

Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom

Trick or Treat for the Troops



October 26, 2008

Important Dates

Gala information packets will come home on Monday.

Pie Sales are going on now .
Orders will be taken until
November 11th

November 7th,- Early Dis-
missal

November 9— 1-5 come
help plant the Rain Garden

Orienteering at Grant Park
on November 21st

I was very excited about the enthusiastic response to “Trick –or– Treat for the Troops”. I am anxious to see what Jenny’s response will be to this surprise package. Jenny Betts is my nephew’s wife. She is 25 years old and has a soon to be two year old son. She will miss his second birthday and third Christmas because she is on a mission in Iraq. I cannot imagine what that would be like. Michael, my nephew, will be going over again in February, a week after Jenny returns from her tour. I can only imagine the confusion a two year old would have over this parent switch... but they are making the best of it.

My sister asked if the kids could send cards to cheer her up, they love getting mail over there... and that is when I suggested Trick or Treat for the Troops. The class was very enthusiastic. Those that did not trick or treat on Thursday, but instead trick or treated on Friday, asked how they could be involved, so I promised to send a second box on Monday so that they could participate if they wanted to.

Believe it or not... the first box, that I mailed this morning was a 25 pound box of candy and cards. It had a little bit of everything in it. Thank you for your help in making this possible!! Below is a picture of the first box that I sent.

A huge thanks to Angie Duncan for letting me know that chocolate was okay to send, for teaching me how to address the label (it is not your ordinary address) and for helping with shipping costs.

Thanks again, and I hope to have the class participate during the holidays to make something to send to the troops... suggestions are welcome!!



Language Arts

We covered suffixes this week and worked on adding suffixes to words. Spelling words consisted of the suffixes -ful, -less, -ness. We worked on adding these endings to words and making sensible words. We also discussed that these suffixes will be expected to be spelled correctly in daily work. Helpfull is not a word (it just took me five tries to get that spelled incorrectly because the computer kept fixing it!!!)

Emma celebrated her birthday this week and brought in a game for the class called **in a pickle**. In this game you choose nouns and have to order them and add to the list. Like a germ can be in a sandwich, on a plate in a gymnasium. It is a great game and good for vocabulary building!

Thank you Emma!

We discussed the idiom "can't hold a candle to". It was interesting to hear what students thought it meant compared to the actual meaning.

We continued to work on writing skills and research. Students used a variety of resources to find information about colonial jobs, colonial homes, colonial life and colonial games.

Math

Math this week consisted of reviews and testing of basic skills. Students were given worksheets assessing skills of identifying and counting coins, telling time, addition, subtraction, regrouping, multiplication, division, greater than and less than. Please look over these papers in their Friday folders. I have worked with groups and individuals to discuss areas of confusion. These skills are the basic and fundamental skills necessary to grow in math success. Some students are just making careless mistakes and need to start giving more effort to looking over the work they are handing in. That is what prompted my "TARGET RECEIPT" response last week. Students need to have greater care over assignments they are doing and turn in quality work.

Students played a place value game this week with a partner. Three dice were rolled and the largest place value number was created 5 times for each player. Then the five numbers were added up. The player with the largest number was the winner...almost. Papers were then switched, calculators were used to check the addition and only players that added correctly qualified for prizes. We will continue practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills with quick games that can make the practice a bit more fun.

This week we will be using our Newspaper in Education to explore the election results. Our newspapers are delivered each Tuesday and Wednesday. The papers from this week should be rich in math resources. We will be tallying the electoral votes, using graphs and working with percentages.

We will compare sunrise and sunset times for the coming weeks.

Social Studies



Jefferson

This past week, we studied the election process, the electoral college, and the three branches of government. We will be learning more about the powers of the president and the order of succession to the president. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn more about the election during this very historic election.

We discussed how many FIRSTS this election has.

- First African–American
- First woman
- First 73 year old
- First presidential candidates both not born on the continental US

It is an interesting election, that is for sure!

During our immersion week, November 10-14, we will be finishing up our study of colonial times and students will have a day where they can dress colonial and will participate in colonial activities. We will not be using electricity on this day. Students will be asked to pack lunches that do not have modern conveniences (pudding cups). I am sure some of you are groaning...that is why I am giving you two weeks notice. Boys colonial dress can be as simple as tube socks with sweatpants tucked in and a t-shirt. Girls colonial dress should be a dress and we will be making bonnets at school. Lunches can be a sandwich—a piece of fruit or some veggies... we will get water from the well (kitchen faucet)... but I would like for them to use their imaginations and see how much more difficult it was back then. GEEZ— I won't be able to use the Smartboard!

As I look ahead, we will be learning more about the US and Lewis and Clark. Steve Vaughn will be coming to school on November 20th to talk to the class about orienteering. Orienteering is the use of maps and compasses to navigate across land. This was an important skill for Lewis and Clark to have. Steve will be introducing the class to this skill (and me too) and then on Friday, November 21st, students will go to Grant Park and practice this orienteering skill. We will need parent helpers to work with small groups at the park on this day!

Homework for the Week

Monday: Choose a candidate, write about what it must feel like the night before the election. (please hand in on lined paper)

Tuesday: Math practice sheet

Wednesday: Read assigned story

Thursday: Study spelling words of the week. Write them in cursive.