

MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



Back on Track

THE ACADEMY
MINDS IN MOTION

It was great to have a full week. We have been working very hard and accomplished so much this week.

We began a unit on matter last week and have learned a great deal about the three main types of matter: Solids, liquids and gases. Several experiments with matter were conducted and students practiced making a hypothesis and predicting what would happen.

We are learning about at-

oms, molecules and compounds. We learned that atoms are constantly in motion; electrons move around the nucleus in paths called shells (or energy levels). We learned about Chemical and Physical Changes. Chemical changes alter the composition of a molecule and results in a new substance like the rusting of iron, the burning of wood or the souring of milk. Physical changes alter only the properties or appearance of a substance, but

does not change what the substance was made up of. (Cutting of paper, breaking of glass or freezing of water.)

Learning about the states of matter can be fun. We will continue to learn more about matter and energy next week.

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Important Dates

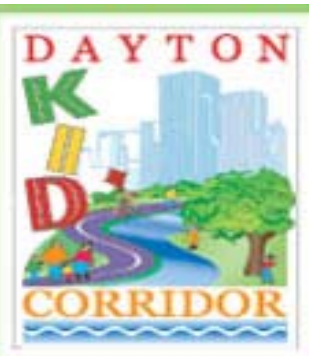
- ☺ Pizza Sign-up due on Tuesday. \$10 for the next five Fridays.
- ☺ Permission slip for SunWatch Village field trip is due also on Tuesday, November 21st.
- ☺ SunWatch field trip on Thursday November 30th.
- ☺ Winter Wonderland December 2nd.
- ☺ PARADE THIS WEEKEND

Field Trip to Sunwatch Village

On November 30th we will be going to SunWatch Village to learn more about Ohio History, Native Americans and local history. SunWatch Village is a archeological site that was discovered in 1960's. It was excavated for 17 years and opened to the public in 1988.

Last year the interpretive center was closed and undergoing renovation. It has reopened and students will have the opportunity to see a movie about the site, tour the museum and then go out into the reconstructed Indian Village.

It is a wonderful learning opportunity and parents are encouraged to join us on this trip. We will be departing at 12:00 and returning close to 3:00. The cost of the trip is \$4.00 per student and \$5.00 per chaperone. Permission slips will be emailed and need to be returned by November 21st if possible.

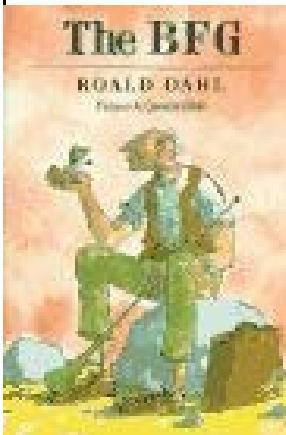


Math

This was an intensive math week. We worked on a variety of skills. Group 1 worked on fractions. An important idea concerning fractions is that two different fractions can represent the same number. $1/2$ is the same number as $2/4$ and $3/6$. Pictures help to show that $1/2$ and $2/4$ represent the same part of a whole. We discussed the terms numerator and denominator and that multiplying both the numerator and the denominator of a fraction by the same number produces a fraction that is equal to the first. (in $3/4$ if both numerator and denominator are multiplied by 25 then an equivalent fraction of $75/100$ is the result).

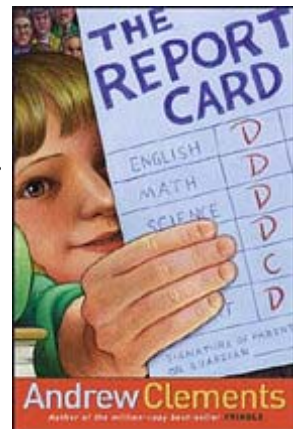
Group 2 similarly worked with fractions except they are working on the concept of simplifying fractions, putting the fraction in the lowest term. This week multiplying and dividing fractions was introduced. A shortcut for fraction multiplication is to cancel common factors from the numerator of one with the denominator of another. Cancellation is a shortcut because it eliminates having to simplify the fraction in the end. For the division of fractions we learned that dividing one fraction by another fraction is the same as multiplying the first fraction by the reciprocal of the second fraction. This can be seen in whole numbers too...6 divided by 2 = $6/1 \times 1/2 = 3$. Next we will move on to multiplying by mixed numbers.

Reading



While one group finished BFG this week, another group began work on The Report Card by Andrew Clements and the youngest group read Tom Swift Into the Abyss. All these books are extremely entertaining.

The BFG is about a Big Friendly Giant and The Report Card is about a girl that hides the fact that she is a genius from everyone because she just wants to be normal. She comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not what is important and things begin to get out of control.



Tom Swift is a junior inventor and he needs to help rescue his father at the bottom of the ocean by using a submersible.

During reading time all groups are working on Wordly Wise Vocabulary skills. We work on defining the words and being able to use these words in our daily speech. I feel the Wordly Wise program is a strong asset to our reading and language arts time.

Social Studies

We continue to learn about the next wave explorers. We will be discussing in more detail the impact the Europeans made on the Native Americans with the diseases they brought with them and the way they changed the lives of those native to the countries they explored.

We will be discussing the slave trade and the its impact on Native Americans.

Legacy Project:

We continue to work on letters to the people chosen for the legacy project. This was started at the beginning of November. I still am missing several addresses. PLEASE send these in by next Tuesday if possible.

The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say "The children are now working as if I did not exist."

Maria Montessori

Conference Time

I greatly enjoyed meeting with you last week for conferences. I still have one conference to make up. I appreciate your understanding in my rescheduling of conferences and your patience with the amount of time I needed to take with surgery and a transfusion. I am feeling much better now.

Many positive remarks were made at conference time and I appreciate your encouragement of what we do at The Academy. It takes many hours after school and on the weekends, but I love this job and love working with your children.

**The Academy Minds in
Motion**

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**"If you think education is
expensive,
try ignorance."**

-- Author Unknown

The next few weeks will be busy. I checked out books from the library and it made me realize how quickly the holidays are approaching.

- In Extra time the past five weeks, one group has been working on making items that will be for sale at the Winter Wonderland. All money raised from the sale of their handcrafted items will go to help save the Bald Eagles.
- Many of you have sent in your order for the Build an Animal that will be happening at the winter wonderland.
- Poinsettias sales are going on now
- Peppermint Smoothies will be sold at the Winter Wonderland with funds being donated to the Academy. Smoothie sales help us purchase items in our classrooms.
- Smoothie Friday is coming in December. Students can enjoy a smoothie with their pizza.

Thank you all for supporting our school.

We have a great thing going at The Academy. It would not be possible without such wonderful families.