

P.L.A.
March 1, 2006

This awesome week we've been working on writing our acrostic poems. An acrostic poem is where you write down your name, and you think of adjectives to describe yourself that begin with the letters in your name. We've also been learning about how to write directions that even an alien can follow.

Pat had us write instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Then she followed all of the directions. Pat ended up putting a jelly jar on the peanut butter jar and put the two pieces of bread on the jars. She tried to cut it. One time she spread the peanut butter with her fingers instead of a knife. It was funny. Then Pat asked us to write directions for how to make a paper airplane. In class we all tried to follow each other's directions. Some could make the airplanes, but most of us couldn't. We learned that you have to be specific when you write directions. You also have to be organized.

In Science we've been learning about how to make volcanoes erupt. We take vinegar and baking soda and mix them together. It gurgles up and goes dripping down our fun-dough volcano. A volcano is magma, earth, and rock all mixed together. A crack forms in the earth's crust and pressure on the magma makes it shoot out of the volcano. The people from Pompeii got buried under the rock. The people from Herculaneum got poisoned by volcanic gasses, which killed them. It was so hot their brains boiled. We know this because their heads cracked open.

In Cultural Studies we've been learning about Africa, and what animals live there. We've been coloring in maps. In Math we've been learning more fractions. We've also been doing a dictionary game where we look up words in the dictionary. In Reading we've been reading on our own. Gerrit has been reading "Henry and Ribsy," which is about Henry who wants to go fishing, but Ribsy gets in trouble and Henry has to keep him out of trouble.

We've also been calculating funds needed to take a class trip to Chicago to go to the aquarium and field museums...

Announcements:

Friday everyone will go ice skating...bring gloves....pick up at Pat's at 3:30

By Gerrit (the great) and Tiarnan (the two T)

Awesome as rainbows after a thunderstorm,
Notorious as "never more",
Nebulous and mysterious as a shadow on the wall,
Amazing as purple lightning at night,

Knowledgeable as a mathematician,
Angel of earth,
Noble as a knight in armor,
Normal as a chicken with teeth.

Careful, cautious Clare,
Laughing joyfully like a crazy clown,
At hopping pink bunnies that look like Easter Pep,
Rattling, ripping,
Excited energy,

Lunging like a lion,
Artfully scoring graceful goals like fire,
Natural as a puppy playing,
Athletic as a speeding, spotted Cheetah,
Guarding grateful cats,
Happily sharing my hopeful home,
Acting careful and cautious as a mouse,
Naturally nice as a purple butterfly.

Magical as a bright full moon,
Enormously giving as a great mother eagle to her chicks,
Generous as a small tree letting little animals live inside it,
Active as a soft rabbit hopping place to place,
Nurturing as a kind mother cat taking care of her kittens,

Keeps storing her knowledge like
A large encyclopedia,
Nimble as an elf leaping through the green forest,
Never negative.

Serious as my careful father before me,
Actively keeping the family in line, like a mother swan teaching her children how to swim,
Navigating the never-ending road that Gerrit goes down,
Dutifully reading to bring the character to life,
Energetically beating my elegant mom when we run,
Recognized for getting things done, like a mother bird hunting for her tiny, chirping chicks,

Vigorous as a ferret when it's awake,
Awesome as a water strider that can walk over rivers,
Never-ending, non-stoppable ideas,
Wishful as a pterodactyl that wants to fly,
Inventive as my ferret who can find any way out of its cage,
Lucky as a marten that has caught its first bird,
Loyal as our two guardian dogs,
Impressive as an ant who has fought a spider attacking its home,
Gracious as the cranes who dance in Japan every year,
Encouraging as a mother deer who nurtures its fawn to rise,
Nocturnal as an old, sleepy owl.

Generous as a shining light,
Entertaining as a colorful clown,
Respectful as my skinny mom,
Rowdy as a lion club,
Interrupting as uninvited pop-ups,
Terrifically playful as a large, black dog,

Victorious as a soaring superhero,
Attacking the evil villain,
Nature-loving and nice as Claire,
Wandering all around,
Improving in my behavior,
Laughing because the world is funny,
Leader when it comes to clean-up,
Interesting as a sea animal book,
Gentle giant,
Energetically exercising,
Notorious Ninja.