

# MRS. MACDONALD'S

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## MULTI-AGE

## CLASSROOM

THE ACADEMY  
MINDS IN MOTION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18

JANUARY 21, 2007

### MINI-ECONOMY

Thank you for attending last week's Parent Program. The students were very excited to show-off their products and get ready to sell. They did a great job coming up with an idea for a product, creating this product and pricing the product. Tomorrow is the big day and they will be trying to sell their product to the younger students.

On Wednesday, Doug Smith talked with the class about owning a business. He talked about taxes, stock, inventory, timing, employees, opportunity cost, and making money. The students learned that being the owner of a business can be a great deal of fun, but also a lot of hard work. It was great to have this personal insight to add to our economy unit.

We talked more this week about OPPORTUNITY COST. We discussed that when making choices, the choice we do not make is the opportunity cost. We gave many examples of how this happens each day.

Monday at Encore was "Celebrity Bartending" to help raise funds for our school. I served drinks and dinners to some of our families (amazingly without any spills) It was a fun way to help raise money for our school. Gala and Raffle tickets are currently on sale.

#### Important Dates

- ☺ February 5th- 100th day of school
- ☺ February 9th- Opera Program at school
- ☺ February 14th- Valentines Day (details inside this newsletter)



## MATH

This week in math we reviewed area and perimeter. Everyone seems to have a solid grasp on how to determine each one. We worked on multiplication

and division. We learned some simple rules of divisibility. We will review these rules daily until they are committed to memory. We will write them in our journals and explain them using the correct math terms.

Divisibility Rules:

A number is divisible by;

2 if it is an even number.

3 if the digits add up to a number divisible by three ( $363 = 3 + 6 + 3 = 12$ )

4 if the last two digits are divisible by 4 (516, 324, 1908)

5 if the last digit is 0 or 5

6 if the number is even and can be divided by 3 (see rule for 3)

9 if the sum of the digits is divisible by nine, then the number is divisible by 9

10 if the last digit is zero

We worked on multiplying decimals. This was a new skill and caused some confusion, but with a quick mini-lesson we were on the right track again.

We worked on multiplying by 10's and 100's and using the zero to hold the place value. We worked on Greatest Common Factors, and Lowest Common Multiple. This skill will help us in making equivalent fractions.

## READING

We completed the novels Holes, Gathering Blue and How to Eat Fried Worms. Study packets will be completed, collected next week.

**A REMINDER. . . Students need to choose two books in a series for our next unit of study.**

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 5th. (THIS IS AN EXTENSION) 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>

Please come prepared on Monday with the book in a series that you would like to read.

# YEARBOOK

We will continue our meetings and work on what is turning into an incredible, creative, interpretation of our school year. This Friday Chandler, Kyla and Alyssa will meet. This way we can focus on working on a few pages at a time. I will email you with next Friday's group of workers. Thanks for letting your children stay after school and participate in this challenge. It is amazing to see! The entire class and a few extra students all stay. What great initiative.

## NEWS TO NOTE

Reminder of Valentine Mailboxes

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.

Since I have planned on our class making a surprise for the younger students, our class only needs to bring valentines for the class. Be sure to include everyone.

Jacob, Mary, Kristen, Molly, Kyla, Alyssa, Madeline, Julia, Paul, Chandler, and Sydney.

We will have a afternoon of activities planned on February 14th since there are no extras.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are gearing up to the REVOLUTION. We learned how the colonists were revolting against the taxes that were being imposed upon them. We discussed the events of the Boston Tea Party.

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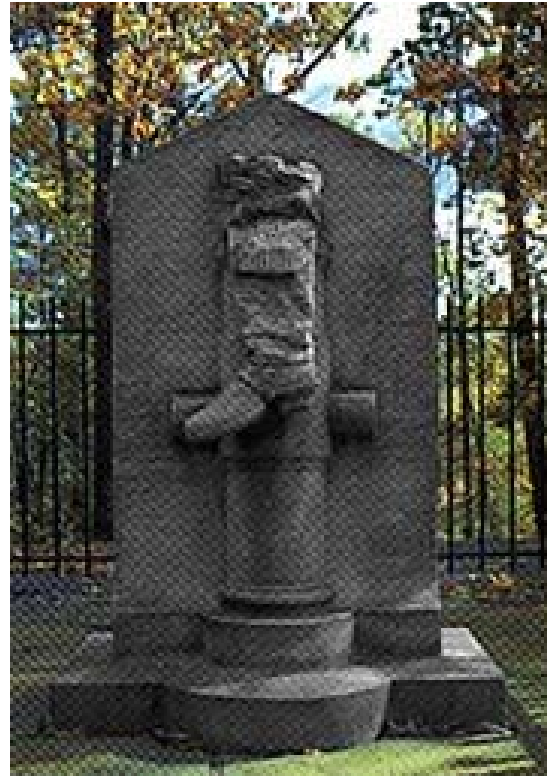
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We learned about the battles at Trenton, Saratoga, Lexington and Concord. We learned about Benedict Arnold and how he won many battles for the Continental Army, but was disgruntled over

the decision to create an alliance with the French and became a traitor. Ask about Benedict Arnold's leg and why there is a monument to it on the grounds of Saratoga National Historic Park?

We played a game with questions about the American Revolution at

<http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/road.html>



Some of you may wonder why we do not have a Social Studies Textbook that comes home each night with questions to answer. Instead of reading a chapter and writing the definitions, we use many sources to find out information about the American Revolution. We discuss the events, we watch videos that describe these events, we research on our own and learn about these events. Having one textbook gives one perspective and one account, we use many sources and ask provoking questions about the events to promote learning of the subject in a more interesting way. The American Revolution may not be the most interesting subject to everyone, but thinking about how the patriots felt, thinking about why it took England so long to react to events that occurred in colonies, thinking about why the Sons of Liberty dressed like Mohawk Indians .. Could it be that the taxes were said to be for the colonists' protection against the Native Americans? Asking questions and finding solutions creates lifelong learning skills.