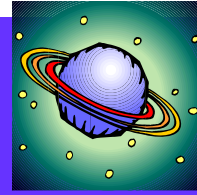


**Gillen  
Brewer  
School**

# Neptune News



**September  
2009**

## *Happy Birthday!*



- **Happy birthday to Sakura, who celebrated on September 14th.**
- **Happy birthday to Wayman, who celebrated on September 15th.**
- **Happy birthday to Emma, who celebrated on September 30th.**

## **Welcome!**

The Neptunes started the school year with a blast! We got to know each other as classmates with an activity called, "Me In A Bag". Each student filled a brown lunch bag with items from home that are special to them, then each child shared the bag with the class. We noticed a lot of similarities and differences between our likes and pastimes.

We also had the opportunity to explore the centers in the classroom. We each spent time using materials from the art center, games center, math center, and writing center.

We also practiced classroom routines so that the students

would know what is expected of them while they are learning in the classroom. We practiced working at our seats and raising a quiet hand when one needs help. We also practiced walking to the bathroom down the hallway, knocking before you enter, locking the door, flushing, and washing hands.

The Neptunes are working as a team in the classroom! They help each other clean up and put away materials, share books and games, and work together when playing.

We are very excited to get to know the kids in the Neptune class more and to watch them grow this year.



The Neptunes!

# Reading

The Neptunes' reading skills are off to an awesome start! We have broken up into 2 reading groups and have begun reviewing sounds and blends. We have also learned some arm/hand movements for sounds from a program called, Sounds in Motion. Sounds in Motion makes learning sounds fun and active .

The Neptunes have been exploring the classroom library. We talked about the importance of reading everyday, whether you are reading to someone or someone is reading to you. The Neptunes chose cozy spots around the room to read, like on the bean bag or on the rug. We have discussed choosing a book that is "just right" to read independently

and have been promoting picking books that are interesting.

We also enjoyed reading the book, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" as a group. After the story, the Neptunes' imaginations soared with creative ideas and stories.



Matthew, Emma, Wayman, and John are sky writing red words during reading groups.



John is reading a book independently.



Elijah is reading a book in a cozy spot on the rug.

# Birthday Party Fun!



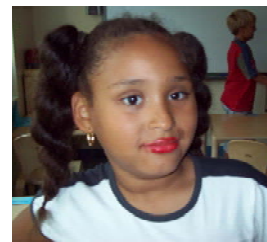
Marley



Matthew



Elijah



Shayna



Gabriel



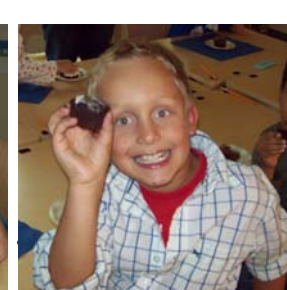
Emma



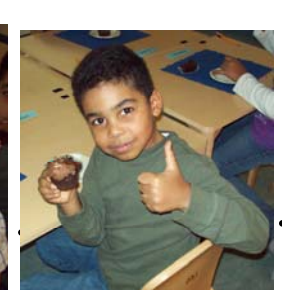
Sakura



David



John



Wayman

## Math

The Neptunes are enjoying learning math through games this month, as well as learning through direct instruction. We began by focusing on a number chart to practice counting up to 100. Once the students had that down, they began working on addition problems. We identified strategies that might help with addition, like using a number line, counters, and our fingers. But most of all, the Neptunes love playing math games!



Sakura and Marley are playing an addition game.



Marley is using a number line to help her add numbers.



Emma is using a number line for addition problems.



Gabriel and Wayman are using fake money in a math game.



Matthew and John are rich!

## Social Studies

The Neptunes are studying maps and globes. We have been looking at maps and making observations about them. We are continuing to look at photos of the Earth and comparing it to a globe and a map. The Neptunes are especially excited to explore the Earth and globes because they are studying the Solar System with Andrea in Science.



Wayman is looking at a map of New York City.



Sakura and David are working as a team to complete a Solar System puzzle.