



www.cobbmeadowschool.org

March 2006

What's New

COBB MEADOW OPEN HOUSE



**Saturday, April 8th,
10:00am to noon**

**Please tell your friends
that Cobb Meadow is
now enrolling for Fall
2006.**

The Cobbler

a newsletter of the Cobb Meadow School

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Dear Parents,

Our sugaring days have been glorious and I want to share some details with you. When Jim is out minding the steaming cauldron of boiling sap, we get out earlier than usual, and have an extended and leisurely time outside. Twice, Ivy took a small group of children across the road to empty the sap buckets. Today I gathered up just one child, and she and I headed across the road. The cold snap was just ending, so many of the buckets were empty, but the buckets in the sunshine were full. Today's sap collection finished, Alyssa and I went to take a closer look at the chimney that stands kitty corner from Jim's boiling spot. We invited a couple other children to go with us, but Ruth, Natalie and Woody were busy watering and protecting a seed that they had planted. Natalie informed me that if they had done a good job tending the seed, then one day I would not have to cross the road to collect sap- I could just collect it right there!

Indoor time this morning was comical, I realized how many little items I had misplaced on Wednesday, the first day Ivy was away. Woody, Liam and Rachel were looking for a "case", as has been usual this week, and I thought they would help me find the missing snack chair symbols. They however, were busy: Molly and Faith heard my pleas and began searching. They reported back that they needed a flashlight and a stick, and they poked under every radiator, finding sweet small things that have been missing for months, a blue half circle block for our shape truck, and a tiny wooden apple were especially welcome finds. The flashlight I had for them is as big as Faith's arm, and heavy, but they handled it well.

I have been pairing children up for activities- and although my motivations stem from a certain need, the results are something lovely and more than what I was aiming for. I see the possibility for new friendships, and a palpable sense of accomplishment when the children finish setting or clearing the table.

There are a few children who are only at school together once or twice a week, and some of these children are just discovering each other now. Eli and Liam were having such fun falling over each other and scheming and hunting, and I don't think I have ever seen them together before this past Wednesday. Ruth and Molly worked together for the first time today, until Molly went off in search of lost articles. Today Colin and Finn had the honor of taking Jim some warm snack, Taylor and Diego shared that privilege earlier this week. Yesterday, we could feel the sap rising in the classroom. The children were so antsy indoors, that we cleaned up early and played hide and seek during free play. Finn was the most hidden and we almost lay down for rest without him! Even Hazel did not know where her cousin was. Before the excitement level rose, Jeni had plenty of help with the millet rolls, and orange cutting, and I think all the children present sat with me to help make a beeswax sugar camp. Many children made fire. Diego wanted to make pine cones so that the fire would have many colors in it. Corrina and Hazel made ladles for testing the syrup, and Finn made a cup for tasting. I usually only have one color beeswax in my pocket, but yesterday I surprised the children with how many colors I had for them. Many of the beeswax creations went home yesterday, but we will add to it for while.

Boot jack sawing is progressing slowly. Let me know if you want to come in and supervise sawing for an hour or so. Samuel, Eli and Finn have been our most dedicated sawyers thus far. I have started parsing put some of the bigger jobs to our kindergarteners. Corrina ironed with the electric iron earlier this week, and she and Finn both cut up oranges with good sharp knives, under Jeni's supervision.

Love Anne

Stories This Month

This month we heard a classic Grimm's fairy tale, **Mother Holle**. Ivy told a tale about a **tomten** who helps the farm animals through the cold days of winter and brings them the first green shoots of grass. Jim told story outdoors by the fire one day: he told a story of a boy discovering maple sap and collecting it for his family. We are just in the middle of hearing **Akimba and the Magic Cow**- one of my favorites.

Circle right now is a **Mother Goose** circle, with lots of jumping and sweeping, balancing and searching. We are very dramatic with talking to the old woman who has been tossed up in the basket, and the children love old Dame Dob, who fixes up Jack's crown with vinegar and brown paper. The cadence and magical language in the fairy tales are rich. Mother Goose rhymes have been around for generations, and the rhythm and rhyme are nourishing and so much fun. The circle we are working on will get much longer, and includes several obstacle course elements. In our small space, we can't really set it up before circle, so we set the elements up as we need them. This gives a few children a wonderful opportunity to be very helpful.

The verses that the children learn at circle, the finger plays, and the listening skills they gain through circle and story, are all integral parts of your children's pre-literacy education. I only show children letters and words when they ask for it and that does not even happen when we are drawing birthday book pictures this year, but I know I am helping their language development and future writing skills every day.

Millet Rolls

Mix approx 3 cups whole wheat flour with 2 cups water, and one tablespoon dry active yeast. The mixture would be about as thick as creamy yogurt. Put this "sponge" into a large bowl as it may grow, and leave it in a cold place (fridge) overnight. 8-12 hours later, take it out of the fridge and let it warm up a bit if you have time. Then add:

1 T salt
1 cup millet
½ cup honey or maple syrup
¼ cup oil

Stir well for 4 minutes. Add 2-3 cups unbleached white flour, ½ cup at a time, and mix in each time. You want good flexible and elastic dough, not too dry. Knead by hand 6-8 minutes. Let rest. Ivy then cuts the dough in half many times, until she has about 25 little balls of dough. Give the children a bit of flour for their hands and the table, and let them knead a bit. Arrange to rolls on a sheet, not too crowded, not too separate. Cover with clean cloth and let them rise a bit before putting in the oven, 350 degrees, for approximately 25 minutes.

At Cobb Meadow, the oven only gets hotter and hotter, and we can't see the temperature on the thermometer, but the rolls turn out fluffy and light!

If you would like to visit on a Wednesday morning and help with millet rolls, let us know.

Parent Teacher Conversation

I am meeting with people during lunch or at 2pm. Do either of these times work for you? Let me know.

You can always check: www.cobbmeadowschool.org for additional information and downloads.

Wish List

Does anyone have a place to hang Cobb Meadow flyers?

fat broccoli bands

small jars for maple syrup

baby food jars for painting day

8 1/2 x11 white paper for coloring

white, blown out eggs for dying!

small rakes, shrub rakes for the children

or let Anne know when you see these items at the Agway or job lots store.



Monadnock Waldorf School 7TH Grade Fundraiser

Order 4", 6" or 7 ½" pots of Tulips, Hyacinths, mini 125 daffodils, or jet fire daffodils \$4, \$12.50 and \$14, respectively. These pots would be delivered to Cobb Meadow on April 13th. See Anne for order forms.