

MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM

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ANOTHER FAST WEEK!

I cannot believe it, but the first semester of the school year is over. So much has happened over the past few months. At times I feel like we just started school yesterday, then I look at how much we have accomplished from the beginning of the school year. This has been a great year so far.

This week we worked more on our Mini-Economy unit. Students finalized what products they want to make and sell to their classmates. They are taking out loans to buy products from me, then they will need to

repay these loans before their profits are realized. We have been learning about economic concepts including Productive Resources such as Natural Resources, Human Resources, and Capital Resources. We have identified goods and services. We worked on identifying ways to earn income and things that affect income such as taxes and incentives to work more for more pay. We have explored many economic concepts and taken a few quizzes on this information.

Monday was an OSU spirit day. Homework

revolved around the letters OSU. Congratulations to Alyssa Dinsmoor and Julia Pangalangan. They each found over 150 words with the letters OSU in them. If only the Ohio State players would have had the same competitive spirit, maybe the game would have been less of a disappointment.

Important Dates

☺ January 25th evening parent night penguin program 7-8

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ZOO CLASS

Earlier in the year I gave out the dates of the World Symposium at the Cincy Zoo. I was working on a class at Miami University on Inquiry Based

Instruction. We went to the zoo the last week in October and did some research on animals. We observed their feet to make comparisons of feet, forelimbs and what they would eat. Unfortunately, the following week resulted in unforeseen health issues and I postponed the presentation for this class. The instructors have graciously granted an extension on this project and we will be presenting our findings in the spring.

This weekend at the zoo, January 13-15th are Penguin Days. The Cincy Zoo will have half price admission. There are several special activities, see the chart below.

Penguin Days Schedule :

| <i>TIME</i> | <i>LOCATION</i> | <i>ACTIVITY</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>10:00 am</i> | <i>Wings of the World</i> | <i>Penguin Encounter</i> |
| <i>10:30 am</i> | <i>Wolf Woods</i> | <i>Wolf Encounter</i> |
| <i>11:00 am</i> | <i>Vanishing Giants</i> | <i>Elephant Fruit Ice Blocks</i> |
| <i>11:30 am</i> | <i>Monkey Island</i> | <i>Snow Monkey Frozen Treats</i> |
| <i>12:00 pm</i> | <i>Cat House</i> | <i>Fishing Cats with Fish</i> |
| <i>12:30 pm</i> | <i>Lords of the Arctic</i> | <i>Polar Bear Fish-cicles</i> |
| <i>1:00 pm</i> | <i>Seal Falls</i> | <i>Seal and Sea Lion Fish-cicles</i> |
| <i>1:30 pm</i> | <i>Safari Gallery</i> | <i>Penguin Meet & Greet</i> |

READING

The Gathering Blue readers have worked on foreshadowing and making comparisons to other novels that we have read this year. We are working on developing vocabulary skills, making predictions, and comparisons with other characters and events. This is a great book.

The Holes group has worked on comprehension questions, predictions and vocabulary. They have identified characters and character traits. Many have seen the movie and we have discussed the impact this has on reading the story.

The How to Eat Fried Worms readers have been searching for predetermined vocabulary words. It is somewhat like a word scavenger hunt. They are working on making predictions, and learning comparing characters. They have additionally learned about Roman Numerals since the chapters are noted with Roman Numerals. XXX of course chapter thirty. Look around your house this weekend and see if you can find other examples of Roman Numerals.

YEARBOOK



Beginning next Friday we will be having yearbook meetings after school from 3-4. Anyone wanting to help with the yearbook is invited to come. Several students have been assigned pages and should have an idea of how they want those pages to be laid out. I look forward to these after school meetings and appreciate the help of Mr. Dinsmoor. I can't wait to see what we end up with.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This week we learned more about what shaped the colonies. The influence of leaders, the influence of location (on the economy and success of the colony) and the geographic location of the colony.

We worked on our economics unit and chose company names, made company logos and began preparing our products. We learned several lessons... being resourceful on supplies, using what we already have, saves money and makes sense. We are working on purchasing supplies to create products. Students learned about borrowing money and needing to price products so that they can pay back a loan and make a profit. The enthusiasm is high. Student products will be on display for the parent presentation on January 25th. You will be able to see the hard work they have put into their products, logos, and advertisements.



Other Information

- Children new to ice skating may want to wear a bicycle helmet at the ice rink on Wednesday. There were a few slips and spills this week and it can be a bit dangerous.

THE ACADEMY MINDS IN MOTION

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- The Gala is coming soon. March 17th mark your calendar for an evening of fun.
- Raffle tickets came home this week for the March Gala. Help us raise money to help keep costs down.
- Come and join us for celebrity bartending at Encore on January 29th 5:30-8:30.

Visit my website at:

www.mrsmacdonald.net

- The pet snake, Leo, shed his skin over the weekend. It was pretty amazing seeing his new covering and examining the discarded covering.

It's That Time Again...

New Quarter-Pizza Lunch Sign-up

If you would like to order Pizza Lunch for the third quarter of school, please send in \$16.00 to cover the cost of 9 weeks worth of Pizza. Students seem to love the Hot Lunch Pizza on Fridays. Send your order in an envelope marked with your name, the amount and write "Pizza Friday" on the envelope.

Kim Meador has volunteered to make a Pancake Lunch next Thursday.. Cost is \$3.00 per student and will be sausage, pancakes and orange juice. We are aware that some students have food allergies and are willing to warm up a comparable breakfast for lunch for these students if there parents want to help us by sending in a substitute. Proceeds from this lunch will help us purchase a heavy duty stapler, replacing our constantly broken staplers. If you would like Pancake Lunch on Thursday, just send in your money in an envelope marked with your name and "pancake lunch" by Tuesday of next week.

Thanks and have a great weekend.