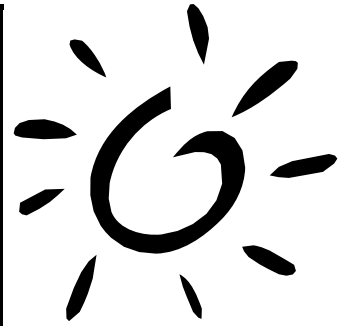


# MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



THE ACADEMY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 25

APRIL 28, 2007

## WEATHER WATCH

*Another great week at The Academy. We started our new social studies unit on the Civil War, and our new science investigation into WEATHER. Unfortunately, the weather was also the reason that we cancelled "Parent's Night Out" on Thursday.*

*There was a tornado watch, and severe storm warning. We decided to cancel the movie night in order to avoid the possibility of being stuck in the school building with no power, and high winds. We put serious thought into this decision. We considered the fact that many younger siblings would be accompanying students to the movie night and that it could be scary to have severe weather conditions without parents around. Therefore, we decided to cancel. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We called all those that had responded with a reservation sheet and left a message about the cancellation. Students had the option to watch the movie on Friday afternoon or to work on "Planet Earth" expeditions.*

*Planet Earth Expedition is a game found on Discovery.com that correlates with the documentary, Planet Earth. The Planet Earth shows are incredible. This Sunday at 10pm on the Discovery Channel, the show will be about the planet Earth from north to south. Last week was about caves and forests. It is amazing footage. You can learn more about the game and the shows at [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com)*

### Important Dates

April 27th- Field trip money due for COSI \$35 per person.

May 3rd-Cosi Overnight

Early Dismissal on Thursday- 12:00

Return to school at 3:30 for our departure to COSI

# Social Studies



This week we began our exploration of the Civil War. We are working on locations, dates and important people involved in the Civil War. We have learned about the causes of the Civil War. We learned about secession, slavery, Fort Sumter, Appomattox Court House, Robert E Lee, Ulysses S Grant, Abraham Lincoln and much more. We are exploring the war in a variety of ways. In each of our reading groups, books about the civil war are being read. Some students are reading Civil War on Sunday, while others are reading examples of historical fiction. The

Dear America Diary series offer fictitious characters that relay historical facts. These readings give a "Social History". This social history provides students with the feelings behind the people involved in this part of our past. They begin to understand what it may have been like for a young soldier joining the army. The initial excitement, the thrill of a gun, but then the reality of people dying and being injured all around them.

We discussed the strong feelings the people of the North had to keep the Union together. We discussed the feelings of the South and their desire to form the Confederacy.

The North and South were completely different in their economic systems. The north was industrial and the south was agricultural. The labor force of the South included nearly 4 million enslaved blacks. Both sides thought the war would be over quickly.

As we learn about the important people and events of the Civil War, we are also discussing the impact of the outcome. What would have happened if the South had won. What if states had continued to leave the Union? What if slavery had not been abolished? Many questions arise when the outcomes change.

Ask your child about the Civil War. There are several shows about the Civil War airing on the History Channel.

# SCIENCE—WEATHER

We began our study of weather and the atmosphere this past week. We learned about the five layers of the atmosphere:

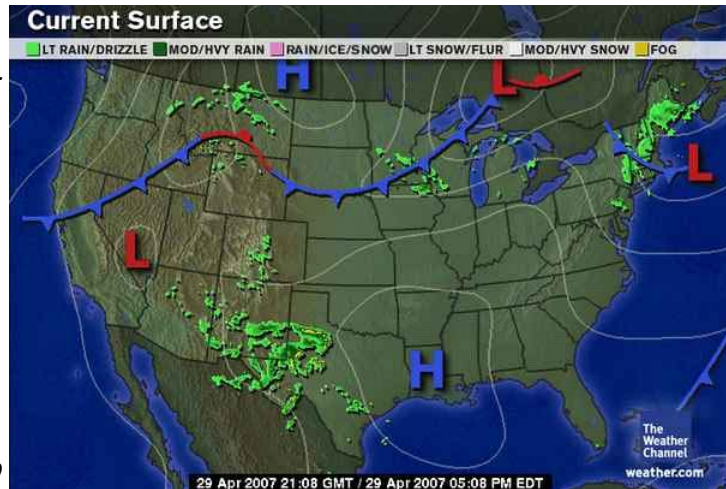
**Troposphere**— where most of the Earth's weather occurs

**Stratosphere**— where planes fly to avoid the weather conditions

**Mesosphere**— where meteors and space rock break up

**Thermosphere**— where weather heats up again

**Exosphere**— the outer layer of the atmosphere



We have been tracking our local weather and watching weather fronts. We learned about high pressure systems, and low pressure systems, warm fronts and cold fronts. We have used the weather information from the Dayton Daily News. This section contains a myriad of useful information. Students have used the weather charts to create comparative questions that need to be answered by a classmate. They have come up with fantastic questions about the given information.

# MATHEMATICS

This week Math Group One worked on fractions of a whole, and mixed fractions. We worked on this extensively before the assigned homework. Some students then forgot what the difference was. We reviewed the next day that if the numerator is larger than the denominator, we need to simplify the fraction— $7/2 = 3 \frac{1}{2}$ . We will continue to review these two concepts— multiplying fractions and simplifying fractions as we progress to measurement of angles.

Group two worked on problem solving this week and supplementary and complimentary angles. They also worked on the area of a triangle being  $\frac{1}{2}$  the base times the height. We used visual examples to see that the area of a square is found by multiplying the base times the height, and that a triangle is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the base times the height.

Group three worked on multiplication and multiplying 2-digit numbers.

All math skills are progressing nicely.

Reading Group Books- Students are reading about the civil war with Civil War on Sunday , Clara Barton and The American Red Cross , Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, American Girl- Addy, and Boys of the Civil War. These and other books are being used to explore the Civil War.

**THE ACADEMY**

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Our read aloud is The Last Silk Dress. This book is about a young girl that collects dresses from the Confederate women to help make a surveillance hot air balloon for the Confederate army. The setting is in Manassas, VA, at the start of the war. The main character has a brother that believes in the abolition of slavery, but is disowned by his family for this belief. As this story unfolds, students are exposed to factual information from a fictitious character. They are gathering information about locations, times and emotions felt about this war.

They asked to stay in from recess last week so they could hear more of the story!

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEXT WEEK:**

Next week will be a fast week with COSI taking up our Thursday and Friday. Thursday will be a regular morning. Students will be dismissed at noon and return to school at 3:30. We will depart as soon as everyone checks-in and gathers their belongings. Students are expected to bring a sleeping bag, pillow,, toothbrush and hairbrush. They will sleep in the clothes they wear to the museum, so wear comfortable clothes. The museum has hot spots and cold spots, so dress in layers...a sweatshirt that can be tied around the waist is a good idea. Comfortable pants and comfortable shoes- we will be doing tons of walking.

All items should be packed together- a kitchen trash bag with a drawstring works well.

Write your child's name in sharpie...if you are accompanying your child, try to pack all your things together.

**HOMEWORK FOR APRIL 30th to May 2nd:**

Monday: Reading assignment

Tuesday: Wordly Wise—new unit- do exercise A and B

Wednesday: Math Practice

We will not have a Wordly Wise test this coming week. We will study these words for this week and next week.

I am certain this will be a FAST WEEK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!