

## *Pat's Learning Annex*

September 1, 2005

This week, Mo, Clare, Ethan, and Sabin began reading "The Phantom Tollbooth." This is a book about a kid named Milo who doesn't really know what to do with him until he finds a big package in his room. He opens it up and it's a tollbooth that takes him to different lands. It's a funny book.

In Writing we have been studying how to use adjectives. We did an activity where we were blindfolded and had to sit in nature for ten minutes and listen, taste, feel, and smell everything around us without using our eyes. Then we did a free write about what we sensed and we used adjectives in every sentence. In another activity we had to describe what we saw from the deck. We will do this kind of free write every week to track the changes we see in the seasons.

In Art we are making abstract pictures. An abstract picture is a picture that you can't recognize - it's its own thing.

In Science we have been studying hurricanes. We learned that they only start in water, and that they're really powerful. We've talked about Hurricane Katrina, which has destroyed New Orleans. People don't have jobs or electricity and their homes are under water.

Yesterday we made a group spelling chain. In a spelling chain you start with one person who has to spell a word. If they spell it wrong they don't get a link in the chain. If they get a right they get to form a link in the chain. The object is to make a whole chain out of all of the links people made. It was really fun. Yesterday we also played soccer, which we enjoyed.

In Math we have been doing puddle problems. You have to measure a puddle in your head every single way possible. You have to measure the volume, length, width, depth, area, and perimeter. It's hard, but it is also awesome.

This morning we watched a space video that told us about all of the planets in the solar system. Today, as always on Thursdays, we are at the library writing this newsletter. After this we will go out to lunch.

Other Notes:

Pat now has a cell phone, which will be with at all times in case of an emergency. The # is 319 621-6660. She can also be reached in the evenings at 337-5572, or by email at [pschmidt@avalon.net](mailto:pschmidt@avalon.net)

With this newsletter you'll also find a copy of the Competent Private Instructor's Form. It's important that you fill this out and get it back to me by next Tuesday. I will also need a copy of your child's immunization records. I will fill out the course of study section. Please also give me your email address.

We are thinking of having a curriculum afternoon potluck on Sunday 9/19 from 3-5. We'll keep you posted.

Tuition is due this week.

Finally, thank you all for your help support, and patience with getting this school year off the ground. We are still working out the glitches and I apologize for any inconveniences you've experienced due to the carpooling time. I would like to extend the school day Mon-Fri to 3:30. Pickup will be between 3:45-400. Thursday release will remain at 2:00. Please let me know if this is a problem.

Tomorrow, Friday, September 7 we will go to City Park in the afternoon for a "Wheel Day". Kids can bring roller blades or skates, skateboards and scooters. No bikes Please, we do not have space to transport them. We will have one bike and the tandem  
By

Sabin (the super) and Meagan (the special)

Other Notes by Pat