

# Mrs. MacDonald's Multi-age Classroom



THE ACADEMY

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## Computer Problems

I have been experiencing some computer problems. This is why there was not a newsletter last week and no homework letter this week. My information has been recovered, thanks to Mr. Bauer, but there are so many programs to reload and items that need attention. This has taken up an enormous amount of time. I apologize for any confusion this has caused with homework.

This week we worked on states and capitals. To my amazement, nearly all students can now successfully identify the 50 states on a blank map. To further the amazement I have, they can do it without a list of the 50 states. They are not guessing and matching, they are pointing to the state and telling the name of the state. They are now working on state capitals. There is a great website available for practice of the states and capitals at :

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web\\_games.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm)

We will continue to learn more about the United States and geographic features.

Another website that we visited this week :

[www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) at this site, you can see anything on the Earth from a global satellite. It ties in nicely with our study of states and capitals. We saw the Statue of Liberty, Disney, the Grand Canyon, and many of our homes. If you have not seen this site, I suggest you check it out. It is amazing.

### Important Dates

#### **May 31st at 7:00**

we will be having our end of the year slide show. For those of you that are new to The Academy, this slide show is a compilation of pictures that have been taken throughout the year, put to music and copied for each of you to have as a special memory. The slide show will be about 30 minutes long and everyone is welcome to join us.

# Social Studies

This week we worked on geography skills by identifying the 50 states. We worked on identifying the Great Lakes and there was a challenge posed to identify the body of water that is with Lake Huron, but completely in Canada. Several students correctly identified this body of water as the Georgian Bay.

They have an excitement about learning about the geography of the United States. Today, when I gave them their states and capitals study ring, I asked them to leave them at school to review tomorrow with Mrs. Matson. They asked if they could PLEEEEAASSSSSE take them home to practice tonight. I love the enthusiasm!!! There is a song we are singing that goes along with these rings that I made up....I will try to post that on my website this evening.

We also learned more about the Underground Railroad. We watched a movie about slavery and discussed reasons why the slaves would and wouldn't want to runaway.

I strongly suggest a trip this summer to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati. There are coupons available at their website:  
[www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org) This site also offers more information about the museum and the exhibits.



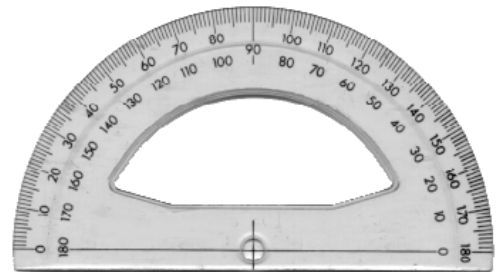
## SCIENCE—WEATHER

After all our discussions on weather, clouds, low pressure systems, and high pressure systems, I heard this week, “I thought there were just clouds in the sky, I didn’t know there were so many different types of clouds!” This week provided many different types of weather conditions to observe. We had first hand experience of what happens when a high pressure system meets a low pressure system. Some students in our class were able to see the power these winds possess as they witnessed downed trees.

We discussed the water cycle and applied the knowledge of this process to deserts. The question was posed, “Can we create deserts?” Students contemplated this question and then we discussed an ancient Egyptian civilization that had to abandon their city because their actions ruined the environment and created a larger desert where there once was a lush landscape. Cutting down too many trees caused erosion, lack of reforestation, inability to have evaporation take place, and therefore, no precipitation taking place. Deserts can be created.

## MATHEMATICS

This week we worked on angles and used protractors to measure angles. We worked on HOW to use a protractor and HOW NOT TO USE a protractor. Basics were covered on how to identify which set of numbers to use, the inside or the outside numbers. We worked on placing the vertex of the angle in the center of the protractor and then using the scale to measure the angle. We learned about right angles, acute angles, obtuse angles and reflex angles. Anyone that wants to practice measuring angles can go to :



[www.kidport.com/Grade5/Math/MeasuringAngles.htm](http://www.kidport.com/Grade5/Math/MeasuringAngles.htm)

## LANGUAGE ARTS

This week we finished up writing projects that included a book report on the Civil War book that was read and a creative writing assignment concerning the Civil War.

## IOWA TEST RESULTS

Thank you for meeting with me about the IOWA test results. I am very proud of the results of this test. It is good for me to see what areas of strengths and weaknesses are. Everyone did a phenomenal job on this test and scored well above grade level. We will keep doing what we are doing and absorbing as much information as we can!

THE ACADEMY

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### HELP NEEDED:

Mrs. Young has offered to have a class party to end the year for Miss Teter's class. They will be having an ice cream party. This is not a good option for us, due to allergies, so I am asking if there is anyone willing to organize a last day celebration of some sort for our class on Tuesday, June 5th. If so, email me or send a note to school. If you have any ideas or suggestions....I am open!!!!

Visit my website at:  
[www.mrsmacdonald.net](http://www.mrsmacdonald.net)

### SLIDE SHOW:

Our slide show, the year in review, will be Thursday, May 31st at 7:00 pm at the school. I hope everyone can join us!

Have a great weekend.

