

MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



SunWatch Village

THE ACADEMY
MINDS IN MOTION

Yesterday we took a trip to SunWatch Village. Students watched a movie about how they discovered the village, excavated the site and then recreated the village for visitors.

The SunWatch Indian Village was inhabited by Fort Ancient Indians over 800

years ago. We saw how they explored garbage pits and other remains to learn more about these people from the past. A game was played that would have helped the Indian children prepare to be hunters.

It was a rainy day, but this didn't seem to bother the kids. I

was extremely proud of their behavior on this trip. They were quiet and attentive during the movie, respectful to the guide and wonderful listeners about taking care in the wet conditions. A huge thanks to all that chaperoned on this trip.

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Important Dates

- © Winter Wonderland is tomorrow, December 2
- © Smoothies with lunch Friday December 8th—\$3
- © December 11th, Informational meeting for parents about The Academy to be held at the preschool at 7 pm please join us!
- © December 14, Parent Night Out, our treat to Academy Parents 6:15 drop off and 8:15 pick up.



Math

We have been working on a variety of math skills.

As one group finished up fractions and decimals and began working on symmetry and cubic measurement, group two *began* work on fractions and equivalent fractions. The second math group has worked on fractions being equal parts of a whole. They have worked on proper and improper fractions and reviewed their skills on long division... Group one has been introduced to area and cubic units. They determined the lines of symmetry on common shapes. They have worked on volume and how to find the volume of a unit. Math work is going strong. We worked on review skills and students completed some work last week on problem solving.

Problem solving in the Singapore Math series is extremely complex and it is often difficult for students to decide how to solve the problem. We are working on the **GUESS** method of problem solving. **G**ather the information, determine the **U**nknown, decide on the **E**quation, use your answer to **S**ubstitute it into the problem...then if this is correct, you have the **S**olution...if not, try again.

Gather, Unknown, Equation, Substitution, Solution.

Science

We have been learning about matter and have been looking at the periodic table of elements. We learned that elements are listed by their atomic number (for example Nickel's atomic number is 28 and copper's is 29). Each element has its own unique atomic number. We learned that the atomic number also represents the number of protons present in the nucleus of one atom of this element. The atomic mass is the number at the bottom. The atomic mass represents the number of protons and neutrons present in the nucleus. Protons have positive charges, and there are an equal number of electrons circling the nucleus... these are negatively charged. The electrons do not get counted in the atomic mass. I relate this to stepping on a scale and flies are flying around your head...they wouldn't affect your weight on a scale, and electrons do not affect the atomic mass. The number of neutrons can be determined by subtracting the number of protons (atomic number) from the atomic mass. The remainder tells the number of neutrons.

28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546
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We also worked this week on reversible and irreversible changes. An incredible website that I found through the BBC helped show these changes. We used the smart board to help practice applying the changes in matter. These great websites are listed on my website under the matter page. I was pleased to hear that so many students shared these activities with their parents. It is very encouraging to see their excitement for learning.

Yearbook

One of the EXTRAS we have been working on is the Yearbook. We met on Wednesday to set up some preliminary ideas about what we want from the yearbook. We looked at several samples of yearbooks and found some good ideas and found some things we do NOT want to see in our yearbook. We are open ideas and if anyone would like to share yearbook with us for ideas, please send them in next Wednesday. We will return them the same day.



Holiday parade

Tissue, Cup and Wipes:

We are in short supply on some school items. **3-5 ounce cups** are used at the water station.

Tissues are running low, and we haven't even hit the cold season.

Wipes are used to clean desks and tables.

If you could help by donating any of these supplies, we would greatly appreciate it.

Reading

Reading Groups- The Tom Swift group finished reading about Tom's success in rescuing his dad at the bottom of the Abyssal Plain. We worked on reading comprehension, making a picture of what we read in our head, and worked on creating and labeling diagrams.

The BFG group finished this book and moved on to Avi's story The Secret School. This is a fantastic story about a one room school house where the teacher had a family emergency and the school was going to close but the students are going to run it and keep it going until summer break, secretly! It is a great story. We are working on predictions and vocabulary skills.

The Report Card group has been reading a book about whether testing is fair and how sometimes it works against the goal of education. Nora tries to get all D's despite being a genius because she doesn't like the way school tests can make a person think they are brilliant, when they aren't, or make someone else feel dumb when they are not. It has prompted some thought provoking discussions.

**The Academy Minds in
Motion**

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Many papers will be coming home in this week's Friday folder. These papers are from the past several weeks. I have reviewed this work with your child and we have discussed areas that needed attention. Please go over this work with your child.

Final reminders:

We will be working on our trunks for the **Legacy Projects**. Letters were written, letters were revised and now the letters will be sent. We are a bit behind in this part of the project. Students should be looking through the questions that were sent and decide what they would like to ask their chosen person. They can ask all the questions and then include a few in their answers.

The holiday time may be a good chance to get together for the interview. If you need another copy of the questions, feel free to email a request.

On December 11th, there will be a meeting at 7pm for Academy families. This meeting will take place up in the preschool and will be an **informational meeting**. We hope that all of you can join us.

December 8th is Smoothie Friday. If your child would like to order a smoothie with lunch, Kim Meador will be making Strawberry and Peppermint Smoothies. She will also have fruit chillers available. The proceeds of these Smoothies goes toward a laminator for the school. Thanks for your support. Pre-orders will be taken up to Thursday December 7th.