

# MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



## Our First Full Week

Things are going great! I am so pleased with the progress the class is making on a whole. This week we finally had a chance to run through a regular week. We had P.E and Art on Tuesday. We had EXTRA time on Wednesday. Students went "off campus" for horseback riding, tennis, golf, piano, or stayed "on campus" for a variety of special activities. These worked out nicely and the enrichment was great. Thursday was our second go of dance, Spanish, and character education. We also had a chance to dive into our regular curriculum. It is fantastic teaching in this small group setting. Our daily classroom has a unique look to it. We have the luxury of two spaces to work with. To begin our day, I review what is expected at student work time, then start in on our language arts groups. Each small group goes into the computer room for language arts instruction and an assignment dealing with their daily reading. They return to the front classroom for their work time while the next group meets with me. This provides all students the chance for small group instruction and time for independent work. We then have a short break, snack, and return for small math group time until lunch.

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### Important Dates

- ☉ Aquarium permission slip due today.
- ☉ September 23rd- Landscape helpers 9-2
- ☉ Field trip to the Newport Aquarium Thursday, September 28th
- ☉ September 29th Early Dismissal

## Language Arts

This week in Language Arts we reviewed subject, predicate, simple subject and simple predicate, nouns, verbs, pronouns, common nouns, proper nouns, adjectives, conjunctions, and interjections. We worked on a book report on the story Escaping the Giant Wave, and read a poem called *Knoxville Tennessee*. The poem, *Knoxville Tennessee*, was about what it is like in summer for the author in Knoxville, Tennessee. We read the poem then made our own poems that mirror this poem. These will be posted next week on our website. The poems are titled Springboro, Ohio or Miamisburg, Ohio, but I am just going to post them under Ohio. This will give out less information via the internet about the author of each poem. I will also only list the author by first name. Look for these poems after the weekend.

We finished up Dr. Dolittle this week and are nearly finished with Tall Tails the story of Lewis and Clark. We will continue working in books making predictions, drawing conclusions, and making inferences.

## Mathematics

In Math, I am noticing some very rusty math skills. Students need to master their math facts. Practicing math facts with flashcards is just one form of practice. The more they see these facts, the more they will become confident in their math abilities.

### *The Game of Factor:*

*Having fun always makes learning easier, so use games to help you practice multiplication. For example, you can use your special playing card deck to play a game like "Factor." You need to know that a factor is a number that divides evenly into a product, so that 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12 are all factors of 12.*

- *Each player gets 6 cards.*
- *The first player declares a "Target Product," which has to be a product of two cards in his or her hand.*
- *Each player shows the cards of numbers that are factors of the target product. Everyone must agree that each of the numbers is really a factor.*
- *Each player gets the sum of their correct factors as points for that hand. Scores are recorded.*
- *The cards are shuffled and dealt again. The next person to the right declares the target product for the new hand.*
- *The game ends when the first person reaches more than 100 points.*
- *You can adjust the game by changing the winning total, or playing with partners, or by using a target number that is the product of three card values, etc.*

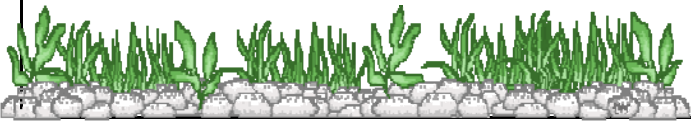
## Science and Social Studies

We worked more on map challenges this week. We learned about the ocean floor. We defined the words continental shelf, continental slope, trench, basin, abyss, island and more. We located areas on the map and identified the continents and oceans. We had a test on continents and oceans. We located the Arctic Circle given its latitude. Students are learning how to find answers to questions on their own and use the information to make informed statements. This is a great skill. Again, this is another unique advantage to our classroom setup. We have access to several computers at all times. Instead of waiting until computer lab time, students can use the classroom computers throughout the day to investigate their answers.

In science this week, we worked on the science goal of forming a hypothesis. Students are beginning the work on the comparative analysis question dealing with aquatic, terrestrial, and arboreal mammals. We learned how hard it is to come up with a hypothesis that we can test. We also learned that we need to work with others and be cooperative when working as a group. One of the goals set by the state of Ohio is to work on scientific inquiry. Over the next four months we will be investigating the topic of mammals and their claws. I hope everyone received the email invitation to work on this project and are considering participating in the presentation at the **Cincinnati Zoo on December 2nd**...and possibly an invitation to present at the conference on **January 17, 2007**. The class is excited to be working on this project.

## Landscape

Our school is waiting for an Eagle Scout project to begin, but in the meantime, the plants and weeds have not waited. They are thriving. In an effort to spruce up our appearance, we have teamed with the church to have a neighborly weed-n-trim project on Saturday, September 23rd from 9-2. If you can show up and help us pull some weeds, we would really appreciate it. Pastor Bryce, from Epiphany has offered coffee and donuts for all volunteers. Ian has soccer at 10, and 4 so I will be there early and then return between games. I hope to see you there. Bring trimmers and tools if you can.



## Spotlight on Writing by Jacob Bolam

From my latest research I have found that hermit crabs can hang on to almost anything they want to. I saw one hanging on to a coconut. Hermit crabs love to climb. They'll climb anything they want. They like it when there's something to get under or to dig in. One interesting fact is they flip themselves upside down trying to escape. They will try to get on a shelf in their cage from the bottom of it.

News Reporter

Jacob Bolam

*Jacob stays after school each day until 4:00 caring for the hermit crabs. He is especially fond of the large one. He named it BLAZE.*

## Spanish

NEWS FROM MISS TANIA:

All classes will review introductions and salutations. We played Batalla de colores (color battle) to learn/ review colors and numbers.

Spanish book order is due Sept. 21.

### Vocabulary Reviewed:

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...
Caio/ hasta luego	See you later.

### New vocabulary:

Colores	colors
Negro	black
Anaranjado	orange
Amarillo	yellow
Rojo	red
Rosa	pink
Blanco	white
Verde	green
cafe'	brown
gris	gray
azul	blue

Here is a good web site to hear the pronunciation of colors:

[www.jvl.net/~liliana/flashcards/abccolors.html](http://www.jvl.net/~liliana/flashcards/abccolors.html)

*A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary.*

~Thomas Carruthers

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**Speedy-n- Pokey**

This week, Speedy has started traveling. Kyla has taken Speedy on his first trip. They are going to IOWA. We hope they are having fun. Kyla is visiting family and will share her adventures with Speedy upon her return. If anyone else is interested in taking Speedy or Pokey on a trip, just let me know.

Other notes:

- Zoo trip will be scheduled the second week of October to make observations for science project, trip is free, drivers will be needed.
- Thanks for all the lunch help.
- Book orders will be due next Friday.

