



The Marsh Messenger

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We Love Supporting

Counselor Time: We're practicing friendship skills this month including how to introduce, invite, apologize and reciprocate. We're learning that being a community means "we work together, we play together, we care for each other."

PE:
In kindergarten PE we have been talking about how to play safely at with friends. We discussed the difference between safe and rough play and practiced playing safely. We talked about how we could play with our playground toys like our tractors and balls. We also practiced playing make-believe. We pretended to be dinosaurs, pirates, and played house and zoo. Next we will begin exploring with scarves, bean bags, hula hoops, and ribbon wands.

In preschool PE we are learning dances to songs and pretending to be things like wind, motorcycles, and airplanes when we move.

Music:
In kindergarten music/library, we are continuing to work on keeping a steady beat and are growing the number of songs we can sing and do motions to. We recently went on a "bear hunt" and we always enjoy interacting with books we read.

In preschool music we are listening to the teacher read books learning songs and having fun moving our bodies to them.

Dear Families,

In Ellen Galinsky's book, *The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, Ellen elaborates on the skills that all children need to thrive throughout their lives. These skills are like our core muscles that make us fit and strong from the inside out. At our school we see the development of these skills as our primary responsibility.

They are:

Focus and Self-Control
Critical Thinking

Perspective Taking
Taking on Challenges

Communicating

Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

Making Connections

At Marsh we take seriously our responsibility to carry on your own "first teaching" and continue to develop these skills in the children we work and play with every day. We feel honored to join you in this important work and encourage you to hold us accountable for using our expertise to support the on-going emergence and growing independence of these skills in your children. If you would like to know more about these essential skills and the ways that parents and caregiv-

ers can teach them you can borrow the book from our parent library where we have many other resources to support you in supporting your child.

Our parent library is housed in the conference room at Marsh. Just stop by the office and check it out! Our counselor, Mrs. Haslar, is also happy to consult with you if you have any concerns about your child. We're so grateful for the time we have with each child at "The Sunshine School."

Happy October,

Stacey Plane,
 Marsh Principal/Director

Family fun at the Kids' Crane Festival

In honor of the migration of sandhill cranes to the SLV wetlands, Marsh School adopted the crane as a mascot over 20 years ago. Art around our building and "Kid Crane" as a Positive Behavior Support Character gradually became a school-wide theme representing what it means to be part of "the Sunshine School."

The Kid's Crane Festival is not a school event, but we encourage families to join the family fun on Saturday, October 5th. The festivities begin at the refuge visitor's center with free hot dogs and drinks from noon to 12:30 p.m., followed by an array of

exciting activities for both kids and adults including **crane viewing, kid's scavenger hunts, migration and egg matching games, wildlife trivia, crafts with pinecones and origami and a table for investigating owl pellets to reveal information about the raptor's diet and other natural traits.** Other activities include a puppet show and a trailer from the Rio Grande Water Conservation and Education Initiative with an interactive, hands-on model of the Rio Grande watershed and its wetland habitats. Families are encouraged to bring bicycles for a pedaling adventure around the refuge.

Last year's variety of activities attracted more than 200 kids and their families from all over Colorado. The Kid's Crane Festival is organized every year by the local nonprofit group Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge. **The refuge is located approximately seven miles south of Monte Vista on Route 15.** The festival will be held rain or shine. No reservations are necessary, but children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please call Tim Armstrong at 719-852-2452.

Safety Reminder: If you need to leave your car (morning or afternoon), please park in one of our parking slots or on the street. The loading zone is for drop off and pick up only. Children arriving after 7:45 must be signed in by a parent or guardian.