sukkah.

## **NATURE STUDIES**

The Hawks added an Oak tree to their nature journals this week, sketching a majestic oak and adding a leaf rubbing. We measured the circumference of our tree and discovered it's over 100 years old!

The Hawks began their study of Fall's seasonal changes and nocturnal animals, focusing on the raccoon.

The kids also made their own paint brushes out of nature items they collected and then used those brushes to paint with mud!

ACORNS! Most of our academic lessons included acorns as a theme - check them out in our photos

## **QUICK QUERIES**

Did you have an acorn treat?

Name 1 nocturnal animal.

What do we do on Sukkot?

What faces did you draw on your acorn friends and what did you name them? How many acorns do you think we had in our classroom?

How did you make a nature paintbrush?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

How does a skeleton call his friends? On a telephone

What did the baby banana say to its mother? "I don't peel good."

What has a bottom at the top? Your legs

What kind of seat do baby ghosts sit in? A Boo-ster seat!

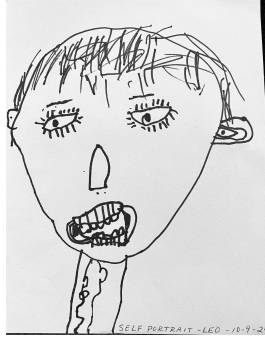
Why did the boy put a Band-Aid on his head? Because he got a haircut.



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 10/7 to 10/11/2024**

[Our newest photos!](#) \*Scroll down for the newest batch\*

**Don't miss out! Self-portraits, hammocks, magic blue sunglasses, Tashlich @ the Rivanna & much more!**



## **READING**

We used nursery rhymes to reinforce 1:1 correspondence in reading. Being familiar with a text helps kids accurately point to & identify individual words / Vowel review and practice identifying vowels in C-V-C words, handwriting

## **MATH**

Number of the week: 6 / Shape: hexagon / Color: Purple - Practicing writing 5's & 6's / pattern work / shape recognition & completing broken shapes

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

Pete the Cat's magic **blue** sunglasses help him and all his friends change their moods from grumpy or sad to happy. But do you really need magic sunglasses, or can you just view your day in a whole new way? Speaking of viewing things, how do you view yourself? Check out your child's self-portrait in the photo link. We will draw self-portraits at the end of the year too, and compare our progress!

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

This week, in preparation for Yom Kippur, the Hawks learned about the Jewish value of mindful speech - being mindful of how your words may affect others' feelings. We also performed a Tashlich ceremony, throwing birdseed (representing mistakes we've made) into the Rivanna, and promising to do better in the New Year.

## **NATURE STUDIES**

We visited a Black Walnut tree this week to learn about the myriad uses of black walnuts. The Hawks made bark & leaf rubbings for their Nature Journals. The Hawks were amazed to find out how much of our daily materials at home and at school involve trees. Sponges, gum, tires- they all contain components of trees! The kids made their own paper from recycled paper.

What better way to settle yourself and notice the subtle changes in nature as Fall settles in than to lay in a hammock amidst a grove of beautiful trees?

## **QUICK QUERIES**

How did we make our own paper? Did we meet Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea? What sounds do these letters make? (short vowel sounds)?

What did you say you were sorry for when you threw birdseed into the Rivanna? What did you love about the hammocks?

If you hurt someone (physically or verbally), what can you do? (Explain exactly what you're sorry for doing and promise to try not to do it again).

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What four letters frighten a robber? OICU

How do you make a baby go to sleep on a spaceship? You rock-it

What do you get when you leave your peanut butter and jelly sandwich in your lunchbox for 3 days and forget to take it out? A peanut butter and smelly sandwich!

What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear

What does a ghost use to clean its hair? Sham-boo!



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 9/30 to 10/2/2024**

We wish you all a sweet, healthy, happy New Year!

We hope you enjoy the little honey jar & Rosh Hashanah card your child made. **Shana Tovah!**

***New month, new photos!*** You'll find them all [here](#)

## **READING**

Recognizing initial consonants, vowel review,  &  word review, introduction to compound words (superhero, pancake, backpack, toothbrush, etc.) - Reading with 1:1 correspondence in our new mini-book, "I am a superhero!"



## **MATH**

AB patterns, #4 review and #4 games (Why were there 4's all over our classroom? How many things can you think of that have 4 items (chair-4 legs/ kids in our class with 4 letters in their names/ tiger-4 paws, 4-leaf clover, the list goes on!)

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

Fuzzy Bear was afraid to figure out the first sounds in words. "I'm afraid I won't know! I'm afraid I'll make a mistake! I only want to do it if I can do it perfectly!" The Hawks did a great job encouraging Fuzzy. "Just try Fuzzy!" "We'll help you!" "It's ok if you make a mistake, just try again!"

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

Hebrew vocabulary: *shalom*, *tefila* (prayer), Rosh Hashanah rituals and traditions

The Hawks practiced the [Shema](#) (a central Jewish prayer)

## **NATURE STUDIES**

The Hawks became dendrochronologists this week! They examined tree rings to determine the age of a tree and its history. The kids made tree ring rubbings and compared the patterns on the rings to their own fingerprints.. They also visited dead trees to observe them more closely. What is their history? What new life is growing within them?

## **QUICK QUERIES**

Can you be a superhero? What were some of your favorite superheroes in our Superhero ABC book?

If your jacket sleeves are inside out, do you know how to fix them?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What do you call a horse that lives next door to you? A neigh-bor

What does a panda ghost eat? Bam-boo!

Why aren't teddy bears ever hungry? Because they are stuffed!



# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 9/23 to 9/27/2024**



[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (scroll down for the most recent)

## **READING**

Heavy emphasis on vowels (short and long) this week. This song (to the tune of "Old McDonald") helps us remember the sounds: Vowels, vowels, here they are: a - e - i - o - u — Some-times, they say their names: a - e - i - o Other times they make different sounds like: a, a, a, a, APPLE Or, e - e - e - e - EGG Or i - i - i - i - IGLOO Or o-o-o-o-OCTOPUS Or u-u-u-u-UP  
Some Hawks are working on writing their names in uppercase letters, others are writing in lowercase / Using known sounds to form word families and decode C-V-C words (cat, net, bug, fit, etc.) / "Magic C" writing: forming c,o,a,s

## **MATH**

Number of the Week: 5, Color: blue, Shapes: pentagon, 5-pointed star / Counting with 1:1 correspondence / AAB, ABB, ABCD color patterns/Number writing (4's) with correct formation / learning how to represent numbers with your hand in different ways (5: 4 fingers/1 finger or 2 fingers/3 fingers, etc.) / shape recognition

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

"This is the most peanut-buttery sandwich ever!" Find out what that means right [here](#) in this week's Kindergarten in the Wild blogpost!

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

Hebrew vocabulary "[tashlich](#)" / "Shana Tovah"

The Hawks shared with each other, "wrong choices/mistakes" they made throughout the past year and promised to try to do better in the New Year.

## **NATURE STUDIES**

Your intrepid nature explorers examined different types of trees to compare and contrast bark, leaves, and health status. The kids "adopted" 2 trees for the year: a Sassafras tree and an Osage orange tree. We'll visit these trees throughout the seasons and learn how they adapt to stay alive.

## **QUICK QUERIES**

What does Nishi love to eat? How does she eat?

What is a pentagon? Can you sing our "Days of the Week" song?

How did we play "What's Missing?" with Rosh Hashanah ritual items? (This is a game you can play at home with any items)

What can you tell me about "That's Good! That's Bad!" - Can we try this at home?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What kind of button won't you find in a clothes store? A belly button

What do you call a snowman in the summer? A puddle

How do bees get to school? By schoolbuzz

What does a Triceratops sit on? His Tricerabottom.

What fish only swims at night? A starfish

# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 9/16 to 9/20/2024**

[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (scroll down for the most recent)



We invite you to take a look at our unique Kindergarten blog:

**"Kindergarten in the Wild"**

(Deep dives into the "why's" of our learning experiences.)

Today's post: [Pirates & Cicadas](#) - Feel free to leave comments!

## **READING**

Vowel sounds (long & short)/ New  words (It, it, is) - New  word (have)/ Writing m & n /Sentence structure: noticing individual words with spaces between, ending punctuation / Reading a "Pirate" book

## **MATH**

Number of the Week: 4, Color: green, Shapes: square, rectangle / Counting with 1:1 correspondence / ABC color patterns

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

How do you say "you're sorry?" How does it feel when you didn't make a good choice? How can you feel better?

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

Two puppet friends (Rosh and Shanah) discussed Rosh Hashanah rituals. Why do we eat honey on this holiday? The kids worked on beautiful pressed flower cards for the New Year and decorated mini honey jars.

## **NATURE STUDIES**

Identifying different animal tracks and learning how to move like animals

## **PE**

The Hawks are learning to work together in teams, to throw and catch, to follow rules for different games

## **QUICK QUERIES**

Please read me your "Pirates" book (came home in the backpack)

Who is Hank the Hawk?

What is the same about you and a hawk? What about you and a tree?

What animal tracks are these?



(deer & bear)

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What did the bee say to the flower? Hi, honey. What does lightning wear under its pants? Thunderwear

What is a shark's favorite sandwich? peanut butter and jellyfish

What did one bee say to the other when they landed on the same flower? Buzz off




# **Hawk Happenings - Week of 9/9 to 9/13/2024**



[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (scroll down for most recent)

## **READING**

New letters: /c/, /o/ The Magic C bunny began teaching us how /c/ is the basis for writing other letters (a,c,d, g, o, q, s) / rhyming/ Sentence formation with  words / We read our 1st short-book "I See Fall" / "S" writing practice

## **MATH**

Number of the Week #3 / Color: yellow / Shape: triangle/identifying similar and different objects, comparing stories with 3 characters (Goldilocks & the 3 Bears - The 3 Billy Goats Gruff -The 3 Javelina)s / scissor skills practice, ABAB patterns

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

It isn't easy to work within a group! It takes cooperation and listening.  
The Hawks practiced these skills, working in teams.

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

How do you greet someone in Hebrew ("Shalom, Finn")? How do you introduce yourself ("Ani Mira") / What is a kippah? Designing our own kippot which we wore on Shabbat! / Learning why we celebrate Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and practicing the traditions of this holiday..

## **NATURE STUDIES**

What are beaver characteristics (teeth, tail, fur)? We went on a hunt for beaver-gnawed trees!

How do you make "clay" out of mud? What animal tracks did we see at the river?



## **QUICK QUERIES**

What is a little house with no doors, no windows, and a star inside?  
Why do we eat round challahs and dip apples in honey on Rosh Hashanah?  
What letter did the Magic C Bunny teach us how to write ("s")  
Can you read the mini-book that came home?  
How many days are in a week? Months in a year?  
Can you sing the "[Shofar Blast](#)" song?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What did the mother broom say to the baby broom? It's time to go to sweep. What do cows like to read? The mooospaper. What do you call a bunny who tells jokes? A funny bunny and squeak What is a mouse's favorite game? Hide What do you call a dinosaur that does not take a bath? A Stink-o-Saurus

## Hawk Happenings - Week of 9/3 to 9/6/2024



[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (scroll down for most recent)

We really encourage you to look through the photos with your child.

### READING

Discerning rhymes in pairs of words / Review of /b/, /t/, /f/ - Two new sounds /u/ /g/ - Beginning vowel work and C-V-C word formation. The Hawks were amazed that they could read words formed from sounds/letters they know (bug, tug, but)




word review (I, am, see, a) / Matching upper & lower case letters, identifying and writing our names

### MATH

Number of the Week: 2/two - Writing 2's, Color: **Orange**

Hawks are learning to tally, to count carefully, to represent numbers using fingers, to recognize representations of numbers

1-10 in a flash, (how many dots are on the 10-frame)  / drawing circles / following directions

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

**Mandatory vs. Optional** - [Ask a Kindergartener!](#) / Nishi (our class sloth whose name comes from the Hebrew word *n'shamah* (breath) taught us breathing exercises she uses to sloooooow down and be mindful.

### JEWISH STUDIES

The Hebrew term for gratitude is *hikarat hatov*, which means, literally, "recognizing the good." During the blessings we sing each day, we practice gratitude.

Do you have 3 min. & 28 sec.? If so, sit down with your child and listen/sing along to our blessings [right here](#).

### NATURE STUDIES

What plants did you collect in the pollinator garden to put in our nature press?

What did we discover on our creek walk? Crayfish, animal tracks, moths, and rocks, rocks, rocks!

### QUICK QUERIES

What do mandatory & optional mean? Can you give examples of both?

Share what each person in your family does to calm down when lots of feelings are swirling around.

Can you sing our "Days of the Week" and "Months of the Year" songs?

What games did we play during PE with Steve?

What is Nishi looking at in the photo above? As an act of kindness, many of the kids drew special pictures for her.

### JOKES OF THE WEEK

What did the dinosaur say when it bumped its head? Dino sore      What's a bunny's favorite song? Hoppy Birthday to you  
Where is the best place to have a bubble gum contest? On a choo-choo train. What did the cat say when it got hurt? "Me Ow"





[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (scroll down for most recent)

**Your child will love looking through the photos with you!**

## **READING**

Review of /t/ & /b/ and intro of /f/ - letter sounds and letter formation / "starting letters at the top" / counting syllables in names (1:1 correspondence (pointing to individual words in a sentence/ sentence structure - L to R, spaces between words, punctuation (period) - New ♥ words (I, see, a, am) We learn them by heart, not by decoding / First journal writing (using ♥ words)

## **MATH**

Calendar (days, months, seasons, days in school)/ Sequential counting / 1:1 correspondence/ following step-by-step instructions / Pete the Cat's color word introduction (red)

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

Mindful breathing (Hawk breaths, 5 finger breaths, butterfly breaths)/ Continued emphasis on perseverance, trying scary things/How is our class like a family?

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

Mezuzahs and their meaning / what is a blessing / making stick mezuzahs / [Shema](#) prayer

## **NATURE STUDIES**

Bird observations (hawks, green herons, rooster (!) / kayaking / LCEC's pollinator garden / Trail walk to Northeast Park / Poison ivy ID-ing / Schenk's Creek exploration

## **QUICK QUERIES**

What do you remember about Nishi (our class sloth)?

What happened to the frog who was stuck in the bucket?

What blessing do we sing before snack? After lunch? Why do we sing these blessings?

## **JOKES OF THE WEEK**

What did the beaver say to the tree? It's been nice gnawing you

What is the color of wind? Blew

How excited did the gardener get about springtime? So excited he wet his plants!

Why did the man throw a bucket of water out the window? He wanted to see the waterfall.

What is the best day to go to the beach? Sunday

# Hawk Happenings

Week of 8/22 to 8/23/2024



[LINK TO PHOTOS](#) (*scroll down for most recent*)

## READING -

Distinguishing left from right (an important pre-reading/math skill), the letter /t/ - correct pronunciation and written formation / name writing

## MATH

Sorting by attribute (size/shape/color,etc.)  
What is the same, what is different?  
# of the Week: 1 /one/  
Shape: Circle  
Calendar Introduction:  
Seasons, Days, Counting

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

Acknowledging first week of school jitters (especially for Fuzzy Bear) / Perseverance / Making new connections with each other and with our new environments

## QUICK QUERIES

*"What did you do in school today?" "I don't remember..." (sound familiar?)*

*Use these questions to help your child recall particular learning adventures (great for dinnertime conversations!)*

Who is Fuzzy? Why was he scared? What do you like about him?

Why did you have a red ribbon or a heart on your hand? (Distinguishing left from right)

Why do we sing a blessing before we eat snack?

What are the new secret words that we learned from the aye-aye story? **"I can do this!"**

Every day we do different breathing exercises. Do you remember "butterfly breathing?"

What was your favorite part of playing in the river?

## JOKES OF THE WEEK - *We tell a new joke every day!*

What is the best place to grow flowers in school? Kindergarten

What did the tree say to the hungry caterpillar? Leaf me alone!