



Newsletter, September 4, 2008

Another spectacular school year has begun and we are happy to be back. We are fortunate that Nicole Upchurch has joined us to teach super Spanish this year. We started by singing great greetings and cool color songs. Then we learned emotion words like bien, (fine), triste (sad), mal, (bad), feliz (happy), enojado/a (angry) and cansado/a (tired). We then made magnificent masks to show these emotions. We have been studying Mexico as a Spanish culture and made delightfully, delicious cookie maps of Mexico. We read a book called Hill of Fire, where a farmer was bored with his town because nothing ever happened. Then one day when he was plowing his fields, a volcano erupted under him. That was all he needed to appreciate his quiet farm again. As a follow up to this true story, we make volcanoes out of clay that we plan to erupt next week. We are not just learning boring words, but are doing artistic projects, which make learning the language a lot more interesting.

In superb science, we are studying bugs. We have started with beautiful butterflies. We learned the life cycle and parts of all-insane insects and we watched another most entertaining video of "Bill Nye the Science Guy" about insects. We have also made nifty nets to catch our scientific specimens and a large holding net to observe them before we let them return to their natural habitat. As if on cue, a frozen dragonfly found its way to Megan's warm sweatshirt on Wednesday morning. We put him in a terrarium and observed him throughout the day. He was not

happy with this weather. We are hoping the weather improves so we can go out and catch butterflies. Hunter's mom has also ordered some butterfly eggs, so we can observe the whole life cycle.

WE HAVE NOW SEPARATED OUR ARTISTIC ART CLASSES INTO YOUNGER AND OLDER. THE YOUNGER KIDS GO TO THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL OF ART AND THE OLDER KIDS GO TO HAUTE SCHOOL OF ART. MAX LIKES THE FACT THAT THE YOUNGER KIDS GET TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT ART MEDIUMS WHILE DRAWING. THE ART CLASSROOM WAS COMPLETELY CREATIVE. ELLA THINKS THE OLDER CLASS IS AWESOME. "WE GET TO PRACTICE DRAWING AND PAINTING AND WE MADE 3-D MODELS OF OUR FUTURE SCHOOL. WE WILL BE STARTING TO STUDY ART HISTORY NEXT WEEK", ELLA BOASTS.

In magical math, we have been reviewing computation and super story problems. We culminated the week by making delicious apple pies from Ethan's own apple tree, which we devoured quickly.

In lovely literature, the younger kids are enjoying James and the Giant Peach; James is a small boy whose parents are eaten by a rhinoceros in downtown London. He is sent to live with his two cruel aunts, Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. They make poor James work all day and never have any fun. We are at the part where James meets an old man with a bag of magic crocodile tongues. He gives them to James and promises that wonderful things will happen. The old man warns James not to drop the bag because the magic will go into the first thing they find. James falls and drops the bag! We are waiting anxiously to turn the page and find out what happens next. Luna thinks the book is sad, and exciting so far.

The older kids have been gladly given, The Giver, to read. This book is about the positives and negatives of living in a perfect society. So far, we have read about the "feeling sharing time", which we all thought was a bit creepy. We have discussed and are writing about our ideas of a "perfect society" and Pat has already laid on ten vocabulary words. Anna is enjoying this book and thinks it is a great choice.

Asjah, Griffin and Naovye are reading Dr. Seuss books. Asjah doesn't like Dr. Seuss too much. Griffin thinks they are cool and Naovye loves the sleep book best.

Signing off,
The Kids of PLA

NECESSARY NOTE:

WE WILL NOW HAVE YOGA CLASS EVERY THURSDAY FROM 2:30 TO 3:30. PICK UP WILL BE AT THE SIDE ENTRANCE OF THE WASHINGTON STREET CHIROPRACTIC (ACROSS FROM NEW PI) AT 3:30.

THURSDAY IS ALSO "LUNCH OUT". KIDS NEED TO BRING MONEY OR A SACK LUNCH ON THAT DAY. NO HOT LUNCH IS SERVED ON THURSDAY.

THE FALL CLASS TRIP IS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 17 AND 18 TO DECORAH, IOWA. A NOTE AND PERMISSION SLIP WILL BE SENT HOME WITH NEXT WEEKS NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CHECK WITH PAT.