

MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM

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REPORT CARDS

Friday, report cards came home. Please return these to school in the coming week.

Remember that cards can be shown for Report Card rewards at Bagel Café, Limited TOO, Krispy Crème, and Cheryl's Cookies.

We had a very productive first semester. I look forward to accomplishing many goals in the coming semester.

Last week we worked on our mini-economy unit. Students learned how to write checks. Students were given several checks and the Sunday ads. They had a check book balance of \$100 to spend. They needed to purchase items that they wanted, total the amounts at a given store and write a check for the correct amount. We discussed the consequences of overdrawing the ac-

count...a \$20.00 fee. One student asked "How about if we are just ten cents over? Do we still need to pay \$20.00!" A good lesson to learn early!

They were remarkably careful and I am happy to say no one overdrew their account. Students continued to work on their products and advertisement of their product. These will be available for you to see on Thursday evening.

Important Dates

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

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MATH

Last week in math we all worked on finding area and perimeter. On Tuesday the students were given graph paper and some numbers and they needed to make shapes with those given perimeters. It was difficult, many strategies were attempted; some successful, some unsuccessful. On Wednesday, I showed them a strategy of taking the given number—say 24 is the total number of feet in a fence, and now they needed to make a shape of what the fence could look like. On Tuesday they attempted, erased, attempted erased...but on Wednesday we learned to divide the total by 2 and take that answer (12) and show the sum of two numbers that would equal 12 and we could easily show the shapes the fence could be. . . 11 & 1, 10 & 2, 9 & 3, 8 & 4, 7 & 5, 6 & 6. This was much easier to make shapes with the perimeter of 24. Then we took those 6 shapes and figured out the area. We drew the conclusion on this one experiment that the 6 x 6 square had the biggest area. So we tried it with more examples and found that the figures closest to squares would have the largest area. Of course the perimeter does not always need to be a shape with two sides equal, but this gave the class an easy way to figure out some of the possible shapes they could make with a given number. We worked on finding simple area by multiplying length times width and then finding area of irregular shapes by breaking them down into smaller shapes. Everyone did a great job on mastering perimeter and area.

READING

We continued to work in small groups reading Gathering Blue, How to Eat Fried Worms and Holes. We will be completing our guided reading packets on these books and plan to study books in a series next.

In this unit of study students will each be able to choose a "Series Book" and they will be required to read two books of their chosen series and then compare and contrast these books. We will discuss what kind of books are written in a series. We will review the difference of companion novels and series books. Students will be responsible for choosing their own books in the series and showing it to me by February 1st. Books can be checked out of the library, purchased at a bookstore, or chosen from our school library. For more information about "Series" books there is a list at :

<http://www.kidsreads.com/series/index.asp>

Start thinking of the books you want to read.

YEARBOOK



Yearbook Committee met on Friday. Their homework before this week's meeting is to have a cover design brought to the meeting and have a layout of their assigned page. Those joining us in the new year only have to do the cover design. We will meet Friday and try to make selections or merge some ideas for the cover design. We will work on page design. Future meetings will focus on one page design group and just a few students working on that page. This will enable that group to work solely on selecting their pictures and avoid extra distractions. This Friday—everyone will be meeting until 4:00.

NEWS TO NOTE

- The Gala is coming soon. March 17th mark your calendar for an evening of fun.
- Raffle tickets are on sale. 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.
- Anyone interested in planning an afternoon Valentine Party? If so, send a note in to me and we can help coordinate an afternoon of fun for the class.

I would like to plan this with awareness of food allergies and sensitivities.

We could focus more on activities and less on food. Students are encouraged to make or buy valentines for one another. An assigned task will be to decorate your own mailbox at home. Please make it out of a cereal or cracker box. If you do not have a cereal box, let me know and I can easily get one for you.

CEREAL BOX DECORATION GUIDELINES:

Everyone's box must have their name on one side.

Boxes must have an opening for valentines to be delivered

Boxes should show your personality in some way—like if you really love puppies, cut out pictures of puppies in magazines and paste them on the box, If your favorite color is red, make your background red...be creative and have fun. Start in plenty of time so you don't feel overwhelmed on February 13th.

Pancake Lunch

THE ACADEMY
MINDS IN MOTION

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Pancake lunch was a huge success with over 30 Academy students participating. A huge thanks to Kim Meador, Cara Brandenburg and Joyce Kelly for making this a success. The children loved having pancakes for lunch and I heard the sausage was great!!!!

Thank you also to Karen Durbin for coming in to help. Lunch help is greatly appreciated.

This week for HOMEWORK

Visit my website at:
www.mrsmacdonald.net

Monday: Read your assigned chapter and write about one of the characters in this chapter.

Tuesday: Math Practice

Wednesday: We are reading Chasing Redbird in class. Tell me what you think of this book so far and what you think is going to happen in the next chapters? (It is an odd book that is for sure!)

Thursday: Study your WORDLY WISE WORDS—Unit 8. We did not have a test last week, I felt that the four day week did not let us learn these words well enough.

Friday: Come prepared for yearbook committee meeting—bring picture for the cover design, and draw a mock up of your page design. Show how many pictures you want and how you will want them. If you want pictures of specific things, be sure to jot your ideas down.

I know we are going to have a great week.