



The Moon Monthly

February 2010

The Ocean and Underwater Life



Adam goes fishing.

During the month of February, the Moons dove into a study and exploration of the ocean and underwater life. Towards the end of January, we read a book by Marcus Pfister called Rainbow Fish. The book is about a fish who learns that it feels good to share. The bright illustrations and shimmery holographs caught the Moons' attention and were intrigued by the different sea creatures in the book. This led to our unit on the ocean and underwater life.

The Moons were able to explore this theme during table top, small group, large group, and work time. They enjoyed using various toy sea creatures in and outside of the water table during work time. The Moons learned about and described unique attributes of various sea creatures, including animals with fins, gills, tentacles, pincers, and tails. The Moons discussed the similarities and differences of the creatures which developed their classification skills. Using the animals in games also allowed for practicing counting, sorting, and matching. The Moons pretended to fish during circle time and work time. The Moons practiced their colors and numbers with fishing rods, magnets, and magnetic sea creatures. During work time one could overhear a discussion about the Moons' catches: "I caught a red turtle," "I caught two seahorses."

The theme of the ocean and underwater life has provided for exploratory art projects during group time. One project the Moons worked on was a collaborative ocean collage. The teachers rolled out a long piece of white butcher paper that reached from one side of the classroom to the other. The Moons found a spot along the paper and together used crayons, glue, and tissue paper to create a magnificent ocean. They drew waves, crabs, turtles, mermaids, and more. The piece of artwork is now hanging in the classroom.



The Moons work on a collaborative collage.



Matias explores underwater animals.

The Moons also explored and learned more about underwater creatures through literature. Two authors in particular have sparked the interest of the Moons: Marcus Pfsiter and Eric Carle. The Moons have read three different books in the Rainbow Fish series. Each book introduced new sea creatures. Eric Carle's books also provide beautiful illustrations and information on ocean life. The Moons have read A House for Hermit Crab, Mister Sea Horse, and 10 Little Rubber Ducks. Through these books the Moons learned new vocabulary and increased their comprehension skills.



Bob Bluey

The Moons recently adopted a pet from the Comets' class. He is a blue beta fish named Bob Bluey. Bluey has provided new learning opportunities for the Moons. They are able to see the needs of an underwater creature first hand., and are gaining a sense of responsibility as each day a different Moon feeds Bluey. The Moons like to look at Bluey with a magnifying glass and blow him kisses at the end of the day. In science Andrea has also introduced the Moons to some living and once living sea creatures such as hermit crabs, puffer fish, and sea urchins.



Matias and Rosie get a closer look at Bob Bluey.



Lillian and Adam examine a puffer fish.

Ice Skating

On February 6th, the entire Gillen Brewer School went ice skating at the Skating Pavilion in Long Island City. The Moons were thrilled to ride the "big bus" on the trip. Every Moon on the trip tried ice skating, most for the first time! After skating, the Moons ate pizza, hotdogs, pretzels, and cookies. A highlight of the trip was seeing the Zamboni clean the ice.



The Moons watch the Zamboni.



Donna and Rosie ice skate.



Lillian and Matias enjoy their lunch.



See you in March!