The Kindernews is the Children's School kindergarten class newsletter published to keep our families and friends updated on what is happening in the kindergarten classroom. The Kindernews is filled with photographs of your children working, learning and playing together. The Kindernews features your children as artists, inventors, explorers and authors. The Kindernews also addresses the philosophy behind the activities that engage your children. Along with our kindergarten classroom website (cmukindergarten.weebly.com), it is a link between our classroom and your home. We hope you enjoy!

Our 2019 school year began with getting acquainted with our classroom, the routine, the other friends and teachers. The children are practicing our morning routine of checking for notes in backpacks, greeting the greeter, hand washing and answering the Question of the Day. We became familiar with the classroom routines of freezing when the lights go out, coming to the teacher when the bell rings, walking in a line, pushing in our chairs, etc. The children learned our “necklace or chair system”, which helps us to monitor the amount of space available at a center.

We spent time in each classroom center to learn how to appropriately use the materials there. The children were given time to explore the materials freely. We learned where the materials live so that we can all share in the responsibility for cleaning up our space.

During lunch and snack, we are responsible for cleaning up our table space and taking care of the trash. The children are being introduced to time management and independence. Giving a two minute warning and providing a mailbox for them to keep unfinished work allows them to keep track of their own progress.
We have spent an enjoyable September learning about ourselves, each other and our families. The children drew self portraits that accurately represent their features (skin color, eye color and hair color). Self portraits are a great way for the children to express various aspects of themselves and their identities. All students were given a mirror to observe their facial features and look for small details. For this portrait, we concentrated on form and shape. The children concentrated on using the correct color to represent their features. Identifying eye color and hair color and graphing the results allowed us to realize the similarities and differences among us.

Creating self portraits using play dough and various loose parts for the features allowed the friends to express their artistic creativity. The friends practiced spelling their name by writing, painting, building and counting the letters in their name.

ME, YOU AND US

Each morning during circle time, we renew our promise to be kind by reciting our Kindness Pledge, “I promise to try my best to be a kind friend, to cooperate with others, use kind words, and stay safe.” The friends painted their kind hands and they are hanging on our classroom door along with the pledge.
The children continued to get to know each other through the month. To help with the process, we created Kindergarten Bingo. The game gave added practice in helping the children to identify the friends by their names and faces.

We used the children’s pictures to create our ABC patterns and built our friends’ names with magnetic letters. We also practiced each others’ names and faces by showing their pictures as we line up from the rug and going on a friend scavenger hunt around the classroom.

After we had practiced drawing ourselves, we moved on to drawing a friend’s portrait. One child was the artist using the easel to draw the model - focusing on detail. When the portrait was complete, the model and artist switched places. The children really concentrated on their works, taking particular care to draw their models in the correct clothing and always with a smiling face!

ALL ABOUT EACH OTHER

Some of the friends play Kindergarten Bingo.

Emma draws Evelyn.

Arich

Atticus

Felix

LucyJo draws Jun.

Aras draws Camden.

ALL ABOUT ME BAG

During the first week of school, the friends were asked to take home, fill and return an All About Me bag to share with their classmates. Using three special objects from home, the kindergarteners were able to share and learn something new about each other. Show and Tell is an effective and enjoyable way for young children to refine their public speaking and oral communication skills, build confidence and learn more about their classmates. The objects were photographed and made into a class book entitled “All About Me”.

Felix

Emma draws Evelyn.
We continued getting to know each other by sharing stories about the most important people in our lives, our families. The children created a family portrait combining shapes to represent each person in their family. The children were then given the task to build a home for their family members. “Your family needs a house to live in. Can you build one?” Using building blocks, the children used their problem solving skills and imagination to plan, measure and construct a house to fit all the members of their (doll) families. It was interesting to watch the children engage in this task. Each child was able to house their families but no two homes were alike! We had great conversations about what families like to do together and realized the similarities and differences between families but noticed the one thing that is similar in every family is...LOVE!

After building their homes, the children used marker and water color to draw and paint their homes.

ALL ABOUT OUR FAMILIES

KINDERGARTEN MATH

This month we practiced sorting, patterning and graphing. Sorting by color, size and other attributes helped the children compare, match and classify objects. We created AB and ABC patterns, which reinforced the children's ability to see relationships and make predictions. We continued to get to know each other by graphing our eye and hair color, as well as how many people there are in our family, and how many letters are in each first name. Graphing is an important math tool. It can be a simple way to introduce broader concepts of greater than/less than, or most and least.
KINDERGARTEN COOKING

Every week we have a cooking experience or tasting in the Kindergarten. We practiced our cutting and chopping skills when chopping fruit to make yummy smoothies. The next week, we sliced oranges before using the juicer to make orange juice. After every experience, we graph the results after answering the question of whether they liked the smoothie and orange juice.

KINDERGARTEN FRIDAYS

Every Friday, we embark on an outdoor exploration. Frogs, tadpoles, and a turtle greeted us during our first exploration at the Schenley Park Pond. Next, we took our collection bags to Flagstaff Hill and gathered acorns, leaves, sticks, and stones, etc. A gaggle of geese were waiting for us when we got there! One Friday, we walked down the long set of steps to arrive under the Pausch Bridge. We found a volleyball court and had fun playing Red Light, Green Light and racing games. On our way back to school, we stopped at a huge hillside to roll down and run up and down, navigating the steep slope.
COOPERATION IN KINDERGARTEN

As we continue to get to know each other and our shared space, we are constantly working on our cooperation skills. Our days are filled with opportunities to practice cooperation. Performing our classroom jobs, playing board games, following directions, listening when others are talking, planning and negotiating play on the playground, fun campus explorations and taking care of personal belongings are just a few ways the children demonstrate cooperation everyday.

Emma and Mary

Sylas and Max

Jun and Camden

Kipton and Atticus

Camden and Ava

Jun and Felix

Nicolas, James, Peter and Jamie

LucyJo, Camden and Aras

Atticus and Felix

castle building

COOPERATION!