

# Benjamin's News

Volume 1, Issue 9

September 2000

## Sunny September

- ◆ Tornado tube water explorations
- ◆ Counting and sorting coins and dollars; trading dimes and nickels for quarters, and quarters for dollar bills
- ◆ Reading price tags for fishing tackle at the sporting goods store
- ◆ Bike riding down the hill to the lake to go fishing
- ◆ Gymnastics lessons
- ◆ Handstands: on the ground, against a wall, on the parallel bars
- ◆ Planting red tulip and yellow daffodil bulbs
- ◆ Picking blackberries for pie
- ◆ Writing with blackberry ink and a feather pen

## Books Books Books

- ◆ Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers
- ◆ The Wing Shop
- ◆ Market Day
- ◆ Lizard's Song
- ◆ Dance Away
- ◆ Blue Sea
- ◆ Sun's Up
- ◆ Jump, Frog, Jump
- ◆ Over in the Meadow
- ◆ Across the Stream
- ◆ Stop, Thief!
- ◆ Freight Train
- ◆ Cloudy Day, Sunny Day
- ◆ How Do You Lift a Lion?
- ◆ Simple Machines
- ◆ Kids' Poems
- ◆ The Doorbell Rang
- ◆ Whose Mouse Are You?
- ◆ Ten Black Dots
- ◆ Magic By the Lake
- ◆ Skip To My Lou
- ◆ Don't Forget the Bacon
- ◆ Clocks and More Clocks
- ◆ A Dozen Dozens
- ◆ Which Witch is Which?

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Learning Renaissance Lego Lab  
Lego Engineering Classes**

**First visit to meet Ben's cousin Luke,  
born this month**

**Swimming at the Mountlake Terrace  
Indoor Pool**

**A few more sunny Fridays  
at Flowing Lake Park**

## Sunny September

- Creating a puppet show stage for performances with puppets from the Shoreline Library
- Roller blading
- Singing repetitive songs:  
Mary Wore Her Red Dress  
Skip to My Lou  
Over in the Meadow
- Playing with magnetic letters
- Reading simple books and poems
- Telling time to the hour and ½ hour with an analog clock
- Helping Mom transplant perennial flowers in the front yard garden
- Building a miniature sailboat
- Favorite TV show: Popular Mechanics for Kids
- Nature walk to gather red, yellow, and orange autumn leaves
- 12-sided dice addition games with Cuisenaire rods
- Favorite board game: Bonkers
- Using batteries, wires, and motors to experiment with electricity

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## LEGO PLAY

Ben has started his first few Lego Lab classes this month. He works with 3-4 other kids and a teacher named Matt. Right now they're using Legos to create a variety of simple machines. As they build different machines, they talk about each part and its functions.

- Levers
- Pumps
- Balance
- Catapult
- Car with ramp and winch

## POETRY PLAY

We've recently enjoyed brainstorming lists of words related to a given topic (i.e. summer) and then using those words to create our own poems together. I write the words in a list and then also record any phrases or sentences Ben suggests while we're discussing the topic. I write these on tagboard strips so we can arrange and rearrange the words and phrases into a poem we like. Then we staple the strips into a book and add pictures. Here are a few recent creations.

### SUMMER

Warm sunshine  
Blue sky  
Sandy beaches  
Juicy watermelon  
And good friends

### FALL

Sometimes sunny  
Sometimes rainy  
Sometimes windy  
Leaves turn orange and yellow,  
and sometimes reddish-pink.  
And then they fall.

*“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”*

*~ Albert Einstein*

After a full day of lots of play with a growing collection of wires, connectors, batteries, and motors, Ben described in detail all of his creations. Then he exclaimed, “**Isn't it cool what I can do with my imagination!**”

## **Grocery Store Math**

While shopping, I was comparing prices for boxes of baking soda. I decided on the store brand for 55 cents a pound. I picked out two boxes and put them in the cart. I didn't really think Ben was paying attention, but then he said, “Two boxes cost one dollar and ten cents!” He smiled and then started singing, “Multiplying, multiplying, in my head. Multiplying, multiplying, in my head.”

## **Favorite Authors**

These are the authors of some of the predictable books we've been reading lately.

Ezra Jack Keats

Tommy DePaola

Mirra Ginsburg

Pat Hutchins

George Shannon

Robert Kalan

Bill Martin, Jr.

Lois Ehlert

Remy Charlip

Pamela Allen

Denise Fleming

## **More Books**

- Pickles to Pittsburgh
- The Three Friends and the Apples
- The Three Friends and the Pumpkins
- The Three Friends and the Leaves
- Let's Go Visiting
- What I See
- Big Brown Bear
- Nuts to You!
- Every Autumn Comes the Bear
- Who Sank the Boat?
- If You Hopped Like a Frog
- Sun Song
- What Time Is It? A Book of Math Riddles
- The Wind Blew
- The Surprise Party
- Patty's Pumpkin Patch
- Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane
- How Do You Know It's Fall?
- Down on the Farm
- Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing
- Changes, Changes
- Possum's Harvest Moon
- How the Sun Was Brought Back to the Sky
- Why Do Leaves Change Color?
- The Stranger
- Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf
- All the Colors of the Earth
- 26 Fairmount Avenue
- Abe Lincoln's Hat
- In the Woods: Who's Been Here?