

Pat's Laughing Piggies

WINTER WHITE SURROUNDS US AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR. WITH THIS NEW YEAR, WE ARE READING THE WELTER OF SONICS (WHALE SONG) KNOWN AS THE WHALE RIDER. THIS TOUCHING STORY IS ABOUT KAHU, A YOUNG GIRL UNKNOWINGLY FIGHTING HER WAY INTO A WORLD WHERE FEMALES ARE CONSIDERED INFERIOR. SHE HAS UPSET HER "PAKA" (HER GRUMPY GRANDPA AND THE VILLAGE CHIEF) SIMPLY BY BEING BORN A GIRL. AS THE ELDEST CHILD, IT IS HER RIGHT TO ONE DAY BECOME THE CHIEF. HOWEVER, PAKA IS STILL ATTACHED TO THE OLD WAYS. NANNY FLOWERS (KAHU'S GRANDMA) COMES FROM A DIFFERENT TRIBE WHERE WOMEN PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THEIR ORIGIN STORY. THIS DEEP SEA BOOK HAS SPLASHED OUT INSPIRING VOCABULARY WORDS WHICH KEEP US THINKING.

WE WANT TO THANK TRULY TERRIFIC TRISTAN'S MOTHER, LUCIE, FOR DONATING THESE PRECIOUS COPIES OF THE WHALE RIDER. TRISTAN WILL BE DEPARTING FROM OUR CLAN NEXT TUESDAY TO VENTURE TO THE GREAT ISLAND OF NEW ZEALAND, WHERE THE WHALE RIDER TAKES PLACE. WE ALL WISH WE COULD GO WITH HIM. WE PLAN TO SEND HIM OFF WITH AN EXHILARATING, ZEALOUS NEW ZEALAND PARTY WHERE WE WILL MAKE TRADITIONAL FOODS, PAINT OUR FACES LIKE THE MAORI TRIBE OF NEW ZEALAND AND WATCH THE MOVIE OF THE WHALE RIDER.

AS WE TYPE THIS LETTER, OUR YOUNGER KIDS ARE WORKING IN THE KITCHEN PREPARING DELICIOUS CHILI FOR THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM. THE SMELL OF ONION IS WAFTING INTO THE ROOM. THIS IS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING THE HUNGRY PEOPLE OF IOWA CITY. THE OLDER KIDS WILL HELP SERVE THE FOOD TOMORROW DURING LUNCH.

WE HAVE SOME NEW HELPERS THIS SEMESTER, ALLISON BRIMEYER IS OUR FUNKY NEW FRIEND WHO WILL BE JOINING US EACH WEEK ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. SHE WILL HELP US LITTLE PIGGIES LEARN (AND LAUGH). IN ADDITION, ELLA AND LUNA'S PAPA, JASON, WILL BE JOINING US EVERY FRIDAY, ENLIGHTENING US WITH INTERESTING IDEAS. HE WILL CONTINUE DOING CHAKRA WORK AND GUIDING US ON AMAZING FIELD TRIPS. HE IS A FUN, COOL ADDITION TO OUR SCHOOL.

IN SCIENCE WE CRAZY KIDS ARE LEARNING THE HISTORY OF THE MICROSCOPE AND HOW TO USE IT. WE HAVE LOOKED AT ARI'S HAIR AND WE NOW KNOW THAT HAIR HAS SCALES AND EVERYONE'S IS DIFFERENT. WE ALSO DISCOVERED THAT SUGAR LOOKS LIKE BURNT MARSHMALLOWS.

WE WILL SOON BEGIN MAKING SCARF MARIONETTES TO CREATE A PLAYFUL, PUPPET SHOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA SCARVES OR MATERIAL, OUR PUPPETS WILL GLADLY WEAR THEM.

ON OUR TRAVELS AROUND TOWN, WE RECENTLY LISTENED TO A THRILLING STORY ABOUT A BOY AND HIS DOG, "SHILOH". MARTY (THE PROTAGONIST) WILL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP SHILOH A DOG THAT CAME FROM AN ABUSIVE HOME. OUR NEXT AUDIO BOOK FOR THE CROWDED VAN RIDES WILL BE THE STORY OF SADAKO AND A THOUSAND PAPER CRANES. WE ARE READING THIS BOOK AND MAKING PAPER CRANES IN HONOR OF SOPHIE PAINE, A YOUNG GIRL (ABOUT 3 YEARS OLD) WHO MOST OF US KNOW. SHE IS SICK WITH LEUKEMIA AND NEEDS OUR LOVING CRANES TO WISH HER WELL. IF YOU HAVE, THE OPPORTUNITY GO AHEAD AND MAKE A FEW AS A FAMILY PROJECT AT HOME. WE HOPE TO MAKE ONE THOUSAND. SHE NEEDS THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE 250 (AT LEAST) CRANES SO FAR. KEEP FOLDING!

THE NIFTY KNITTING GUILD HAS BEGUN. THANKS TO SUE KANN, OUR QUEEN OF THREAD, WE ARE LEARNING TO KNIT. SUE COMES IN ONCE A WEEK TO SHARE HER DIVINE TALENT. WE PLAN TO KNIT AN AFGHAN FOR AFGHANISTAN, A PLACE WHERE WAR HAS LEFT MANY PEOPLE OUT IN THE COLD.

ON FEBRUARY 7TH, WE HAVE SCHEDULED A SKI TRIP TO CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN IN GALENA ILLINOIS. EACH STUDENT WILL NEED \$22 TO COVER COSTS. THERE WILL BE MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT WEEKS NEWSLETTER.

SIGNING OFF,
THE OLDER PEEPS