

MRS. MACDONALD'S NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1
January 5, 2007

GREAT START TO A NEW YEAR



I hope that everyone had a fantastic winter break. I had a great time with my family. We had many visitors and the time went by so quickly.

I want to thank everyone for their overwhelming generosity in December. I enjoyed the chance to have a lunch "out" with my partners. We had a great time and I enjoyed a delicious

cheese sandwich with my favorite...avocados!! Yum yum. Our gift card to Encore was only partially used, so the four of us plan to go out after work after we finish working on report cards next week.

The gift baskets that we received were amazing. I appreciate all the thought that went into this gift. I loved the glass mug and hot chocolate. The gingerbread candle smells in-

credible, I took my kids to Graeters for ice cream during break, I bought some new books at Borders and will wait and enjoy a special meal from the Main Street Deli before our Penguin Night. The Discover Gift Card is going to be fun spending.

Thank you so much for this incredible gift.

The energy on Wednesday morning at the Academy was amazing to see. Everyone seemed to be excited to share stories about their break and talk about what they did. They all seemed excited to be back together again.

MINI-ECONOMY

On Wednesday, we began working on our mini-economy unit. In this unit we will be learning about money, saving it, earning it, borrowing it, and how money systems work. We watched a video about how money differs around the world. We saw that in some countries their system of money is stones.

The bigger the stone, the larger it's value. We discussed how our paper money system is a bit more convenient than carrying around huge stones, and we learned where money is minted. We located the P or D on coins,

but found that many of the recently minted coins do not have the P or D? We worked in groups to make a business plan for the products we will be producing in the coming weeks. These products will be sold to the younger students in a few weeks. We will be keeping track of the money borrowed, the expenses, and the profits.

Schedule of Events

- January 12– now a full day of school
- January 15th—No School MLK Day
- January 19th Report Cards come home
- January 25th– 7-8 Parent Program about Penguins All students in attendance

(Students will be showing parents what we have been working on : Grades K-2 penguin facts Grades 3-6 penguin products that will be for sale for Academy Dollars the following week. There will be songs, a slide show and presentations.)

JANUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	Full Day 12	13
14	No School	16	17	18	Report Cards	20
21	22	23	24	Penguin Program	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SURVEYS

An Academy Survey came home on Wednesday. This survey is to help us know what you like, what you don't like and suggestions for things you would like to see. Filling out this survey helps us see ways that we can improve, or lets us know what we are doing right.

We want to know what you think. Please take the time to read the questions and answer them honestly.

You can sign your name to the survey if you like, or you can send it back to school anonymously.

There will be a basket on the counter in the lobby for the students to place the surveys. Feel free to mail the survey back if that makes you more comfortable, or drop it off in the tuition box in the lobby of the preschool.

Some surveys have already been returned and we appreciate your feedback.



Take a moment and fill out the survey—we want to know what you think.

READING GROUPS



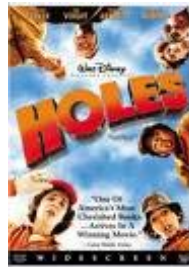
In reading groups this week we began new novels.

Group 1 is working on Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry. It is a companion novel to The Giver. We discussed the difference between a companion novel and a sequel. This is another thought provoking book and has already prompted many great discussions. Interest in this book is very high. The group has already requested another novel by Lois Lowry (even though they have not finished this one yet,)

We are working on the skill of foreshadowing, or seeing signs that tell us what may happen.

Group 2 is starting the book Holes by Louis Sachar. Group 1 read this book in December, and when group 2 finishes the book we will have a movie night to watch Holes together. We will compare and contrast the book and movie.

For this reading group, we are working on predictions and comprehension questions. This story has two stories taking place at the same time and then the stories come together at the end. The sequel to this book has recently been released and we are looking forward to reading Small Steps in February.



Group 3 is working on How to Eat Fried Worms. They have been working on vocabulary words and finding definitions to words through the context of what is read. They are also trying to make predictions of what will happen and have added comprehension sheets to their reading portfolios. Look for these to come home in the coming weeks. (This too could become a movie night!)

MATH AND YEARBOOK

In Math we are working on our economy unit, learning about money, money systems, profit, loss, savings, interest, taxes and much more.

We continue to work in our Singapore math series. Everyone began a new book in the New Year. We reviewed place value and being able to write numbers in words. This is a skill necessary for writing checks. We worked on estimation and rounding. (We only had three days of school this week, but we covered a lot of information.)

The Extra Class for yearbook has ended for this session, but we need to continue working on the yearbook pages. I would like to know if it is possible for the yearbook committee to meet on Wednesdays or Fridays after school for the next five weeks to continue their work. We need to choose photos for the collage pages and work on page layouts. If you would like to work on the yearbook and can stay after school on a Wednesday or Friday until 4:00, please send in a note telling me

which day is better. You can send a note, or email me at Lmacdonald@woh.rr.com

If you were unable to sign up for the last five week session of yearbook, but still want to join us, you are welcome.

