

Classroom VI News
December 9, 2009

Happy December!

As the cool weather blows in (it's very windy as we're writing this), it reminds us to remind you to label all hats, gloves, jackets, etc. It's the time of year when these items may be needed during the day but are sometimes left at dismissal. Without names or initials, these items are often not claimed and end up in Lost and Found - and then - at Goodwill. Please, please, please, label everything!

House shoes

We are also reminded that December is the time to look for house shoes because the stores have oodles in stock. While socks can be worn, there may be spills or fire drills where the socks get wet. Since children's feet generally get too warm in some of those big, furry animal-type slippers, look for a smaller slip-on type if you're shopping.

Bird of the Month

For December, our "bird of the month" is the Swift. What an unusual bird! Did you know that Swifts eat, sleep and even mate while flying? They are known as one of the fastest flying birds and can cover 1000 miles in only one week!

November was a busy month.

Even Gloria, the tarantula, entered into the fray by molting! The children came back after the Thanksgiving break, seemingly seeing two tarantulas but one was actually her exoskeleton. Flutter, the zebra finch, is busy decorating his nest with embroidery thread and other embellishments for the holidays. The children think he is trying to create the "best nest" for his new mate. And the children have completed totaling and rolling UNICEF money that they collected. It was a record-breaking year. Our class collected \$336.91 - over \$200.00 more than last year!

Current studies:

We are continuing our study of the fascinating human body. Our studies are including body systems, care of the teeth and the senses. One lesson included a role play of the circulatory system. The children loved being blood cells moving through the heart and lungs and carrying oxygen to far parts of the body.

Bluegrass Pride will be coming to Providence on Friday with their hands-on model called EnviroScape. They will be working with our 3rd -6th graders on concepts such as erosion, point source and non-point source pollution, and watershed citizenship.

You may have noticed the aquarium in the lunch room. We are raising trout and the third-year students are monitoring the progress. This activity is a community service activity of the JMG (Junior Master Gardener) program. There have been lessons on trout care and the parts of the fish. Another community service project for the JMG group will be to distribute boxes for cell phone collection. We are doing a small part to try to keep used electronic equipment out of the landfills.

As we enter into the holiday season, we will be studying Holiday Traditions Around the World. It's always interesting to see how children in different countries celebrate the season. We will also tie in lessons on manners. So, during your holiday meals, notice that your child is (hopefully) sitting properly in the chair, has his/her napkins on his/her lap, says "please," "thank you" etc.

Share (show and tell) changes

Since there have been such large number of shares this year, we have not had the time at circle for reading and discussing stories as we have had in the past. Consequently, we will be entertaining shares on Fridays only. Your child should be prepared with facts and pertinent information about the item before bringing in a share. You can assist your child on research if they request and truly need it. As an example, rocks, money, shells, etc. need to be identified. Since this is an educational opportunity, classmates may ask questions and everyone learns from the process.

Winter Break

We wish all of you a happy, safe and healthy holiday break!

Amy and Mary

