

April, 2011

Dear Families,

How proud you parents of all our 1st through 3rd graders must be after their Greek plays! Our students had so much fun getting ready for you. They always seem to grow so much from preparing for a performance. Deryn and I enjoy watching the older students helping the younger ones with props, cues, and learning lines. Now for the next few weeks the 4th - 6th graders will become familiar with Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

Yesterday was a beautiful last day before spring break. We were enjoying our porch while having lessons on new songs on the recorder and the parts of the flower, while some students just enjoyed reading. A number of budding artists were studying work from various artists and copying their work quite seriously and beautifully. Our windows are filled with renditions of work by Picasso, Klee, Warhol, and others. After a lesson on passerines (perching birds), many watercolors of cardinals, goldfinches, chickadees, etc. are also livening up our environment.

Our sixth graders have begun a small bread business which has been well-received by staff and parents. The boys are trying out various recipes. You can talk to Daake, Connor, or Neil if you would like to place an order. Proceeds go to our Ozzy fund for cat food and vet bills.

In writing workshop we have been enjoying writing poetry based on color. The children are frequently continuing at later times to create more poems. Their experience with writing was quite apparent when they were working on songwriting in Kid Pan Alley. We have also been working on perfecting our capital letters and practicing the doubling consonant rule in spelling.

Fractions are the focus for many groups at various levels, from drawing them to finding equivalent values, to adding and subtracting with unlike denominators. Dividing abstractly is also a popular activity. One of my favorite lessons this week was with a group of 8-year-olds who were having a grand time learning to check all their math work using inverse operations.

You are all welcome to join us for an observation after spring break.

Sincerely,

Mona