

GRANT PARK NATURALIST NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019



Feeling refreshed from the holiday break, I reflect on the experiences that have led us on many journeys of thought. Through stories, walks, drawing, mapping, and sorting, the children are encountering various methods of learning. We joyously gather and sort natural materials for our offerings to the ants. These experiences have led to discussions about our connection to the natural world and the value that the children hold about nature.

The Children in the Swans Class continue with the thread of mapping. Their thinking includes how we get to the school, the landmarks we encounter and their placement in the neighborhood.

On our walks, the children wonder if they should bring food to the ants that live on a particular stump. This stump was once a giant tree across from the school and it was cut down. The children use their skills in measuring to estimate how much food would an ant eat, compared to a human. The materials we choose to offer, are lentils, bread and sunflower seeds. Pictured above are Milo, Luke and Vivienne, working on their map, observing and estimating how much food they believe the ants would be able to eat.

“We are going to bring this to the Ants “ Eloise

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I have begun to introduce our lunch meal in the kitchen Experience with the children from the Ladybugs class, in order to explore the connection we were having with their relationship to food and their knowledge of vegetables, etc. They have the skills now to chop, season food, make dressings & make bread. The children combine the vegetables pictured above for the whole school and count out the scoops. When I go to greet them in their classroom there is a lot of enthusiasm to go to the kitchen and to have these experiences surrounding food, which is why I have decided to continue this thread.



“Six Scoops a turn”- Margot

As we explore the ingredients, the children begin to notice the different dyes from fruits (berries) and vibrant spices. This led to our interest in creating dyes with these materials. The children are offered dye to paint with on various materials.



Thank You for all your ongoing support! Ella Ferguson GP
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