Following Great Blue Herons

Our First Encounter With the Herons
• On Thursday, April 11th, we tuned in to the live bird cam for the first time and saw the herons building their nest
• When we returned on Monday, April 15th, we saw the first egg in the nest
• We checked the bird cam three times a day; a.m. drop-off, during lunch and at snack time*
  *media is used sparingly, less than 3 min. per check-in

For the Love of Birds:
Discovering the Great Blue Heron
• We feed our playground birds every morning
• Ms. Jane fills the bird feeders and we watch and even help sometimes
• Ms. Jane shared the website www.allaboutbirds.org

Parent Involvement
• Children invited their parents to observe the bird cam at drop off
• Parents asked about the site, viewed it at home and followed the herons with their children
• Parents brought in photos they have taken of herons observed near their homes
Incorporating the Great Blue Heron into Our Lesson

• We decided to make a heron out of recycled items
• The children looked at a picture of a heron in a book and we made a list of parts
• Then they chose materials to represent each part

Creating our Great Blue Heron

Math and Language Concepts

• Math Skills:
  – count eggs as they are added to the nest
  – count how many days until the eggs hatch
  – count how many eggs actually hatch
• Build language by introducing new vocabulary words
  – Clutch of eggs
  – Nestling (baby birds)
  – Squawking

• Here is what they chose:
  • Evan: the ventilation tube for the neck
  • Greta: the laundry soap bottle for the body
  • Shreya: the cardboard tubes for the legs
  • Alexa T.: the oatmeal container for the head.
  • Dominic: the long cardboard tube for the beak
Being a Great Blue Heron

- During our study we observed many behaviors of the Great Blue Herons
  - a squawking sound or a "landing call" upon returning to the nest
  - bringing sticks back to the nest to build it up
  - hunting for fish in the surrounding pond area (1:20)

Now It's Your Turn to Be a Great Blue Heron!

The Natural Learning Initiative
College of Design | NC State University