



March 2010

Dear Families,

The preschool and pre-kindergarten classes have started OWL Unit V: *Shadows and Reflections*. All classes will explore shadows and reflections through observations, experiments and books. Your child will continue to learn about letters, sounds and numbers, as well as participate in many mathematics, science, music, poetry and art activities.

During this unit, your child will learn that (1) reflections are images that are thrown back from a shiny surface, (2) a reflection cannot exist without light, (3) mirrors and still water reflect light well, and dull surfaces do not, (4) if water is moving, the reflections will be blurry or crooked, (5) objects are **opaque** (will not allow light to pass through), **translucent** (allows light, but not enough to see things on the opposite side), or **transparent** (easily seen through), (6) shadows are the dark areas that are made when an object blocks light, and (7) depending on how close an object is to a light source, the size of the shadow will vary.

Books about shadows and reflections are available in the classrooms. As you read these stories together, use your child's own experiences to understand the characters, and use vocabulary from the classroom to help support what she/he is learning at school.

For some of the classroom activities, your child will use materials you may already have at home. We would appreciate your support in collecting various recyclables or "beautiful junk" items. Teachers can use **trays (cardboard or plastic), empty plastic bottles, paper towels and plates, boxes with lids (all sizes), empty plastic containers, plastic containers with lids (transparent and opaque), plastic screw-top container lids (peanut butter, spice bottles, coffee jars), unpainted metal jar lids, and clear, plastic water bottles.**

Your child will receive a copy of Eileen's Spinelli's *Night Shift Daddy* to add to her/his library. This book contains vocabulary from the classroom and illustrations that support your child's newly-acquired knowledge of shadows and reflections. Please see the family bookmark for suggested ways you can use the book during your reading time together.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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