



The Comets' Comments

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Math Groups

Math has recently become a class favorite. We have three small math groups that have been exploring coins, numbers, and shapes. Some of the manipulatives that the Comets particularly enjoy are geoboards, pattern blocks, and bear counters. The Comets use geoboards with rubber bands and make different shapes and designs. As a challenge the class enjoys copying each others' designs. Pattern

blocks are also a hit. The Comets cover different shapes and patterns using these colorful blocks. This is a favorite table top activity in the morning. The bear counters help the class act out story problems and solve simple addition and subtraction problems.



Community Helpers

April is the beginning of our very exciting unit all about community helpers. The Comets have taken off with the unit and it is sure to be an exciting rest of the year in social studies. We began the unit by taking a neighborhood walk. The Comets observed and took photographs of different places and people in our community. With this information we then brainstormed a list of workers. As a class we were able to determine that a library has a

librarian, a fire house has a firefighter, and a restaurant has a waiter. With the help of pictures and books we made a list of many community helpers including the librarian, chef, baker, grocer, electrician, construction worker, doctor, dentist, sanitation worker, and mail carrier. As we continue this unit the Comets will learn about each helper, their responsibilities and the tools they need to do their job.

Our Trip to the Library

The first community helper that we studied was the Librarian. The Comets learned that the librarian's responsibilities are very important and include reading books, taking care of books, and finding books. In order to better understand these responsibilities we planned a trip to the library. As a class we talked about what we would see, what we would do, and who we would meet. When we arrived at the Webster Library Branch, Kristy the children's librarian, greeted us at the door. Kristy brought us upstairs into a special auditorium. We listened to her read several books and tell a story with a frog puppet! When the Comets were done sitting and listening to the stories, all of the children had an opportunity to explore the library and read books. Each Comet found the perfect book to bring back to school and was then given his own library card that each child signed. Kristy spoke to the class about the responsibility of having a library card and the Comets recited the "Library Card Promise." The trip was such a success that when the Comets returned to school they created their very own library during Plan Do Review.



Meeting a Dentist

To prepare for Dr. Sean Adler's visit, the Comets read the book, *Doctor DeSoto* by William Steig. The entire class enjoyed the very silly story about a dentist mouse and his encounters with a sneaky fox patient. We then read a non-fiction book about a dentist in order to learn about a dentist's responsibilities and tools. The Comets made a very detailed list of tools a dentists must use to clean teeth.

When Dr. Sean arrived to the Comet classroom, the children were very excited to meet his friend, Ralph, a stuffed dinosaur. With Dr. Sean's help we used an explorer and mirror to count all of Ralph's teeth. After his teeth were counted each Comet had a turn to brush Ralph's teeth. By the end of the visit Ralph had the cleanest teeth in the school!

We ended our visit with Dr. Sean by asking him questions about being a dentist. Dr. Sean told us that he did not glue his patients mouths shut like Dr. DeSoto. That was a relief for many Comets! Before leaving Dr. Sean gave each Comet a very generous gift. The class was so grateful that they wrote a thank you letter to Dr. Sean later that day!



Plan Do Review



Benjamin and Jacob learn how to play *Boggle Jr.*, a new game in the classroom.



Max and Camille are using a drill to build and take apart a car.



Benjamin used blocks to build a castle.



Firefighter Max is putting the fire out in Camille's house.



Dominick and Camille make a race track for their cars.



Lucas and Lexi pretend to be at the library. Lucas is helping Sarina borrow the book.



Jamel is being arrested by police officer Dominick.



Lexi is delivering letters as the classroom mail carrier.



Lexi and Jamel are running the Comet Post Office.



Jamel, Jacob, and Anthony work together to construct a bridge and highway.

Coming Soon to Your Mailboxes...

Throughout this past month the Comets have started to learn how to write letters. Each week the class has several opportunities to write a letter to someone special at Gillen Brewer. Some of the people who have already received letters are Donna, Paul, and Jessica. The Comets pretended to be Mail Carriers as they delivered the letters to each GB grown-up!

Once the class writes a letter together, each child then goes back to her seat to write a letter to anyone she wants. The Comets are very excited to go to the post office next month their letters.



Mark Your Calendars...

- Gillen Brewer Annual Auction– 5/20
- Memorial Day, No School– 5/31

****Community Helper Field Trips****

5/5 - Central Park Zoo

5/11 - Post Office

5/17 - Fire House

5/24 - Union Square Farmer's Market