

Classroom VI News  
October 6, 2010

We have settled into the school year with many wonderful projects going on. Everyday, a glance around the classroom reveals much activity, research and learning.

The children have enjoyed our studies related to history and the formation of the earth. We used stories and experiments to explain the laws of the universe. We have also learned about stellar nucleosynthesis and the layers of the earth. We are currently concentrating on fossils and dinosaurs. The second-year students practiced their research and presentation skills with their dinosaur reports. It was fascinating to imagine the size of some of the dinosaurs.

In our science study of stems, the third-year students have explained their experiments to the rest of the class. They have also taught others about the stems that we eat. This was a popular lesson as many of the children tried pieces of raw vegetables that they may have never eaten before.

The third-year students in Lower Elementary have taken on the "Trout in the Classroom" project. The eggs have hatched and they have their yolk sacs still attached. The children test the water daily to check for ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and PH levels. It's exciting to monitor the conditions and to watch the changes that occur.

Our Junior Great Book program is up and running for this school year. The third-year students have their books and are anxious to begin discussing the stories.

We are excited about our upcoming field trip on Tuesday, October 26 to Dr. Ron Shashy's office at Georgetown Hospital. Hospital personnel will talk to us about proper hand-washing methods and fun facts about germs and staying healthy. Then, Dr. Shashy will teach us about proper care of our ears, eyes, nose and throat. We'll cap off our trip by eating our bag lunch in the cafeteria. If you can help drive, please send in the driving request form. If you cannot drive and your child is under 7 years of age or less than 50" tall, a booster seat is required.

Other events in the near future:

- October 14: Parent Education at 7:00

- October 17: Grandparent's Day/Open house. Details in "Thursday Mail."
- November 11-12: 3<sup>rd</sup> year-students overnight. Details later.

At this time of year, it's a Providence tradition to think of others. We have passed out UNICEF boxes to collect coins and dollars to benefit needy children around the world. UNICEF works in over 150 countries and provides children with such things as health care, clean water, nutrition, education, and emergency relief. Despite extraordinary progress, 24,000 children still die each day from preventable causes. The UNICEF mission is to do whatever it takes to make that number ZERO by giving children the essentials for a safe and healthy childhood. So, please be generous and fill up these boxes!

We sincerely appreciate all the parents who have helped us in the classroom. We are always in need of help in copying, laminating, cutting and making booklets. Thanks to Jennifer Brocato, Jenny Hesseldenz, Cynthia Insko, Jennifer Burchett, Melissa Rach, and Kim Stewart.

We recently purchased a bird house cam and a camera to watch the bird feeders. Jeff Purvis, Abby's dad, has spent several afternoons getting these installed for us. We will enjoy watching the birds (and other critters, we're sure) at their feeders throughout the fall and winter months. In the spring, we look forward to watching the nesting birds. Thank you, Jeff!

Two quick reminders:

- As the weather turns cooler, more children will be wearing jackets or sweatshirts. **Please label these items!**
- If your child brings something for lunch that requires a spoon or fork, **please send it.** They will wash it and put it in their lunchbox to reuse.

We look forward to a wonderful fall season. Again, you are welcome to come to the classroom for lunch or an observation anytime that fits your schedule. Please note, however, that we need advance notice if you wish to come for lunch as seating is tight.