



# The Children's Center at Groton

Dear Families,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer. For the past week we have been working hard to welcome children and families to the new school year. We all traveled to Boston to visit the Wonder of Learning Exhibit. The exhibit was filled with documentation of the work in the schools in Reggio Emilia. The exhibit also highlighted the importance of seeing and treating children as competent citizens

in the community who have their own ideas and thoughts that should be valued. We see children as already having knowledge, not as empty vessels that teachers need to fill with knowledge. Because of this, children are active participants in their learning and they help to guide the classroom curriculum. Teachers observe what the children are interested in and what they know about a topic, and through those observations, set up provocations to allow children to work hands on with the topic of interest and to learn more through their play. The exhibit and the workshops we took while in Boston, reinforced our image of the child and reminded us why we do the work that we do. You will see the Reggio approach at work in our classrooms in different ways such as through observing the open-ended questions we ask the children, seeing how we let the children help to guide the classroom curriculum, and through the intentional materials and provocations that we provide the children with. Click the links below to see two short videos pertaining to the Reggio method.

[Reggio in a Nutshell](#)

[The Hundred Languages of Children](#)

During our Professional Development week, the teachers also participated in an escape room as a team building experience where we all had to work together and practice our communication skills to solve all the puzzles in the room in under an hour. The other days we spent in the school, holding staff meetings to reflect on the Reggio exhibit and the previous school year and to discuss how we will approach the new school year. Teachers spent a lot of time in their classrooms, rearranging furniture, cleaning out closets, planning for the first few weeks of September and ensuring that the rooms are ready for all of your children. B&G was here installing a new child-sized sink in the Seedling room.

Here is a recap to the '17-'18 school year, and we are all looking forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday to kick off our '18-'19 school year!

Throughout the year, we will be collecting non-perishable items for Loaves and Fishes. Donations can be dropped off in your child's classroom. Click the logo for more information.



the  
groton  
neighborhood  
food project

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# Classroom Updates

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## Seedlings

The Seedlings have Sprouted!

The Seedlings have germinated, taken root and are beginning to sprout. In August, the Seedlings have been preparing for their fall transitions. Most of the Seedlings are transitioning to the Sprout classroom. There is one seed, Liam, due to age that will continue to grow in Seedlings. Liam however is also transitioning to his new peers and is meeting his new classmates on a one-on-one basis. He is curious of the very small infants and gets very excited by loudly verbalizing when an older infant comes to visit! Hadley is making her own transition as she prepares for her new adventure with her family. Hadley continues to emerge as she is using new words every time she comes to school.

Nessa, Quincy, Lucy, Emerson and Reade have transformed from seeds to young plants and are ready to be a part of the Sprout classroom. Emerson and Lucy are observant when they visit the toddler classroom but thoroughly love the free play art. Emerson spends a lot of time at the easel painting and Lucy enjoys manipulating new art materials. Quincy is reveling in dramatic play in the toddler room, especially the kitchen. Reade and Nessa are curious when they visit Sprouts investigating all the new toddler provocations. Reade is fascinated by the scientific natural materials and Nessa is intrigued by the different layout of activities.

The Seedlings have sprouted and are ready to grow! We had a wonderful year together nurturing the young “plants” and have given them all a sprinkle of water and plenty of warm sun to flourish!

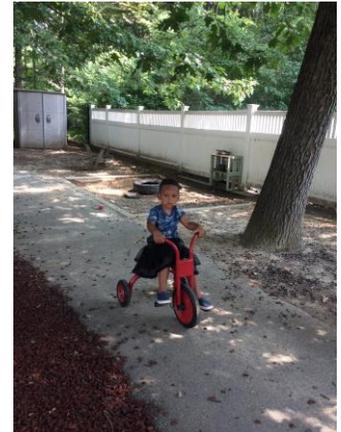


## Sprouts

The month of August has been a month of wonderful summer fun and lots of nature exploring. With the beautiful weather, our Sprouts have been able to take lots of walks to the Groton School playground and explore the beauty nature has to offer. Bugs, flowers, frogs and caterpillars became part of our daily conversations with our sprouts during and after our walks. We read several books and discussed the life cycle of frogs. The Sprouts were given different size frogs, eggs, lily pads, and other loose parts to explore with. Asha, Evan and Elizabeth used the sticks and rocks to build a home for the frogs to live in, what a wonderful way to explore habitats! James and Sebastian used the loose parts in another way, they gathered the lily pads together to create a long bridge for the frogs to jump on.

Our busy Sprouts also had fun learning about our ancient friends, dinosaurs. The interest of dinosaurs provided such a rich topic to learn with and there are so many different activities that we did as a class that helped them explore all of their questions. They enjoyed reading some of our favorite dinosaur books numerous times which prompted questions such as, "Why are they so large?," "Do they sleep?," and the most popular questions have been, "What do they like to eat?," and "Do they eat as often as babies?" These questions led to many different activities. One of the favorites was creating a menu for a dinosaur picnic using pencils and crayons to practice fine motor skills.

We can't believe this is the end of the school year. It's been such a wonderful journey getting to know everyone throughout the year. We wish Asha, Biz and Sebastian the best of luck becoming preschoolers. We know they are beyond ready. We look forward to another exciting year with Evan and James.



## Lily Buds

This month, the Lily Buds have been exploring lemons. We started with lemons in the sensory table. Ben made up a game and began catching the lemons, Ella used the lemon squeezer and said, "when I squeeze it I see and hear bubbles." Adam enjoyed squeezing the lemons and Bella said, "I see seeds." When Gavin came over he said, "I'm going to do this. I'm trying to squish the lemon." Elise joined and said, "I'm making juice for the dinosaur." When Harry came over to the sensory table he said, "the seeds are slippery." To extend the activity we made lemonade in a bag. After adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a lemon, water, ice, and some sugar we zipped the bags up and began shaking and mixing. Bella noticed that the sugar dissolved!! Then we added straws and tasted our lemonade. Gavin and Harry thought it tasted sour, Ella and Bella said it was yummy, Ben said it was good, and Adam said it was not very good. We also played with lemonade playdough. Adam found a basket and made lemon berries. Others enjoyed rolling the dough and adding buttons. Ben made a happy face with button eyes and Ella made a snowman. The Lily Buds also enjoyed painting lemon slices and making lemon prints. Harry said, "I dip two colors and color the lemon." We ended our exploration by tasting yellow and pink lemonade and for an end of the year treat we had lemonade pie. The saying is true, "Time flies when you're having fun."



## Peace Lilies

In August, we learned about community. At the beginning of the month, our main focus was The Groton food project. The children were very interested in learning about this project and how they could contribute food to people in their town. Max said, "When I go to the grocery store I will buy something extra and bring it into school." As a group activity, the children role played at a grocery store or a restaurant, giving out food to people. We had many conversations about who lives and works in our community. The children brainstormed other community helpers, their ideas were: librarians, garbage men, construction workers, police officers and mail men. Some of our discussions involved the children realizing that they are part of a Peace Lily community.

Peace Lilies worked on making their own communities within the classroom. Each child was given a large piece of cardboard to paint a picture of their home. We then set up our neighborhood throughout the classroom. As Christopher, Andrew, Teddy and Cooper added cars, roads and street signs, they were very curious what each sign represented. The children were provided opportunities to explore a variety of art materials including natural materials found outside. Seneca and Natalie worked hard as they collected a variety of sticks and rocks. The children used these materials to make their special home.

The past couple of weeks, the Peace Lily classroom has been busy preparing for the new school year. We have been showing the incoming Peace Lilies our classroom routine. They have enjoyed being role models to the younger children and showing them where things belong on the shelves.

As the school year comes to an end, the Peace Lilies have discussed what some of their favorite memories were and what some of our friends who are going to Kindergarten will miss most about CCG. Natalie will miss the teachers. Max, Christopher, and Anthony will miss playing with their friends and Andrew will miss doing art.

We wish the children and families leaving CCG the best of luck, and we look forward to having a great school year with our new and returning Peace Lilies.

