



Classroom I Newsletter

Where to begin with all that is happening in Classroom 1! It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of another year! I guess the old cliché holds true.. *Time flies when you're having fun!*

The Latest

Mrs. Spencer taught a fabulous unit on plant life. She explained to the children that plants need water, soil, and sun to sustain life. Her lessons included parts of a tree, recognizing differences in leaf margins, plant watering, and leaf polishing. As a group the children participated in an experiment. Three carnations were placed in colored water to see and understand how water travels through the stem. This experiment took patience in waiting for the results. The children loved the anticipation! It was the first thing many of them would check at the start of their day! Excitement filled the air when the tips of the flowers turned color! Remember those clear plastic jars we requested last month? They have been put to good use. Each child planted a paperwhite bulb. This has proven to be an excellent way to observe the root system of a flower.





Mrs. Kessinger recently concluded a study of Native Americans. She focused on tribes that were native to Kentucky. The children learned many Native American symbols. Using these symbols they decorated their own paper tee pees and head dresses!

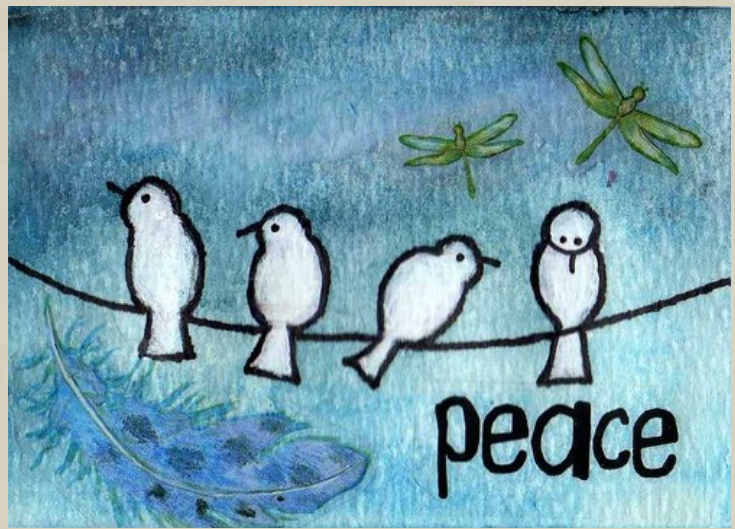
Mrs. Johnson returned to our classroom to share a lesson on *self value*. She read the book *Hooray for You! A Celebration of You-ness!* by Marianne Richmond. This wonderful book emphasizes the importance of appreciating our own qualities. She introduced a lesson that allowed the children to make a self-portrait. They were able to look in the mirror and admire and appreciate their own unique characteristics. For weeks, this was the most popular activity on the shelf!



As a continuation of our Native American study, **Mrs. Young** introduced the story of Black Elk (found in the book *Nurturing the Spirit* by Aline Wolf). Black Elk was a Native American who lived over 300 years ago. He was part of the Sioux tribe. Black Elk had a vision for people everywhere to live in harmony. Our discussions throughout the week focused on peace and how it begins with each of us. We talked about peace as a feeling that comes from within...a feeling that lives in our hearts. The children participated in a classroom peace ceremony. Each child was handed his/her own self portrait. As we played *Peace is the World*

Smiling each child was invited to come to the center of the group and place his/her picture on the *road of peace*. It was quite moving! At the end of the week each child was presented the question, *What does peace mean to you?* As we passed the peace dove the children were given the opportunity to say out loud (they could also choose to pass) what peace meant to them. Below is a list of their profound answers! These are their words verbatim.

What does peace mean to you?



Mrs Young.... the sound of the bubbles on the fish aquarium.

Mrs. Kessinger... a long, deep breath.

Mrs. Spencer... dolphins gliding through beautiful blue green water.

Winston... loving my baby brother and God!

James... playing with my dinosaurs in the drawer in the basement.

Hale... watching Polar Express.

Bill... my family and friends.

Laura... loving my whole family and teachers.

Joseph... patience and quiet.

Emma... loving my family and Uncle Joe.

Helena... my teachers, my family, and Larry.

Maya... my family, my princess hat, and gloves.

Erik... my family, my brother, and my Uncle Dylan.

Gage... petting my cat and running around the grass and garden. Getting an advent calendar from my Mom.

Amelia... hugging and kissing my Mom and Dad.

Dakota... loving my family and friends.

Sanat... getting a gift from Santa Claus.

Patrick... my baby fish, my Mommy, my Daddy, and my sister.

Irene... my Mom and Dad, my family, and Atlanta.

Jake... watching Star Wars and Polar Express.

Flannery... my teachers and the materials.

Nick... playing with the dinosaurs with James.

Loren... my Mom, my family and my teachers.

Mimi... loving my whole family and teachers.

Sydney... my teachers, my family, flowers, bugs, trees, and the letters.

Kaden... playing Star Wars with my brother.

Olivia B... quiet and peaceful.

Elsa... saying *please* to my sister.

Thanks to You

Thank you so much to the Kazee family for buying us a set of metal insets!!! They are shiny and new and we couldn't be more thrilled!!

Thank you to Kelly Bradley for publishing our classroom wish list.

Thank you to Rebecca Frazier for making a delicious apple crisp for our Thanksgiving feast!

Thank you to the Brooks-Stohner family for buying us pomegranates. This provided us with an excellent impromptu tasting lesson! Many of the children had never tasted a pomegranate before, and they loved it!!

Reminders and Requests

December 19th is a half day. Primary will dismiss via the car line at 11:00. Please plan on picking your child up in the circle.

Please continue to save and send in your plastic grocery bags!

Pizza! Pizza! Please remember to send in \$2.50 for pizza on the last day of the school week.

Calling all readers and sentence cards! We would like to have all reading materials returned to school before our holiday break!

We hope everyone is able to find time for rest and relaxation over the holiday break!

Joan, Christie, and Diane

Classroom Quotes

Boy, I'm really filling my work drawer today!

-3rd year boy

You make my heart happy!

-1st year girl to another 1st year girl

I wish I could feel what you are feeling right now!

-3rd year girl



Establishing lasting peace is the work of education.

-Maria Montessori