

Classroom VI News
March/April, 2011

Yeah Spring!

Although it's officially Spring, it's still cool outside. Since children may still need jackets or sweatshirts, please label them with names or initials.

After spring break, we will have small groups working in our Native Specimen Garden in the afternoons. The children love contributing toward the common goal of making the garden beautiful.

Math Facts

As most of you know, we have begun our timed math facts quizzes. These tests help stress the fact that memorization and rapid recall of math facts is essential. You can help your child be successful by helping them learn their addition tables. Upon completion of addition tables, start on multiplication! Progress in school will be more enjoyable when these tables are second nature.

Trout release

The third-year students released the trout that they had been caring for since September. Even though the weather was cold and breezy, it was exciting to watch the little guys swim off into their natural habitat. Thank you, parent drivers, for helping out.

Earth Day Projects

The children have all picked their projects for our Earth Day theme of "Eco Friendly Living." We announced the theme before spring break to give a little more time for those needing to plant or build models. We feel the need to remind parents that parental assistance with projects should be minimal. Children are constantly internalizing their abilities. If adults help too much, the children may feel incapable. Remember - it's not about the product as much as it is about the *process*.

The children were invited to choose their projects with something that interested them within our theme. Our words were, "As stewards of the Earth, what would you like to teach others?" With this framework in mind, we adults can help guide them as they research and convey their message to others.

Each child will be making a poster. They can gather information, take pictures, make charts etc. both at home and school but **posters will be done at school**, not home.

Any written information should be in his/her own words and writing - not copied from a book or printed off the internet. You can certainly help with paraphrasing as it's a developing skill at this age.

Be sure to plan on coming to school on April 22 from to view all the wonderful Earth Day projects.

Upcoming Events

- Living Arts and Science Center on April 14 for a program entitled "Energy on the Move." We will leave school at 11:00 to enjoy a picnic lunch followed by the program. We should return to school by 2:00.
- Overnight 4-H Camp May 4 and 5. More information will follow.

Thank You

Thanks to all the parents who have helped drive, checked for lice, worked in the classroom, made booklets, etc. We appreciate your help SO much!