

Classroom VI News

December 1, 2010

The school year seems to be flying by! We have presented all of the "Great Lessons" - a cornerstone of the elementary curriculum. These lessons deal with the formation of the Earth, laws of the universe, the coming of life, the coming of humans, the development of language and the beginning of mathematics. All of these lessons have led to wonderful discussions and further research.

The third year students recently returned from their overnight trip to Camp Shawano. It was a wonderful bonding and learning experience for everyone. In addition to botany lessons and hiking, the children participated in meal preparation, clean up, and - the highlight - the climbing wall! These events plus staying the night away from home encouraged a growth in self confidence and independence.

Second year students enjoyed their trip to Safety City. They learned about personal safety as well as road safety. Of course, they loved "driving" those little cars. Thank goodness they have a few years before actually being out on the highway! Our appreciation goes out to LFUCG for this program.

"Maps" seems to be the word of the month for November. The children amaze us at how quickly they learn the names and locations of the countries on each continent. They take great pride in making a beautiful product.

We are also asking for those old Halloween Jack-o-Lanterns. We would like to add them to our compost pile to feed the worms and build new soil for our plants. Please send in any that you are ready to dispose of.

Our Thanksgiving Feast was quite spectacular. The children cut fruit for the fruit salad and vegetables for the soup which cooked all Monday night in the crock pot. Oh my, when we came in on Tuesday morning, it smelled fantastic! Most everyone tried the food they helped prepare and many were surprised at how good it was!

Many, many thanks to those parents who are assisting with the lice checks - Evie Shashy, Sibby Duff, Andy Duff, and Jennifer Brocato. We really appreciate the help. Please remain vigilant and continue to do family head checks and treatments at home.

During the next few weeks we will discuss fundamental human needs. As an introduction, one of our daily messages asked the children to make a list of basic human needs. They came to the realization that a cell phone, a Wii and a play-station were not *really* needs!

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.

Lower Elementary first-year students will be going to the Nutcracker on Tuesday, December 14. A request for drivers will be coming home soon.

The crisp autumn air reminds us that winter is on its way. **Remember to write names on jackets and other outerwear.** It is also a good time of year to shop for house shoes. Your child will definitely appreciate having house shoes (not just socks) for those winter fire drills!

Enjoy the fall and holiday seasons!

Amy and Mary