

Communication Link

CESA #11 Head Start

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TWO WEEKS IN THE LIFE OF A HEAD START CLASSROOM

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer in a 4K classroom at Menomonie Head Start for two weeks. It was a wonderful experience for me as a parent of a student at Head Start. I really enjoyed seeing the relationships between the teachers and the students. They truly care about each child, and as a parent, that is important to me. It was also very interesting to observe their method of teaching. I really liked that the students learned a lot from playing and interacting with each other. I was also very impressed with the meals served to the children. They are extremely healthy, but in a child friendly way. It was also nice to see the kids eating together and passing the food.

Another reason why volunteering at Menomonie Head Start was such a positive experience for me, was the many things I learned to help me at home as a parent. I never realized how independent children can be. It was really eye opening for me to see the children serve themselves food, getting their winter clothes on with very little help, and so many other little things. I now think that I do not give my children at home enough independence. This has really helped me take a step back at home, and let them try to do things by themselves a little more. Also, the independence they are given during open play really opened my eyes. When we do projects at home, I always have a plan and think that's the way the kids should do it. But at school the kids were given craft supplies and they really got to choose what they did with them. That was very interesting to me, and I definitely took that technique home with me. Some other things that I loved learning were simple things like the songs they sing, the crafts they do, and just the different centers around the room.

Volunteering at Menomonie Head Start was such a wonderful, positive learning experience for me. I really enjoyed every aspect of it, and am so thankful for the techniques and ideas. I look forward to volunteering there again.

*Amanda Burrington
(Submitted by Laura Bundy, Combo FRP)*

NUTRITIONAL FOOD EXPERIENCE AT THE MENOMONIE HEAD START CENTER



Karen Fritz, Dunn County UW-Extension Nutrition Educator, visited Becky Evan's 4K classroom recently to present a nutritional food experience.

Karen demonstrated how to use a juicer, eat orange slices, and suck the juice out of wedges.

The kids enjoyed sampling mandarin oranges, clementines, and naval oranges.

Laura M Bundy, Combo FRP



The Home Visit group enjoyed the last story time of the school year with our dedicated volunteer, Eunice Hop, as she read "The Letters are Lost" by Lisa Campbell Ernst. Eunice did a great job helping the children find each letter!

Thank you Eunice and Wisconsin Bookworms for supplying each Head Start child with books throughout the year to add to their home libraries!



In honor of "The Week of the Young Child", a mural was made by children at the New Richmond Head Start Center, and was placed in the social room of the St. Croix County Health Center for the residents to enjoy.

Jill Lindell, Home Visitor

RICE LAKE HEAD START PARENT GROUP FUN NIGHT

The Rice Lake Head Start parent group had a Family Fun Night on March 15th, with Juggler, Steve Russell, entertaining them and involving the children in the show.

After the presentation, everyone was treated to pizza.

A good time was had by all!

Rice Lake Head Start



EVENTS AT THE POLK COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Families and friends enjoyed snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, face painting, a cake walk, and many other games while attending the Polk County Early Learning Center (PCELC) Recruitment Carnival on April 13th, to enroll their child(ren) for the 2011-2012 school year.

Also, the AKF Martial Arts Academy from Amery was there to show the children how to protect themselves from strangers.



*We also had a great
turn out for our
Scholastic Book Fair!
Lynn Root, Center Assistant*

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD AT MENOMONIE HEAD START



On April 14, 2011, the Director of the Dunn County United Way, Diane Simon, was named "Queen for the Day" to honor her continued support of our program.

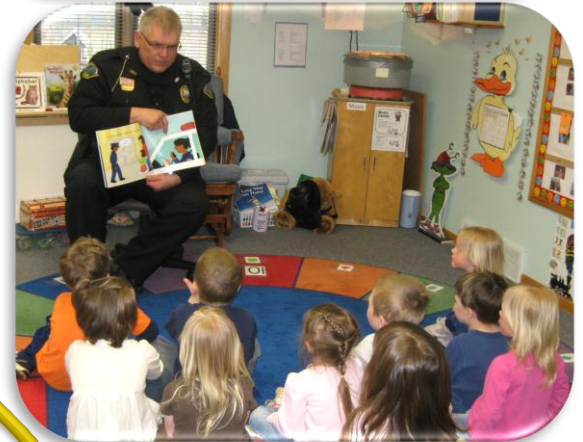
She received a crown and sash made by the children, which she wore for lunch with Angie Welch's 4K classroom.

Laura Bundy, FRP

CORNELL HEAD START OBSERVED “THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD”, APRIL 11 – 15.

- Monday, the children watched a demonstration by the Cornell ambulance crew. Some children got to sit on the stretcher as the EMTs lifted them into the ambulance and took them for a ride.
- Tuesday, there was much excitement as the children greeted their grandparents or special friends. They decorated frames together and placed a picture that was taken that day, made bracelets or necklaces of beads, enjoyed a snack, and joined in some of the songs that the children sing in class.
- Wednesday, families went to Eau Claire to watch the CVTC puppet show, with tickets provided from the parent group fund.
- Thursday, the children rode the bus to the Cornell Public Library where the librarian read a book to them and showed them around the library.
- Friday, Cornell Chief of Police, “Big John”, read to the children and gave them safety coloring books. He also demonstrated some equipment used in police cars.

Melody Peloquin, Center Assistant



RIF FUNDING ELIMINATED

For many years children across the nation have benefitted by receiving wonderful books through the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. RIF, the nation’s largest nonprofit children’s literacy organization, provided over 15 million free books to approximately four million children. Unfortunately, during the federal budget debate for fiscal year 2011, the RIF program funding was eliminated.

Although Mary Nelson, PCELC Center Director and our RIF Coordinator, received this disappointing news in mid-April, she was able to complete an application for renewal that will be honored utilizing fiscal year 2010 funding and private donations for the upcoming school year. RIF programming beyond next year is uncertain at best, and will be dependent on private and corporate donations.

Sharon Glessing, Head Start Director

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