

Hancock County Pre-K Celebrates Pre-K Program 25th Birthday



Every year during the first week of October, the state of Georgia recognizes its Pre-K program. Hundreds of state and local leaders celebrated the 25th birthday of Georgia's Pre-K Program by reading to Georgia's youngest learners from October 2 - 6 as part of Georgia Pre-K Week 2017. The goal of Pre-K week is to emphasize the importance of quality early childhood education by providing opportunities for leaders to engage with Pre-K classrooms in local communities. To acknowledge our Pre-K program at Hancock County Head Start/Pre-K, we engaged in various STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) activities. The children were so delighted to have staff and stakeholders from within our school district to visit daily and read to the children.



The week began on Monday with the students engaging in an engineering and technology activity which consisted of building a sailboat. The children were given pre-cut apples, a craft stick, and felt. Each student created a sailboat and had the opportunity to race their sailboats with their peers in the sensory table that was filled with water. Mrs. Annie Ingram, Board of Education Chairperson, read "Clifford the Big Red Dog" by Norman Bridwell. She

interacted with the children and they eagerly participated by asking and answering questions. Tuesday begin with the students making their own watermelon art by using red, green, and black paint, paint brushes, and a paper plate to create the watermelon. Also, the students enjoyed making their own tie dye shirts using their own color choice with the help of two parent volunteers. Mrs. Betty Legette, Assistant Director/ Family Service Manager read "Why Do Frogs Have Big Eyes" by Betsy Franco. She was very animated and the children thoroughly enjoyed the story.

On Wednesday, the children were captivated with a science experiment. They assisted the teachers in measuring items that created a volcano. Mrs. Lois Clark, Health & Nutrition Manager read "It looked like Spilt Milk" by Charles G. Shaw. Mrs. Clark allowed the student to spill their own so that they could discuss with her what the milk looked like once it had spilled. The morning was completed with open discussion about electricity with a Georgia Power Education Coordinator, Mr. Bill Glisson. Thursday morning begin with Mrs. Vernelle Smith, Early Head Start Center Manager, read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. Mrs. Smith was thrilled as the students listened and interacted with her. As a follow up activity, the students were in deep thought as they created a caterpillar. The students colored the caterpillar's head



and attached numbered circles in sequence from 1-6, to form the body. To conclude this math activity, the children danced and sang along to the song, "Number Rock." The week was concluded on Friday as the students were entertained by a puppet show that was performed by Mrs. Tara Worthen, Head Start/Pre-K Education Manager. After the show, the children were excited to build their own fruit salad using fresh fruit. They also observed how materials change form as they made their own juice. Mr. Elmer Harper, Hancock County School Director of Transportation, read "David Goes to School" by David Shannon. He was engaging and the students were very impressed and enjoyed Mr. Harper as he was very energetic. Our students celebrated being in the Pre-K program with lots of laughter and educational activities all week long. It was a great week in Hancock County Pre-K.