

# Sea Heart School in Talamanca

September 2011 Newsletter

## *The work of play*

To a passerby it might look like two women sitting on a log in a shallow river surrounded by children playing in the water and sand. But to those two women it was yet another example of the importance of play in the life of a kindergartener. Every Tuesday the children and teachers of Sea Heart pour onto the black sand beach closest to our school. There's a freshwater river that spills into the surf and that's where we can be found swimming, jumping, leaping, paddling, building, balancing, exploring, discovering, fishing, engineering, measuring, planning, PLAYING.



This last week the children discovered a good sized straight log lying in shallow water. Working together they pushed it out into deeper water then climbed onboard only to roll off again over and over. Teamwork, problem solving, organization and planning all went in to shifting the log before the real fun of balancing,

dynamics, spatial orientation and body awareness began. The younger children looked on, taking it all in, when the older kindergartners had moved on their young classmates imitated, and unable to ride the log themselves were happy to push it around delighting in their strength in the water.

Building and excavating are favorite pastimes and this week saw some impressive fairy castles with moat and bridges. Building with wet and dry sand, the effect of water on structures, the compressive and tensile relative strengths of sand and wood, weight to height ratios, architectural design and aesthetics all play their part in such construction projects. While the older children make



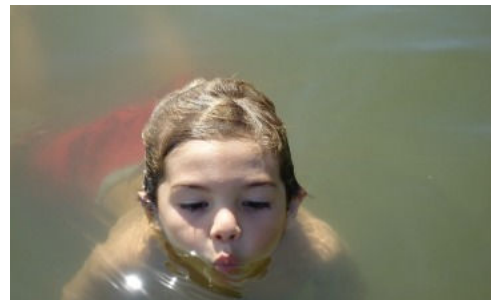
complicated tunnels the little ones learn as much by filling in holes and knocking down structures: the power they can exercise over their environments thrills them as they repeatedly knock over every pile of sand they build.

Fishing is another favorite, working together or individually the children explore every possible method to catch the small fish and tadpoles that inhabit the river.

From splashing water up on the bank to constructing clever dams and closures everything is tried. Working with creating shadows to lure the fish, sitting still for minutes on end, or devising simple nets from coconut husks, the children are shaping and exploring their world. This being the Caribbean we usually see a fisherman out throwing nets, or a farmer riding by dogs in tow, machete strung like a sword at his side; wonderful opportunities for imitation and play. Play. Yes, we play in the kindergarten.

## *September news*

September is a busy month for us! Costa Rica celebrates its Independence Day on the 15th, with a national Lantern Parade on the evening of the 14th. We will have our Lantern Walk on the beach this Wednesday. Lousie deForest and Helle Heckmann arrive on the 22nd and we are preparing to celebrate Michaelmas on the 29th!



## *Our Volunteers are Wonderful!!*



We really appreciate our volunteers; their dedication, sense of humor, patience and energy really inspires, enlivens and delights us! Typically volunteers stay for 3 months and work every day in the kindergarten. Mostly they focus on our younger children, helping individual children with their routines and guiding them through our day. We have been especially blessed that many of our volunteers are former Waldorf students themselves! In October we welcome Theresa who will be with us until the end of the school year in December. Anyone interested in volunteering at Sea Heart please feel encouraged to write to us!

Email: [seaheartschool@gmail.com](mailto:seaheartschool@gmail.com)

Or visit our website: <http://seaheartschool.blogspot.com>

*With appreciation and warm tropical greetings,  
The Waldorf Initiatives of Costa Rica*