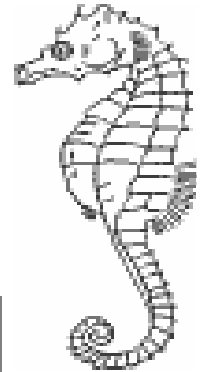


MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



A Week of Exploration



This week went so smoothly. There was so much activity and excitement in the classroom. It was fantastic.

We continue to work on shell identification. Using an Audubon book that has pictures of shells and a large tub of various seashells, students chose ten shells to critically examine and identify. We drew pictures of these shells

in the seashell book that we created, then wrote the names of the shells in our books.

This activity provided students with the chance to compare the size of shells, observe the lines and markings on the exterior of the shells and to learn the names of several different types of shells.

THE ACADEMY MINDS IN MOTION

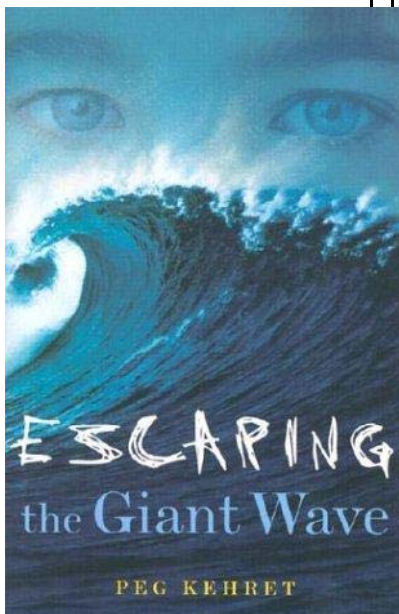
Volume 1, Issue 3

September 8, 2006

Important Dates

- ☉ Field trip to the Newport Aquarium Thursday, September 28th
- ☉ September 29th Early Dismissal

Language Arts



We continued reading the story Escaping the Giant Wave this week. This is a story that ties in our ocean studies by introducing the topic of a **tsunami**. A young boy and his sister are vacationing with their parents in Oregon when the tsunami hits. Ask your child to tell you more about this book.

Research shows that reading comprehension ability does not generally "catch up" to listening comprehension ability until roughly grade 7; therefore, we will con-

tinue to have a read-aloud time in the classroom and discuss these stories. Students will also be given many opportunities to read on their own.

On Thursday several students asked if we could just skip recess time so we could read more of Escaping the Giant Wave. This is music to my ears. Students that love learning...who could ask for anything more?

Mathematics

In Math we worked in several groups to enhance our skills. The class is divided into several smaller groups and are working on a variety of different skill levels. We worked on decimals to the tenth, hundredth and thousandth place. We worked on identify greater and lesser decimals... For example $.1 > .01$. At first there was a bit of confusion over the value of the decimals, but when we could think about it in relation to something familiar, the light came on for everyone. We related these decimals to money, and everyone could see that $.10$ would be the value of the dime and $.01$ would be the value of the penny...then there was no problem thinking of which one had greater value. We added whole numbers and decimals.

In other groups we worked on adding and regrouping numbers. We worked on addition and subtraction skills. Our multiplication skills proved to be a bit rusty from summer, so we will be practicing our math facts in the coming weeks.

Multiplication skills can be practiced at home by rolling two dice and multiplying for the answer. Practice higher numbers by using two cards and playing war. (Use two cards and each player must multiply the two cards to see who has the highest number.)



Science and Social Studies

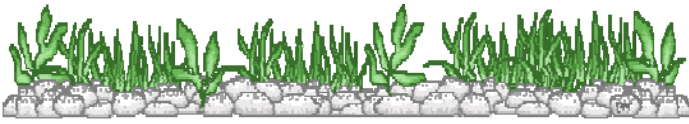
We worked more on map challenges this week. On Mondays, students will be given 6 challenging map questions and have the week to find the information. They can use atlases, maps, and the classroom computers to find the answers. On Friday we go over the answers together. This is a "problem solving" exercise. This in class assignment is to help students use problem solving skills to find answers. This week, we discovered that the question where is the highest point on Earth? Where is the lowest point on Earth, and what continent are these two places found?, did not mean the North Pole and South Pole. We worked together to find the "right" question to ask in order to find information that would give us the answer. This is helping students learn how to use reference books, and technology. It helps with problem solving skills and practice in using a map. They are doing a great job using these skills and answers improved from last week to this week. There was a much higher rate of success. It is also interesting that they COULD share answers, but choose not to do this. After hard work and successfully solving the problem, many choose to wait and show how they found the correct answer on Friday.

Squid

The pictures tell it all! If you have not logged on to the website to see the pictures and video, I recommend you try. On Wednesday we dissected squid. The room was full of excitement and fish odor. We learned quite a bit about this ocean animal through exploration. We found the squids fins, mantle, pen, eyes, ink sac and more.

Arrival and Departure

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in our drop off and pick up routine. The Springboro bus will be picking up at about 3:05 so if you arrive early for pick up, be sure to park on the side of the building instead of the front so that he can move this bus easily to the front of the school.



Spanish

Spanish began this week.
Basic Vocabulary covered:

Hola	Hello.
Como estas?	How are you?
Bien	Well
Mal	Bad
Como te llamas?	What is your name?
Me llamo...	My name is...
Se llama...	His/Her name is...
Mucho gusto.	Nice to meet you.
Caio/ hasta luego	See you later.

All students chose a name for Spanish class.

Spotlight on Writing by Kyra Ungerleider

On Wednesday Mrs. Macdonald's class dissected a squid. It had a VERY, VERY, stinky smell. We, at first, had to look at it and touch it. The squid felt smooth and slimy. The mantle was sort of swishy. They had two fins that were sort of see-through and flimsy. The squid had six arms(**eight arms**) and two tentacles. The arms had suction cups and the tentacles had some on the end. The mouth was in the middle of the arms and tentacles. When we cut open the mantle (using our scissors) there was a sack filled with a cloudy liquid that was the heart. The brain was the size of a large pea. The squid's eyes were very small and looked like tiny beads. Dissecting a squid was tons of fun and we all learned a lot.

Kyra Ungerleider

Each week we will have 1-2 guest writers from the classroom write about a topic of their choice. The guest writer's will write, edit and email me their article. They will be printed here as their original work. Next week, Jacob will be writing about our classroom pets.

*The art of
teaching
is the art
of
assisting
discovery*

Mark Van
Doren

The Academy Minds in Motion

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This week our reading groups continue to build vocabulary skills and comprehension skills. We are working in flexible groups. One group has been reading Dr. Dolittle. Everytime we finish with group and I assign one chapter to be read silently, the group returns asking if they can "please read one more chapter?" Again, a teacher's dream!!! I love this class. They love to learn.

Another reading group is reading Tall Tails Cross Country with Lewis and Clark. This book is great. It is from the point of view of Seaman, the Newfoundland dog that accompanied Lewis and Clark on their travels. This group, as they started the book, asked if they could read the other books in this series too. It is amazing having such avid readers! Just wait til they see what I have planned for them next!!!!

