



# Freiland News

Dear Parents,

The biggest highlight of November was our “Laternenfest”. The first days of the month we practised the songs almost every day, and some of the children finished crafting their Lanterns, which we made putting the long paper in a box and spreading paint on it with help of some marbles. The children enjoyed using this technique!

This month we have continued observing how the trees loose more and more leaves, we have had visitors at the Freiland house area (birds, squirrels), who are getting ready for winter, and we have even had the chance to play with snow!

Last but not least, we also got the chance to explore new places for some of the children: a new area at the forest, a new playground which is further (Postwiese), with a high climbing area and a slide and we went to the Englischer garten and walked towards the Isar. The children observed it with amazement!

## What have we been up to?

### Arts and Crafts

- Coloring Autumn and winter coloring pages/mandalas.
- Each child crafted their own lantern, putting it in a box with some marbles and paint on it. They then moved the box and the marbles moved around, spreading the paint and mixing it.

- This month the children made a calendar for our Freiland house. Different children got a different month (cardboard) and had to draw something characteristic of the month on it.
- One afternoon we painted on some stones with some special pens

## Nature, experiments and maths

- The children have still been playing with leaves this month. One morning there was an enormous pile at the Tunnelrutsche playground. The children had fun climbing on it and jumping/sliding down. The week after we went back there and some of them observed that the pile was gone!
- This month we have been collecting different natural materials for our upcoming workshop with Julia: leaves, little stones, bigger stones... the children had a lot of fun in collecting.
- One morning we went to the forest and got off at “Großseseloher Brücke”. We then walked next to the train tracks to a big area where we could see the trains passing by. Nearby, there is a big tippi and the children did some role play next to it. Another time, we walked towards the next stop “Menteschweige”. The children enjoyed exploring new paths.
- The steep hills at the Englischer Garten are really loved by our Freiland children. Whenever we go there, no matter where exactly we are, they will climb and run, and slide or roll down them. The last time we went there, we went for a walk and spent some time looking at the Isar.
- On our walks we collected some sticks. We then measured them and cut them and made two Christmas trees for our Freiland gates (a small one and a bigger one!). We will hopefully decorate them the next weeks.
- The preschoolers did an experiment in which they blew many bubbles in a cup (we mixed paint, water and soap). They then made prints by pressing a piece of cardboard on top of the bubbles. We also did another technique in which they had to blow bubbles directly on the piece of cardboard. This was a lot of fun!
- The preschoolers have been learning about primary and secondary colours. One day, we did an experiment in which we cut little pieces of crepe paper and put them in water. We observed how the water changed its colour. We then got three cups and put some tissue between two different cups with coloured water in them and an empty one in the middle (one with red and blue water, another with blue and yellow water). We then observed how the water rose up and went into the middle cup. The water was a combination of the colour in the two other cups!

## Movement and sport

- Every month: running up and down the hills at the Hypo Park. Climbing on trees. Climbing, sliding, swinging, balancing at different playgrounds.
- Playing football is something that the children still love doing. Especially with Jacob :)
- One morning, at the Postwiese playground we played a new group game
- “klebriger Popcorn”. We all had to jump individually and stick to other children until we were a big amount of popcorn stuck together!
- At the Postwiese playground some of the children climbed to the top of the challenging climbing pyramid, and then slid down the slide which is attached to it.

## Language and Interaction

- On the first Tuesday of the month, we did “show and tell”. Each child was able to bring a toy, a book or an object from home. They showed it and told us about it.
- Melanie told the children the story of Saint Marktin!
- We have been singing different songs, telling/learning new rhymes and finger games in both English and German. We also played a new group game about a big fat pumpkin (we used a stone instead) which the children passed around. In order to pick the next child, they had to look for a name (all of the names were written and lying on a mat) and say it out loud. Each child practiced recognizing their own name and the name of the others.
- This month we have introduced a “Kamishibai”, a Japanese frame used for telling stories to children. Instead of reading a story we tell it and the children interact with us/ we ask questions and they have to guess what will happen next, etc. The children really enjoyed this! (and the teachers too)
- One morning, we played a group game in which a child hides under a blanket and another one has to guess who is missing by looking around. If this doesn't work, the “ghost” (child hiding) makes a sound and then it is easier to guess!

## **Music with Julia (written by her)**

I want to thank all the indoor and outdoor Kindergartens teachers who helped me make this workshop dream a reality! We helped the children make so many beautiful and functional instruments in a very short amount of time!

Thank you to all the parents for bringing in your recycled materials! The next collection assignment is the colorful tops to Quetschies... :)

Instrument description:

Tin can instrument: it's the ultimate multifunctional 5-in-1 instrument. It is a drum, a Guiro, a rattle, a plucking instrument and a microphone. (The drum is filled with bottle tops and the outdoor group also added small stones they had collected)

FYI: If the balloon on the drum breaks, it can simply be replaced with a new balloon and tape.

Each child made one paper shaker filled with rice and chickpeas and one bottle top rattle, which they hammered themselves.

## **Mindfulness with Paulina (written by her)**

We are so happy to be back after a long break. I was so happy to see so many familiar faces and new children joining the mindfulness time. We started with some games to learn our names and we created our mindful tree. This tree that the children made with their handprints was the start of our mindful journey. Each child picked a color, and all the hands together made the foliage, it looks beautiful. Afterwards, we did our very first little meditation, we closed our eyes and we concentrated on the sounds around us. Many children could hear other children playing in the garden, teachers talking, cars and even the tic tac from the clock.

During our sessions we will have different stories told by different puppets. These stories have hidden meanings and interpretations. We talked about friendship and kindness. The protagonists of these stories are Mr. Happy Panda, Mr. Monkey and Our newest addition Gerald the Giraffe. Each character will tell a different story and together we will learn new words, meanings and mindfulness.

### **Important dates to remember:**

- Nikolaus might visit us at the Freiland house on Monday (6th of December).
- Our next “show and tell” will be on the 7th of December.
- Our workshop with Julia will be on the 8th and on the 15th of December (half a group each time).
- On the 17th of December, we will celebrate the Christmas party with the children.
- Our last day before the holidays will be Friday, the 23rd of December.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about our month!

**Your Freiland Team**