

2010

December and January

Completing our study of Gillen Brewer School



The Quasars completed their comprehensive study of the Gillen Brewer School. Working with Don, a former toy engineer and volunteer at the school, the Quasars built a 3-D model of the school (pictured at left). In addition to this model, each Quasar interviewed a staff member to learn more about what that person does at the school. The students chose other teachers, therapists, psychologists, and even administrators. After the interviews were over, each Quasar shared what they learned about their staff member in a roundtable discussion. Be sure to quiz your Quasar about their interview at home!



Star students strut their stuff



Every two weeks, the Quasars have a new Star Student in the classroom. Lately, our Star Students have shown great leadership and public speaking skills as they take over as assistant teachers in read-aloud lessons and show and tell sessions.



GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL

QUASARS

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Reminders/ Mini Calendar

- **Ice skating** field trip on Feb. 5 to the Ice Pavilion in Long Island City.
- **Noon dismissal** on Feb. 10 for staff development training.
- **School closed** Feb. 15—19 for Winter Break.
- **School resumes** on Monday, Feb. 22.
- A snack calendar has been distributed for the rest of the year. If you need another copy or are unsure about your snack weeks, please email Braque@gillenbrewer.com.
- **Noon dismissal** on Mar. 11 for staff development training.
- **Noon dismissal** on Mar. 18 for staff development training.

Learning from the masters

On Dec. 15, the Quasars joined the Asteroids on a trip to the Museum of Modern Art. The trip gave the Quasars the opportunity to make their own interpretations of famous paintings like Picasso's *Three Musicians* and Rauschenberg's *First Landing Jump*. The Quasars worked up close and personal with these paintings and also received a tour and expert instruction from one of the museum's educators.



Top: The Quasars with a MOMA educator in front of one of Picasso's masterworks.
Bottom: Pablo Picasso's *Three Musicians*, 1921

C.O.P.S.
A self-editing strategy



Capitalization

Organization

Punctuation

Spelling

Cracking down on mistakes

The Quasars are learning to edit their writing using the C.O.P.S. strategy. This is a research-based direct instruction technique that teaches the basics of editing: capitalization, organization, punctuation, and spelling. While capitalization, punctuation, and spelling are straightforward, editing for organization can be much more complicated. The Quasars will work toward this goal in the coming months. Remind your Quasar to edit their homework using C.O.P.S.!