



## **The Cows**

### **September 12-16, 2011**

Dear Parents,

The cow class has had a very busy week as we ended our discussion and activities about creation. Each child's self-portrait turned out great! A small mirror was used to provide a "focal point" as questions were asked about facial features requiring concentration and noticing details unique to each child. We enjoyed experiencing this activity with your children and hearing their responses. It was fun!

As life is a series of cycles, we began to talk to the children about the four seasons and to briefly describe them, which presents a challenge living here in Florida! Our focus is on fall with many stories and projects planned. Young children of this age need concrete and hands on experiences to reinforce concepts.

With Rosh Hashana approaching, we have started to talk about this holiday and ways that we will celebrate using apples and honey. The children have started to get excited. We have a lot to look forward to!

#### Developing Skills

##### Math:

- counting, using the attendance of the children and also the dates of the calendar as we are now into the "teen" numbers, each teen number always having a "1" in it
- number recognition using the dates of the September calendar
- estimating, predicting how many apples tall each child thinks they are
- graphing, using 3 different colors/types of apples and doing a taste test of the result

##### Literacy:

- read the story "Apples, Apples, Apples", written and illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace which told about how apples grow and the different types of apples
- Miss Beth in music introduced the shofar and talked about it coming from a rams' horn and that there were four kinds of sounds blown. The children repeated the sounds after her, they really listened intently to her instructions

-a follow up book was read, "The Shofar Calls to Us"  
--played a listening game using pictures of faces that were cut in two. Each child found their partner with the matching half after listening to details about that face

#### Science:

-read the story "A Day at the Apple Orchard", written by Megan Faulkner, which went into more detail about how bees help to carry pollen from tree to tree  
-doing the taste test with different apples dipped in honey. Using words like sour, tart, sweet to describe the experience  
-following a recipe in the making of applesauce represented by pictures  
-discussion of weather and making a report through observation

#### Gross Motor:

-we had our first gym class with Miss Alisa and the children didn't want to leave the room. They were having so much fun! She taught them 2 yoga positions using the beginning of the alphabet, A for the alligator, and then they did airplane positions  
-mashing apples for applesauce, the smell was really yummy!

#### Fine Motor:

-out on the playground, the children scurried about to find fallen leaves and picking them up  
-using the playground leaves and others, did leaf rubbings on paper with fall colored crayons  
-the children are doing more to help themselves get dressed using buttons, snaps and zippers

#### Social-Self Help:

-continue to reinforce and practice routines and classroom rules  
-working on using manners at the table while we are eating  
-using our words to talk to our friends about what we want. We model for the children appropriate language to reflect their feelings

#### Judaic:

-we started the week with Havdalah  
-we're practicing blessings in Hebrew before snack and lunch  
-daily counting to ten in Hebrew  
-beginning discussions of Rosh Hashana  
-introduced the shofar, we will be making a shofar next week  
-we ended the week celebrating Shabbat, with Miles Young, Miss Shari's son, blowing the shofar  
-Hebrew words, we continue to practice previous words and our new words are: leaf-ale, fall-stav, apple-tapooah, honey-devash, Rosh Hashana-head of the year

.Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Sheri and Morah Fran