



Newsletter, October 30, 2008

*This wicked week we have been reading spectacular spooky stories in honor of Halloween. Pat pulled out her old favorite, Mostly Ghostly, and read us some classic tales. We were also treated to the terrible tale of the Raven, by Edgar Allen Poe. In this petrifying poem, Poe tells the tale of a man who is haunted by the memory of his lost love Lenore. A craven raven enters his home late one dismal December night and reminds him of his permanent loss. The raven stays forevermore. Anna thought this poem was very creepy, but loved it.*

*We all noticed Poe's use of repetition, rhyme and metaphor. The older kids also did a reading of The Golden Arm, to entertain the younger kids. Naouge and Asjah thought the story was too scary but Griffin thought it was great!*

*The older kids finished the great book, The Giver. In this story, Jonas becomes the receiver of memory and learns the awful truth of his community. He must make some hard decisions that will hopefully change things for the better. Even though we thought the book was wonderful, we all were upset with the sudden ending. The book was quite sad and made us appreciate the freedom we have in the world we live in.*

*We have also continued to read The Magic Thief. It continues to intrigue us with its twists and turns. This suspenseful fantasy has creative characters with perky personalities. We are hoping that after we finish this book, the author Sarah Prineas will visit our school to discuss how she wrote it.*

*Super Sarah, Clever Clare and Artful Anna*

We have been writing heroic horror stories. To start this unit we visited the spooky cemetery. We looked at the ghastly graves. Pat told a scary story of a girl named Luna and The Black Angel. The terrifying story inspired us all to write our own stories. The older kids wrote their own stories, while Luna, Colin, Patrick, Hunter, Tristan and Max wrote a group story. It was

hard, but we all felt proud of our final product. They will be on display in the classroom during the party on Saturday if you want to read them.

Lovely Luna and Evil Ethan

We have been presenting our Native American Posters and reports this week. After a few weeks of researching our cultural group, we took the information and prepared a presentation with a poster to share with the group. The reports were judged on the quality of our poster, information and the presentation itself. This is an interesting and fun way to learn our history.

Kangaroo Kyler and Cool Colin

Super Science Steve was gone this week and poor Pat had to fill in. We made icky, ooey, gooey atomic slime. We mixed two chemical together which linked the molecules creating a compound that is both a solid and liquid. We all enjoyed this slime, which glowed in the dark and slowly stretched. If you tried to stretch it, too fast it broke. "It was super duper fun science," shouted Tristan.

Extraordinary Elias and Tornado Tristan

**WE CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR DIA DE LOS MUERTOS, THE DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION. THIS MEXICAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATES LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED. TO PREPARE, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING SKELETON OR "CALACAS", AND WE HAVE MADE MASKS OR "MASCARAS". TODAY WE ARE GONG TO WEST LIBERTY TO BUY SPECIAL SUGAR SKULLS AND DAY OF THE DEAD BREAD, OR "PAN DE MUERTO." WE WILL ALSO VISIT A MEXICAN RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH, AND WE WILL PRACTICE OUR SPANISH THERE. WE ARE ALSO MAKING AN "OFRENDA", OR AN OFFERING DEDICATED TO OUR WONDERFUL FRENCH TEACHER STEVE, WHICH WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY. ARTISTIC ASJAH, MIGHTY MAX, HUNTING HUNTER AND EAGLE ELLA.**

**REMEMBER THE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS/HALLOWEEN  
CELEBRATION ON SATURADY, NOVEMBER 2 FROM 7-9PM.  
WE HOPE YOU CAN ALL MAKE IT! DONATIONS OF FINGER  
FOOD WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**