

News! News! News!



Calvin Hill Day Care and Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten
Writing and photography - Eve Alexandra Layout and design - Dan Cogan-Drew

Fall 2007

“News! News! News!” is looking for a new name! Send us your suggestions!

HARVEST TIME

Sunflowers, pumpkins, potatoes, horse chestnuts, apples, and hay. Visit the Preschool and you'll be amazed at the many forms and representations of nature you'll find. There are sunflower dissections, pumpkin carvings, and mixed-media art. The children's careful observations have led to inspired, innovative creations. The unusually warm fall has been fertile for all sorts of exploration. The children have been bringing in many treasures from their gardens such as Franklin's glorious potatoes, Greta's giant sunflower, and Frances's purple roses. And it's truly amazing just what the Preschoolers have found to study and work with on our own playground!!!

You may have noticed the sukkah the children created with found objects, grasses, branches, and dried flowers from the playground. They worked together as a group to create a beautiful canopy over the shed. Inspired, they moved on to the fence and began weaving.

Of course, harvest time also brings family and friends together for food! The Preschool created its very own New Haven pizza parlor, rolling out dough, cooking and serving up pepperoni, soy pepperoni, cheese, and broccoli to 28 hungry children and 6 hungry teachers. Thanks to Linda they even had official pizza boxes!



Malachai, Greta, and Emma present their magnificent "Nature Creations."

A SPECIAL VISIT



Helen offers Bear a carrot. Did you know Marshmallow and Bear especially love fresh carrot greens just like our own Coco bunny?

The Preschool and Threes welcomed some very important guests on Monday October 29. Police Officers Kim and Jeff of the New Haven Mounted Unit arrived on Marshmallow and Bear at the Highland Street end of the playground. Marshmallow and Bear are both Percherons, and they are very large. You can find Marshmallow and Bear hard at work on patrol on the green in Downtown New Haven during the week or relaxing on the weekends in Edgerton Park.

At meeting the next day, the teachers asked, “Can you tell me something about the horses?”

Here are some of the responses:

Caleb: “One of the horses was named Bear, but it’s really a horse.”

Gonzalo: “There was a lot of poop!”

Laurent: “Il est grand!”

Dan: “I liked Marshmallow best because it’s something you can eat. I also noticed the horseshoes. Horseshoes help protect his feet.”

ACORNS EVERYWHERE

Welcome to our youngest children! Sixteen new friends have joined the three teachers, fellow Kristen, and Coco Bunny in the Threes classroom.



Djassi and Alex hard at work on the worm home.

The children have been very busy building relationships, exploring their classroom and playground. And what have they found on their playground? An abundance of acorns! Like the Preschool, the Threes have been very inventive with found objects. They have collected acorns, counted them, and painted with them! There have been acorn “teas” and acorn art. They had an acorn parade with acorn shakers. They have even planted some acorns and they have begun to sprout. Perhaps in many, many years there will be future Threes collecting acorns from these trees! At music time they have been learning Calvin Hill favorites, “I’m a Nut” and “The Squirrel Song.”

Shake your bushy tail!



Yasmeen and Avery on the playground. Yasmeen is the daughter of Calvin Hill alumna Alicia Shabazz.

The playground has also been a place to climb, ride bikes, build with crates and blocks, and explore what’s living there. The Threes found some worms and built a special worm home for them. They were carefully observing and collecting worms. When asked Alex provided information about worms. “What do worms look like?” “Dirt!” “What do worms eat?” “Dirt!”

SCIENCE AND ART IN THE KINDERGARTEN--- BEETLEMANIA!

The fifteen Kindergarteners have also made use of the acorns covering the Calvin Hill playground. A group of Kindergarteners was very busy gathering and investigating weevil larvae from a large basket of acorns. Carefully using nutcrackers and protective goggles Selma, Eva, and Tasha demonstrated how they collect data on the weevils. The three demonstrated great enthusiasm and affection for their subjects. Eva offered several observations including, “Weevils have no legs. They grow into beetles. This is Stinky!”



Weevilologists Selma (with “Mud”), Eva (with “Stinky”) and Tasha (with “Pudding” and “Broccoli”)

Winnie opened the door to the fire escape to show a jar with three weevils. The Kindergarteners have carefully replicated the outside environment to see if the larvae will hatch into weevil beetles. The process takes approximately three weeks. The Kindergarteners even made dye from acorns!

The Kindergartners demonstrate impressive focus in all their observations. Claire examined a monarch’s wing under the microscope, and Anna drew her impressions of a sculpture she had previously created. At another table, a group of illustrators worked on their books. The Kindergarteners have also been busy cooking and creating in the kitchen---corn-on-the-cob, salsa, and guacamole!

New Parent Committee Chair

As many of you know, Elizabeth Smith served as chair of the Parent Committee for many years. Her youngest child graduated from Calvin Hill last year, and Elizabeth passed the reins to Candace Skorupa Walton. Candace’s daughter Lily joined the Threes last year and is now enrolled in the Preschool. Candace and family return to New Haven where she was an undergraduate and received her PhD in Comparative Literature. She continues to work as a French translator and has even been known to offer the occasional French lesson at Calvin Hill! Her husband Zac is a third-year medical student at Yale. We welcome Candace and applaud her for taking on this important volunteer position. Parent participation is vital to the success and growth of Calvin Hill. It’s also a wonderful opportunity to make friends and enrich the Calvin Hill experience for both you and your child. Please contact candace.skorupa@aya.yale.edu if you’d like to help.



Teaching Fellows



Calvin Hill is fortunate to receive funded fellowships from the Harris and Seedlings Foundations for recent college graduates. Amanda Kaplan, Harvard graduate and Harris fellow in the Preschool last year, has joined the Kindergarten as a Seedlings Teaching Fellow. Matt Curry, Vassar graduate, is in the Preschool, and Kristen Pallonetti, Cornell graduate, is working with the Threes. Their presence, energy, and dedication are invaluable and all the fellows become treasured members of the Calvin Hill community. In fact a former Seedlings fellow, Patrick Kearns, joined the Kindergarten as an assistant teacher this fall. Welcome!

Parent Work Day

Carla reports the first parent work day was a success! “A great and willing and talented crew” pitched in to reinforce the roofs on each of the sheds, build and paint a picnic table for the Threes, and spruce things up inside and out! Thank you to all who participated. February 9th crew—mark your calendars!

Calvin Hill Community Children’s Art Calendar

It’s almost here! The twenty-eighth edition of the calendar celebrates the children, art, and spirit of Calvin Hill. Each child’s art work and photograph are included. Perfect for holiday gift giving! Each family is expected to sell at least five calendars. The calendar will be on sale at the Yale Barnes and Noble as well as at DAVA this year. This is our biggest fundraiser.

The proceeds directly support the sliding scale tuition.



Save the Date!

November 18 (Sunday) 4:30-6:30 pm. Potluck supper. Bring something delicious! A storyteller will perform for the children at approximately 5:15 pm. Enter your prize dish in the soy butter bake-off!

December 1 (Saturday) 9:00-10:30 am. Preschool Family and Staff Sing-along and Potluck Breakfast—an opportunity to learn the songs you hear so often!

December 14 (Friday)

12:15 pm Preschool & Kindergarten—lunch provided for parents. Kindergarten Sing-along. ALL parents invited!

12:30-1:00 pm Threes Family and Staff Sing-along and Dessert— an opportunity to learn the songs you hear so often!