

**P.L.A**

November, 3, 2005

On Monday we worked on our hair curling horror stories. We continue to learn about how to begin our stories in interesting ways, to use a lot of adjectives and comparisons like: "Anna was as grumpy as a crusty old snapping turtle." This wonderful week we typed our first drafts and we shared them with the class, who gave feedback on a piece of paper, as well as orally. Our feedback, which was as helpful as the sun to a plant, consisted of: praise, questioning, and suggestions for polish (or PQP).

On Tuesday we went to the environmentally safe bio-diesel lab. We learned how they make bio-diesel, which was as interesting as a dog walking on its hind legs. For those of you who don't know, bio-diesel is diesel that is made from renewable sources like nasty grease from restaurants like Hamburg Inn, McDonalds (which has grease that is as nasty as dead fish), Oasis (which has the cleanest and best burning grease in Iowa City), and the Red Lobster (which also has good grease). Here is how it is made: the gross grease is first strained, then they do it again to make it cleaner, they put it in a water heater to circulate it and put the chemicals in it, then they put it in a tank as huge as a bathtub, and spray water through it. The water sinks to the bottom and cleans what has now become renewable bio-diesel. Then they dry it by spraying it through stainless steel showerheads. After this enlightening trip, we went to the cheese-making factory, and learned that all cheese is as white as a cloud. The cheese factory sells its fantastic product to other (corrupt) companies that dye it a pumpkin color. To make blue cheese, in case you were curious as to how to make it in your fridge, you have to inject it with bacteria that turn it blue (sorry for those of you who thought that you could use your moldy cheese as blue cheese to put on your toast, or your salad). These trips were as fun as dancing in the rain.

On wonderful Wednesday we made peanut butter in Science. First we shelled the peanuts like crazy elephants, and then we put it in a battering blender for four-minutes, but our poor peanut butter was powdery. So we had to add some slippery peanut oil and a pinch of silly salt, and stir it up again. Then we ate our perfect peanut butter on crazy crackers, and were as happy as kooky clams.

REMINDERS:

*Tuition is due*

*Parent-teacher conferences Nov. 13-18 (sign up on Pat's door next week, or call Pat to set up a time.*

*Please add these events to the calendar:*

*Nov. 21 – Trip to West Liberty to see "Fisherman and his Wife" by Calliope Puppets from New Orleans!*

*Wed. Nov 23 – No school (instead of release at 1:00)*

*Feb. 20 – Fieldtrip to West Liberty to see "Gertie's Journey on the Underground Railroad," by Owl Glass Theater*

This message was brought to you by:

Abstract Abby-gail and Animation Ahhhnnnnnaaa