

P.L.A  
NOVEMBER 17, 2005

This cold, snowy week, we finished our scary stories and began writing odes. An ode is type of poem that expresses something that you're thankful for, or appreciate. Tuesday we read poems by Pablo Neruda and Theodore Rothke. The poems by Pablo Neruda were odes to tomatoes and a tuna. In both poems he made the things he was describing sound like the most powerful thing in the world. The poem by Theodore Rothke was about a girl who was his student who was bucked by a horse and died. The feeling in that poem was sadness. You really got to know his student Jane, who was a happy, shy girl. We're going to be writing our own odes about things that we love. At our Thanksgiving Feast we will share some of these. Abby and Anna worked hard and completed our first poem, an ode to Pat. It is included with this newsletter.

*In our reading groups Anna and Abby have been reading "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" with Pat. Its about a girl name Francie who lives in a tenement in Brooklyn with her brother and mother and father. She plans to read every book in the world. Right now she reads a book a day. Her dad is a singing waiter and her mom is a janitor. Her brother is a year younger then her and he takes care of their money. Francie and Neely collect tin to sell to the junkyard person. Her life is hard and the only food she can waste is coffee.*

Everyone except Tiarnan and Meagan continue to read the BFG. So far we have had assignments to draw the Bloodbottler based on a description from the book, and we have had to create good dreams that we would like the BFG to mix for us. In Clare's dream, one of her kitty's gave her the power to talk to cats, and the cat's wouldn't let her pick them up because they were scared of the cat overlord seeing them with her. The BFG is a funny book that everyone is enjoying.

Megan and Abby are reading Water Wishes it is a book about a girl and boy. They were playing at the sea one day and one of the two children saw a bottle. They told their brother it was there and chased it out to sea. They are trying to solve the mystery of where the bottle came from. Megan is enjoying this mysterious and interesting book almost as much as she enjoys spending the time with Artistic Abby.

Megan is reading a story called Horrible Harry. It's a about a girl named Ida and her great, great, great grandmother that went on the titanic. And lives to tell, they go on a ship ride to imagine how it felt to go on the Titanic.

**Tricky Tiarnan performed his snake report yesterday. He told the class about how snake venom can be used for medicine, that rattler snakes have a special fang that SHOOTS out venom into their prey, and that snakes don't chew they're food, they squeeze and swallow them. Tiarnan's next research project will be on owls.**

In Science we have been learning to keep ourselves well by washing our hands. This is important because our skin gets germs on it when we touch our eyes, our nose, our ears, mouths, door handles, and just about everything else. If we wash our hands with just cold

water we won't get many germs off, but if we wash it with warm water and soap, more of the germs will come off. When you wash your hands while you're rubbing the soap, we learned that we should sing our ABC's. That way we will have washed long enough to get rid of most of the germs.

The texture of your silky brown hair is apple skin:

Your In History we have been working on our Native American models, as well as researching these cultures so that we can present what we learned to the class. I (Clare) learned that one reason why the Plains Indians live in teepees is because they had to follow the buffalo quickly, and the teepees were easy to pack up. In Math we continue to work on measurements and puzzles.

Your power is unfathomable as crystal clear white chalk snow is blizzard.

Next Tuesday we will be having a Thanksgiving Feast! Parents are invited. At the feast we will be reading our favorite odes before we eat the wonderful food we've prepared for you.

Menu: *Twice baked potatoes, Soup (corn chowder, or squash), Cornbread, Fruit Punch Vegetables*

Please contact Pat if you're coming to our feast so that we know how much food to prepare, and how much space we need to make available. This is a chance for parents to see and feel how much we're learning in school, and for us to all be thankful.

Quote for the week: by Tiarnan at lunch out after visiting the biodiesel shop, "Pat we could squeeze all the oil off my pizza and run my dad's truck with it."

Brought to you by:

Tricky Tiarnan, the snake expert, and Clare the cat wizard.

Notes:

This Saturday, November 19, between 10:00 and 3:00, Pat will be winterizing our chilly school. Help would be greatly appreciated. If anyone has access to old carpeting, we would like to cover the floor in the art room to help with insulation and heat loss. We would also like to put up a screen door on the south door to the art room. Let Pat know if you have any leads.

Now that wintry weather has arrived, Kids should bring a pair of inside shoes or slippers to keep at school to help keep our feet warm and dry and our floor somewhat clean.

Pat

A guiding figure

The texture of your silky brownie, brown hair is apple skins,  
Your hazel eyes, inviting and reassuring a maimed child lost in the rage of a storm,  
Your syllables, a bird's sing song melody, high pitched and influencing our learning,  
Your smile is caring and sharing your wealth of knowledge,  
You're as willful as a solitary lion; pure as a strikingly beautiful butterfly.  
Your power is unfathomable as crystal clean white chalk snow in Hawaii,

When you are enraged, milky white flames shoot from your mouth,  
you are a dragon mother protecting your charges,  
keeping us in line,  
When you are dreaming of a new day, the sweetest smile runs across your face  
warms the room,  
When you laugh, stars sparkle in your glorious green eyes  
a bell rings inside you,

You taught,  
You are teaching,  
You will teach,  
Many inquisitive minds.

With Much Love Abby and Anna