



MoMA Partnership

This year the Asteroids have the privilege of forging a partnership with the Museum of Modern Art. Once a month, Kirsten, a MoMA employee, comes to Gillen Brewer to work on projects with the class. In November the Asteroids looked at the Picasso Painting, *The Three Musicians*. Students then made instruments out of different materials including pieces of cardboard and paint. The Asteroids have also been working on collage and have used many materials including wire and different types of fabric. In December the Asteroids visited the MoMA and were



The Three Musicians
by Pablo Picasso

taken around the museum by Kirsten. The trip was on a Tuesday when the museum is closed to the public. The Asteroids were able to enjoy the museum without having to navigate the crowds. The Asteroids discussed the different lines, colors, and images in Joan Miro's *Hirondelle*



Hirondelle Amour by
Joan Miro

Amour. The class also did their own sketches using different types of lines to create their own shapes. The Asteroids had a great time and are looking forward to their next visit!

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Classroom Changes

At the end of December the Asteroids said goodbye to Debrah Gershner. She left Gillen Brewer in preparation for her new baby. Debrah was a wonderful member of the Asteroids team and will be greatly missed. We wish

Debrah well as she starts her new family. Breaking news—Baby Nathan Gregory was born on January 30. Mom and baby doing well.

While the Asteroids are sad to lose Debrah, they are excited to gain Thomas Passa-

lacqua. Tom has been working as a floating para over the past few months and has had a chance to meet all of the students at Gillen Brewer. He will be a great addition to the Asteroids classroom. Welcome Tom!

Social Studies



Kristin, Jonathan and Nichelle put together a puzzle of the U.S.A.

In December the Asteroids finished up a unit on Native Americans. The Asteroids learned about how the Iroquois and Algonquian tribes lived and discussed the tribes similarities and differences. The class concluded the unit by making dioramas of Native American villages. Many students built wigwams and longhouses complete with gardens, crops, animals, and stock-

ade fences, which were predominately used by the Iroquois to keep wild animals out of their villages. The Asteroids had a great time building their dioramas and were extremely proud of their accomplishments!

In January the Asteroids began learning about European exploration with a focus on the men who explored the New York area.

The Asteroids learned about Giovanni da Verazzano and Henry Hudson's voyages to the land which is now called New York. The class has talked about how difficult the voyage must have been, as well as how the Native Americans must have felt when the European explorers arrived.

Next the Asteroids will begin to discover life on an early American homestead.



Two of the Asteroids' Native American Village dioramas.

Book Clubs

Throughout the first half of the year, the Asteroids have been having whole group reading instruction to develop and practice reading comprehension skills such as inferencing, sequencing, identifying main idea, identifying cause and effect and distinguishing between fact and opinion.

The Asteroids have now been divided into two leveled "Book Clubs" and are using their comprehension skills while reading leveled chapter books. Each club will read a variety of chapter books throughout the remainder of the year and will answer various questions that will help to

strengthen their comprehension skills.



Photo Gallery



Asteroids playing a geography game.



A 3-D model of a ship used for European exploration.



DeVonni visiting with former GBS assistant teacher, Chrissy.