



Newsletter, May 1, 2008

We have been learning about some sad but very important things in science class. Stand back Steve brought in a video about how humans throw away too much and it ends up in our endangered oceans. This concerns turtle-loving Max very much. Terrific Tristan is worried for the baby chicks that may die from eating too much plastic. We learned that even the wonderful, white beluga whales that live so far away are filled with cancer causing nitrates that are the result of polluting people.

We have decided we must help put a stop to this terrible, trashy trouble. We absolutely must reduce, reuse and recycle. PLA proudly plans to write a letter to our newspaper (Press Citizen) about how plastic bags should no longer be used because they damage our wonderful water world. We hope that all our families will bring their own reusable bags when they go to the store.

Turbo Tristan and Magnificent Max

The older kids have been crafting a collage in Nathan's art class. This month the group has been working our glues off (we have almost gone through a whole large bottle of glue). We are gluing down pieces of magazines in various colors onto a paper that is as tall as Naovy. This has taken us four fearless Fridays so far. When we have finished our powerful picture, we will show it to the whole group and have it on display at our upcoming Open House.

Krafty Kyler

While traveling around town we have finished our beautifully brilliant book on tape, Island of the blue dolphin, by Scott O'Dell. This great book was about a young girl named Karana whose life is changed by contacts with white people. When otter-hunting Aleuts come to the island, the peaceful life of the tribe is changed forever. In a battle over payment for the otter, Karana's father, the chief of the tribe is killed. When the tribe cannot rebound from this tragedy, they decide to leave the island. As they are leaving on a ship, Karana notices her brother on the island and dives in to save him. The ship leaves without them and they are left on the island alone. After

wild dogs kill her brother, Karana is left alone on the island, a lonely, living daughter and the last member of her tribe on the island of the blue dolphins. Exciting Ella said she liked the book because it talks about nature and because it is about a girl living alone on an island, which is a unique story. Hunter the hunter said his favorite scene was the beginning of the battle when there were spears and arrow flying through the air. He also liked the fact that Karana befriended the wild dogs despite the fact that they killed her brother. We have now started a book called, Danny and the Phoenix.
Exciting Ella and hunter the hunter

A little Indian man in a boat was carved by a boy in Nipigon, a small city in Canada at the tip of Lake Superior. His name was Paddle to the Sea and he goes on adventures through the great lakes to the ocean. Pat just read us this wonderful book as the start of a study of the great lakes because we are going to visit one of the great lakes, Lake Michigan, on our final class trip. We watched the movie after reading the book and all agreed it was not as good. We were so moved by the story that we want to make our own Paddle to the gulf. Some of us want to try to carve boats (with our parent's permission); others make rafts or put notes in a sealed bottle. Then we want to send them off in the Iowa River and hope they make their way to the Mississippi and down to the Gulf of Mexico.
Electric Elias, Magical Megan and Elegant Ethan

This mathematical week Luna, Ella and Tristan have been working on truly terrific trading. Lovable Luna says she likes the roll up dice game. In this game, they roll a dice and add beads trading until they reach one thousand. It will take a while to get there, but Luna says she is already on 109. Terrific Tiarnan and Mighty Max started magical multiplication. They have made multiplication charts to help learn and

have been working horribly hard sheets and playing fabulously fun games. Sarah, Megan Kyler Patrick and Elias have been working on daring decimals, comparing, adding subtracting and multiplying them. Sarah said that it was confusing at first, but once you figure it out it get stuck in your head. Then it becomes easy. Particular Pat has also been beating their brilliant brains with challenging multiplication word problems. Meanwhile Ethan the Eagle has been soaring through percents, circumference, sectors of a circle and circle graphs. Lovable Luna, Titanic Tiarnan and Super Sarah

SPRING IS HERE!

We welcomed the warm weather by cleaning our Art Room, replacing clutter with organized working space. It is hard to say which was the dirtiest job, but picking through moldy magazines was right up there. Opening the garage door and letting in the clean, fresh air inspired us to wash out every nook and cranny (Patrick was in the lead). When the job was done, we all enjoyed the clean new space and headed home to relax.
Clean Clare and Airy Ari

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Cathy Woodman and Joel Kline (Ethan's mom and dad) have again kindly offered to host another dynamic, delicious dinner and Open House. It will be held on Wednesday evening May 14, starting at 6:00. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the scholarship fund. We hope you will invite anyone and everyone who you think would be willing to support our super, stupendous school. We also hope to have a few things for sale to earn a little money for our class trip to Milwaukee and Lake Michigan. Invitations will be available next week. We hope to see you at our perfect party.
Powerful Patrick

The Iowa Test of Basic Skill scores have arrived. If you are interested in setting up a time to go over the results and discuss the year's accomplishments with you child, please check with Pat. This is a very busy time, so if you want to set a time to meet please do so quickly.

Pat

Calendar for May

May 14 Fundraising Dinner and Open House 6:00 pm

May 22 History Fair 6:00-8:00 pm

May 28 Graduation and good-bye ceremony (time to be set)

May 29-31 End of the year class trip to Milwaukee

June 1 Start of summer vacation (yeah)