

Classroom VI News
February 5, 2009

It's good to be back in the classroom after our winter break and the snow and ice storm last week. The weather reminds us to be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for winter weather. We try to take the children out each day for some fresh air. They should all have long pants, a jacket, hat, and gloves. They also need boots for snowy days. Please also be sure **ALL these items are labeled!!**

Another reminder: Please send in written notes for a change in your child's schedule - doctor's appointments, going home with another child, days that they will miss due to vacations, etc. This is a school policy and lately many parents have been forgetting to send in notice.

Our current group study project is a study of marine life. Each child has picked a marine animal or plant that they are researching. Some children are also preparing posters to display their research. The children are all welcome to bring in shells or other bounties from the sea to display in our "Sea World Museum." We will invite the other classrooms to see the "museum" and research projects.

Future group study projects will include a study of birds and our "Trip around the World." The third-year students will select the countries that we "visit" and plan several of the activities.

Recycling Project:

The third-year Junior Master Gardeners are also working on a cell-phone recycling drive. You will receive a letter shortly with details on the collection process. In the mean time, save those old cell phones and accessories! Our school will receive compensation for our efforts and will use the funds for the Junior Master Gardener program.

THANKS...

The children thoroughly enjoyed our Native American study in November. Thanks to all who helped set up and clean up in this project! Thanks also to all parents who helped drive on our field trips to the Living Arts and Science Center, Safety City, and The Nutcracker. We experienced our first "virtual field trip" and watched shark feeding! Thanks to Jayna's dad for arranging all the technical aspects for this "outing." Palin contributed several items from India for the children to learn

about Indian culture. What a valuable addition to our classroom! Thank you to Palin and his parents.

Surprise Visitor:

You may have heard that a black widow spider was found in the classroom. We feel that this spider escaped the cold by coming inside on our tepee that we brought inside during our holiday break. You can rest assured that we have taken all efforts to assure the safety of your children by thoroughly vacuuming and calling a pest control company. We also contacted John Walker, a parent, who informed us that black widows are common at the Arboretum this year. It has been a great zoology lesson and the children have enjoyed having a live specimen to observe and share with other classes.

Math Facts:

In the spring, we generally start timed math facts tests. This is one area where we ask for parental assistance at home. It is important that your child have rapid recall of addition and multiplication tables. Begin quizzing your child on addition of the "doubles." (1+1, 2+2, 3+3, etc.) This helps give them a reference point for all other addition facts. After all addition tables are mastered, move on to multiplication.

Miscellaneous:

We are working on details of spring field trips. As soon as plans are finalized, we will let you know. Don't forget that 4-H camp will be April 30 and May 1.

Again, you are welcome to come to the classroom for lunch or an observation anytime that fits your schedule.

Amy and Mary