

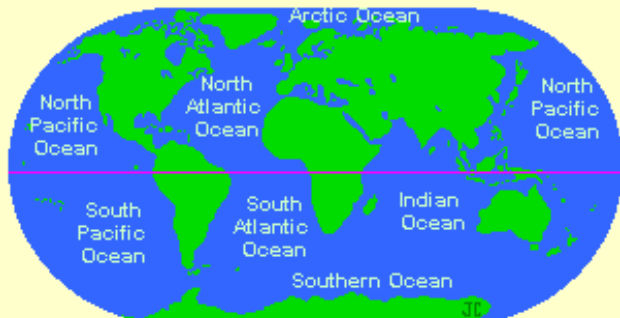
# MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM

First Day of school



## What a Great Start

### Earth's Oceans



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This was a fantastic week. I really am excited for a great school year.

Everyone got off to a fantastic start. We shared stories about our summer

vacations and learned a bit more about each other. We began our study of oceans and learned that there are five oceans (in the year 2000, they named

a new ocean... the Southern Ocean). We learned about the largest, the deepest, the smallest and we learned about the Ocean Zones. The ocean is divided into four zones, the Sunlight Zone, the Twilight Zone, the Darkness Zone and the Abyssal Zone. We got on the internet and saw the creatures that inhabit some of these zones. We saw creatures without eyes, bioluminescent creatures and more.

### THE ACADEMY MINDS IN MOTION

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#### Important Dates

© No School September 4th, Labor Day

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## Language Arts

This week and next we are reviewing previous language arts concepts. We reviewed nouns and verbs. We will begin vocabulary and working with prefixes and suffixes in the coming weeks. Vocabulary knowledge is important. It correlates very strongly with reading abilities. People that know a lot of words tend to also be good readers. Students are constantly building their knowledge of words when they hear speech, when they listen to material read aloud, and

when they read independently. Much vocabulary learning is implicit. They learn by hearing and seeing them multiple times in meaningful contexts. At first, they may only have a vague sense of what the word means, but, with additional exposures, they develop a fuller sense of the word's range of meaning and uses. I want the words we introduce to go from receptive vocabulary (words they understand when used by others) to productive vocabulary (words students can use themselves). We will have a jar in our classroom. Each time a vocabulary word is used cor-

rectly, a marble will be placed in the jar. When the jar is filled the class will be entitled to a special treat.

We will begin with words with prefixes. Un- is statistically the most important prefix in the English language. It accounts for 26% of all prefixed words.

In the coming week have your child look for example of the prefix un- in print around the house. Cut out the examples and bring them to school.

## Mathematics

We just started some math groups and will have those in full swing next week. We began with some lessons on decimals. We will be working next week reviewing previous concepts and extending our math skills.

### Homework

I did not assign formal homework this week. That will begin next week and you will receive an email about the week's homework assignments.

## Check your Email on Thursday Nights!

Newsletters will be emailed each week. If for some reason you need the newsletter to come home in a different format, please let me know. This will help save paper. Just look for the attachment.

## Science and Social Studies

I was very impressed with the work on the ocean creature that came in the mail this summer. The student reports arrived in a variety of different ways. The information was great. On Wednesday and Thursday, our class paired with Mrs. Bauer and Miss Teter's classes to share and discuss the ocean creatures. Each one of my students was paired with two or three younger students that had the same trading card. They exchanged information and discussed facts. On Thursday, each group presented to the school at least three facts about their ocean creature. It was great. We jumped right in on public speaking, presentation skills, cooperation, and collaboration. We utilized the big screen out in the "big room" and had a large picture of the trading card displayed during each presentation. (we also used the big screen to display the type of caterpillar that came to school on Wednesday...a great horned caterpillar, we found out what it ate and how to care for it on the internet.)

We learned this week about Pangaea and how the continents drifted apart. We discussed the Earth being covered mostly by water. It is about 75% water and 25% land. We talked about directions and began our first work with maps and geography. We used atlases and the help of the internet to answer our weekly geography questions. It was a great start of the school year. I love seeing how interested everyone is to learn.

## Snack and Lunch

We changed our schedule around a bit this year and will have a short morning recess at 11:00. This is just a chance to stretch and have a quick snack. The snack is something that we will bring outside. This should be something easy to eat. Things requiring spoons are probably better left for lunch time. I am asking students to please pack two napkins in their lunches. One napkin to put down as a placemat at their spot and help with clean-up of crumbs and the other to wipe their hands and face. This would be a big help.

Friday is Pizza Lunch.

## Transportation

Drop off and pick up went well this week. Please try to stay in your car and go through the lines. This will make the process much easier for all of us.

Springboro is working on their transportation, Tuesday was a bit confusing, but it got much better. Springboro schools begin next week so there will be a bit more change, but the children riding the bus did a great job!!

## Physical Education and Art

Next Tuesday is the first Art and Physical Education day. Students can wear their Academy T-shirt and shorts on these days.

Next Thursday is the first Spanish, Character Education, and Dance rotation. Girls should wear shorts or pants if possible on this day instead of skirts to allow for more freedom of movement.

EXTRA classes will be delayed one week to allow for scheduling with volunteers and outside consultants. Details about the EXTRA's and your child's assignments will be sent home next week.

## More Language Arts

This week we learned more about identifying and writing the four kinds of sentences. We wrote declarative sentences (statements), interrogative sentences (questions) imperative sentences (commands) and exclamatory sentences. We used the appropriate punctuation in these sentences.

We learned about simple subjects and simple predicates. This was a bit harder. There was a bit of confusion. We played an online game called Rags to Riches and amazingly, our understanding and skills increased!!!! Everyone did a great job and mastered the skill of identifying the simple subject and simple predicate. The game is available online at [www.quia.com/rr/36765.html](http://www.quia.com/rr/36765.html)

This reinforcement of the skill in a fun competitive way made learning fun. With a simple thumbs up to agree with the contestants answer or thumbs down to disagree, I could easily assess who understood and who needed more practice. We then wrote sentences and found the simple subject and simple predicates.

*"I hear and I forget.  
I see and I remember.  
I do and I understand." --*

*Chinese Proverb.*

## Book Orders

I am sending Scholastic book orders home tomorrow. Look for them in your child's folder. This is a great way to order wonderful books at a discounted price.

Book orders are due back next Friday if you are interested in ordering.

**The Academy Minds in Motion**

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**What a Great Group!**

We have enjoyed a week learning about the oceans and ocean animals. We learned more about hermit crabs, snakes, turtles, frogs and great horned caterpillars that made their way to school this week. Kyra decided the hermit crabs weren't so bad...if you wore a glove.



Kristen loved the turtle.

