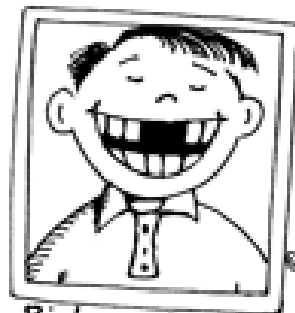


# MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM



Picture Day!

## Legacy Project

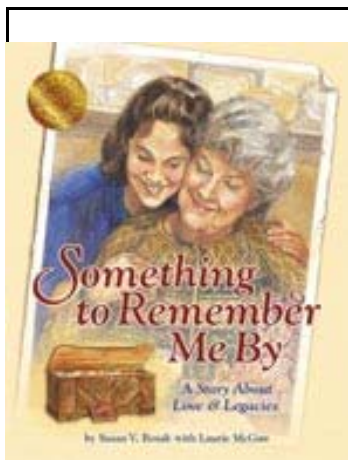
**THE ACADEMY**  
MINDS IN MOTION

Volume 1, Issue 8

October 12, 2006

### Important Dates

- ☺ October 25th Picture Day—out of uniform day
- ☺ October 26th- 7:00 explorer program
- ☺ October 27th—Early Dismissal 12:00
- ☺ \$4.00 address and stamps due for legacy project on October 27th



The information concerning the Legacy Project was emailed this week. We have discussed this project

at school and what the expectations for the project are.

Several students have asked if they could do more than one grandparent. This is fine. If they want to work on more than one grandparent and want more than one treasure chest just send in an additional \$4.00 and if you want them to write more than one grandparent or grandfriend they can certainly do that, just send in the additional

addresses.

We are excited about this new project and look forward to learning more about some special people in our lives.

I will keep you informed on due dates so that the project doesn't become overwhelming.

## Smart Board—Social Studies

The Smartboard is once again up and running. This interactive whiteboard is a fantastic tool that enhances our learning. We used it this week to work on explorers and played a concentration game that reviewed explorers and what their accomplishments were. It was a great reinforcement to our study .

This week we collected information about explorers in a fast fact book. We used our "Fact File/portfolio" to collect

additional information about explorers. We completed several explorer profiles.

Concepts about explorers we are covering include:

- Reasons to explore
- Reasons to find new routes
- Comparing and contrasting explorers (who explored and had a positive impact, who had a negative impact)
- Locating early civilizations

- Discussing the advantages the Spanish had over the Inca's and Aztecs
- The consequences of the contact with the Europeans for the Native Americans.
- The reason for looking for the Northwest Passage- Henry Hudson's problem with his explorations.
- The slave trade and what impact it had .

## Mathematics

We are working on several math skills including fractions of a whole changing decimals to fractions and changing fractions to a decimal. We are continuing this concept until it is mastered. There still seems to be some confusion over fractions of a whole or what  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 24 is. We have worked out this skill mathematically and we have worked out this skill with manipulatives to show that 24 pieces of candy divided into four equal groups would be 6 pieces in each group., then we would gather three of the groups.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 24 = 18.

Changing a fraction to a decimal at this point is covered by changing the fraction to an equivalent fraction of tenths or hundredths. So  $\frac{2}{5}$  would equal  $\frac{4}{10}$  and  $\frac{4}{10}$ ths makes the decimal (.4) .  $\frac{1}{20}$  would equal  $\frac{5}{100}$  and this would make (.05)

The other math group is working on conversions of pounds to ounces and inches to feet, meters to kilometers, and centimeters to meters. They are adding and subtracting these amounts. This Monday in the KID section of the newspaper there was a suggestion to convert players height to inches. This seems like a much more fun way to practice. We will be using football cards to compare players as a review.

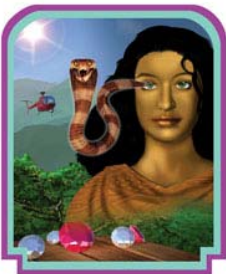
## Spelling

Spelling words are assigned on Monday and are tested on Friday. Vocabulary books will begin second quarter. Some students will continue in spelling checks, most have mastered the basic spelling patterns and are now ready for enriching their vocabulary.

## Reading

Reading groups continue to work in literature circles to discuss books and write about inferences and interpretations in our readings. The Giver, a Newbury Award winning novel, was completed this week. In this book, society has learned a lesson from the mistakes of the past and has tried to improve by taking away CHOICES. Students wrote about the choices that would be hardest to give up or have taken away. It was a slow novel at first, but then it pulled you in. It had many parallels to our classroom read aloud The City of Ember . After reading The Giver, and realizing we liked having choices, students had the chance to choose a "Choose Your Own Adventure" book. These books are written so that the reader can decide what will happen next. There were four different titles to choose from and two copies of each book. It was amazing when each student "retold" what the book was about. Two students with the same book had completely different stories. This tied together the significance and impact CHOICES make.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE® 4  
THE CLASSIC SERIES IS BACK!  
CHOOSE FROM 38 POSSIBLE ENDINGS.  
**THE LOST JEWELS  
OF NABOOTI**  
BY R. A. MONTGOMERY



These Choose Your Own Adventure Books were a big hit. They have several different titles available at Borders. There is also a website with more information about the books at

<http://www.cyoa.com/main.htm>

The second reading group finished up Doctor Dolittle and will be finishing Fourth Grade Rats . This is a fun story about what it is like to be in the fourth grade. It was a wonderful example of quotation marks because it had so much dialogue going on in the story. It also introduced (parenthesis as a way to express thoughts that someone was thinking but not saying aloud. In our next story, we will be reading a mystery involving the Magic Kingdom.

## Picture Day

Wednesday, October 25th is picture day. Students may wear what they like on this day. Envelopes from Easterling Studios will be sent home next week. These will allow you to choose your child's picture packet in advance.

Our first session of EXTRA classes finished up this week. I enjoyed working with "animal lovers" each week. We learned more about the pets around the school and more. New EXTRA sessions begin next week.

Just a reminder that Spotlight occurs on Fridays at 2:30 . It is a great display of community. Our students warmly and genuinely congratulate each other on their achievements and talents. Join us if

*Awaken people's curiosity.*

*It is enough to open minds, do not overload them.*

*Put there just a spark.*  
*Anatole France*

## Spanish Week of October 2

We played some alphabet games in Spanish: memoria, ¿Qué falta? Ask your student if they can spell their name in Spanish.

<http://www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/alphabet/> is a great site for an interactive Spanish alphabet lesson for your student or yourself.

### El alfabeto – the alphabet (letter followed by sound)

**A:** a  
**B:** be  
**C:** ce  
**CH:** che  
**D:** de  
**E:** a  
**F:** efe  
**G:** ge  
**H:** ach e  
**I:** e  
**J:** jota  
**K:** ka  
**L:** ele  
**LL:** e ye  
**M:** eme  
**N:** ene  
**Ñ:** eñ ye  
**O:** o  
**P:** pe  
**Q:** cu  
**R:** ere  
**RR:** erre(roll tounge)  
**S:** ese  
**T:** te  
**U:** oo  
**V:** ve  
**W:** doble ve  
**X:** equis  
**Y:** i griega  
**Z:** zeta

## 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, they also make great holiday gifts.

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

**The Academy Minds in Motion**

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Students have been working hard each week on their daily routines. They participate in journal writing, predictions of idioms, (this week it was "Eleventh Hour"), spelling review, geography challenges, language arts practice, math minutes, reading groups, math groups, social studies and science topics, computer skills and small group work with the K-2's .

Although we already have a small class size, most of the morning is broken up into sessions of even smaller group instruction. These small group meetings allow me to see who needs more time on a new skill.



The Hermit Crabs continue to be a source of great entertainment.

Just a quick reminder that we will be going outside on most days and students need to dress for the weather. The sudden change in temperatures today caught some students off guard and underdressed for the recess time.

I am trying to plan a trip to the zoo for observations concerning our comparative analysis question. This is a free zoo trip for the class, but we will need chaperones and drivers. I need to get the ok from the zoo, but I would like to plan the trip for the week of the 23rd.