

**P.L.A.**  
**(December 1, 2005)**  
**This week's newsletter, as narrated by Anna**

*Dear Diary,*

Monday was dreary. Unravelling myself from the warm cocoon of my bed, I was sleepy eyed as I got myself ready for school. Clare and Megan, my dearest classmates and loveable sisters☺ were feverish. They would be staying home that day. Alone with my magnificent mom, I set off for school.

At school that day, I studied excruciating Algebra with smart Mark. Meanwhile, my other classmates worked on adding and subtracting fractions, as well as simplifying and finding equivalent fractions, which they've continued to study all week. As reported by inquisitive Ethan, they also worked on measuring gallons, quarts, pints, and cups by taking one cup and measuring it 2, 4, and 16 times in each jar.

We continued our study of our "Observations from the Deck," by freezing our fingers and toes as we enjoyed our fifteen minutes of free writing about our thoughts on the landscape. Here is a happy excerpt from my journal:

*Our annex is visible to the world's intruding eyes...There is an overwhelming continuous buzz of traffic polluting the air we breathe...Leaving us exposed to ant smasher, our raindrop of water was washed away by last night's downpour, and our power was spun into a web to be trampled by elephants. The big CIO of some crashing company running from jail. The cold breeze is happy to put fear in our eyes and warning of something like the people at the TV station who report the solemn news with smiles and pick-up lines. No news, no jobs, one man's sorrows is another man's money maker...we hope for sunshine tomorrow.*

On Monday afternoon I did thousands of worksheets for geography. I observed that Mexico is on a fault line, and reviewed where countries are located. Meanwhile, my lovely classmates did fraction reviews, read, and had study hall.

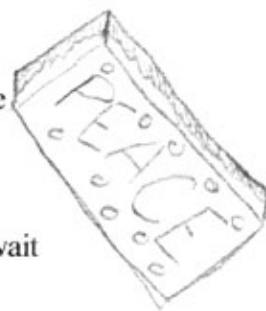
*Dear Diary,*

Tuesday was as cold as the arctic. We had to defrost our toes after walking into our school. We began the morning with discussing the ways we could help people less fortunate than ourselves. We realized that we fortunate to have our school, our families, friends, animals, and amenities. Our plan is to create a ginormous book in a collaborative effort, where everyone creates one page of a story we write together. This brilliant effort will be given to children in the hospital.

In marvelous Math, smart Mark showed me a wonderful new program he wrote that show ellipsis. The end project looked like designs from discos. Meanwhile the rest of my diligent classmates labored over fractions. I had the tremendous pleasure of

working with Miki the magical on a conflict and resolution piece. Sadly, the pig does not make it out alive. Please ask me for copies of my story. ☺

Science was shared with Stevie Wonder, who has guided us on our journey st  
Udying germs. He brought in supplies to make soap. First we melted glycerine in the  
microwave. Then we filled half our soap container and set our designs in it. My first  
design as shown below,  
was popping purple (not pooping) and suspended inside the glycerin was the word  
PEACE. Chunks of purple crayons scattered around this important word. I cannot wait  
to use it.



*Dear Diary,*

Wednesday, my beloved sister Clare was still grasping the porcelain goddess, and could not make it school. Megan, now recovered from her seething stomachaches, returned to the annex. As a class we began the day by doing a fluency write on what we thought about giving, and how we could give to others. Some of our ideas included donating school supplies to those who don't have them, knitting hats and scarves for the homeless, and making cakes to make people ☺. My loud classmates cut out collages for poem books they're making for their "I am" poems. Following that, they did Math while I read magical Miki my awesome story, "Wilma." Signed copies are available. ☺ We enjoyed a hot lunch of sizzling black beans, rice, cheese (and turkey for those who eat it). After clean-up, we made soap and did other fun projects.

*Dear Diary,*

Today I woke up as late as I could, brushed my teeth, changed my clothes, washed my hands with PEACE soap, and ate breakfast. Then I set out to school. We began the day with a GD in front of the generous fireplace, and discussed plans for secret partners. While my rambunctious classmates played Scrabble, did measuring activities, and read, I went to Math with smart Mark. Today we worked on cosin. These measure angles. After this we set out for a long and treacherous journey to the library, where we looked for books to read, and enjoyed constructive free time. We rewarded ourselves with lunch.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ethan and Anna have entered The Bread Garden Writing Contest.

We're planning to have a fieldtrip retreat to magical Miki's home on the lake the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

We're planning on doing community service projects...if you have an idea, pass it on.

Tuition is due.

Thank you diary, for listening and understanding. From, Animation Anna