

GILLEN BREWER
SCHOOL



Taina reads her story to the class.

**Gillen
Brewer
Auction**

Starry Night
May 20, 2010

**Phillips de
Pury &
Company**

**450 West
15th Street**



Charlotte presents her story.

Supernova Scoop

NUMBER 5

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SUPER-Writers

The Supernovas have learned how to develop interesting and creative characters for their fiction writing. Using graphic organizers, students draw a picture, name their character, and then list his or her likes and dislikes. From the list of likes and dislikes Supernovas then create possible problems their character could encounter. Next, each of the Supernovas comes up with possible solutions for his or her problem. For example, Julian wrote that his two characters both love flowers. He then developed a problem: both his characters were fighting over the same flower. Julian's solution was that one character chased the other character away.

To become better writers, the Supernovas have been learning to use the same tools that author Mo

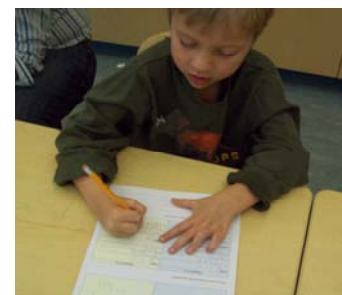
Willems uses in his books. As we read the very popular Mo Willems' series, "Elephant & Piggie", the Supernovas noticed that Mo Willems uses a lot of talking bubbles or dialogue when he writes. We also talked about how Mo Willems uses thinking bubbles to show what a character is thinking. We also observed that when a Mo Willems' character talks loud or yells that the words are written REALLY BIG! Supernovas have also used the size of their lettering as a way to show if a character is SHOUTING or talking. After carefully studying Mo Willems books and style, the Supernovas tried using these techniques in their own writing. To conclude our unit, each student presented his story to the class!



Jonah and Seamus create characters for their stories.



Patrick and Langston brainstorm problems for their stories.



Julian writes a list of his character's likes and dislikes.

Handwriting

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, you will find the Supernovas hard at work, improving their handwriting. Working in small groups, Abby (OT) and teachers show the correct form of the capital and lower case letters. First, students "skywrite" the letter in the air, then practice making the letter with wikki sticks, shaving cream, or floam (a fun, moldable substance). Finally, students practice with a pen and pencil.

We have already seen quite a difference in the Supernovas' penmanship after only a few weeks of practice!



Langston with urban apartment designs by the Supernovas.

Urban and Rural Communities

The Supernovas have been learning about urban and rural communities. First, Supernovas identified many of the important elements in an urban environment: skyscrapers, apartment buildings, many people, sidewalks, and subways. In art class, the Supernovas designed their own apartments.

After studying city life, we began to investigate rural communities. We learned that rural places are much different than cities. They do not have as many people, cars, or buildings, which means that there is much less traffic and noise. Rural communities also have many farms, trees, grass, and flowers. Using their knowledge of rural communities, Don and the Supernovas made a model of a rural community, which included a pond, house, farm, garden, trees, grass, and animals.



Taina shares her opinion of a song.

Music in the Morning

The Supernovas have been training their ears and brains to be music critics. Three mornings a week teachers pick a song to listen to at morning meeting. After listening to the song each student puts his name on a chart to show his opinion of the song. At first, it was challenging because some kids liked a song and others did not. However, the Supernovas have been working on respecting each others' musical opinions.

The Supernovas are now learning to talk about the different elements of a song that they liked or disliked. Some students like songs that have interesting voices, while other students enjoy songs that have a good beat or certain instruments.

Here are some of the songs the Supernovas have enjoyed so far...



Queen:
We Will Rock You



Van Morrison:
Brown Eyed Girl



Harry Belafonte:
Jump in the Line



Annie Soundtrack:
It's a Hard Knock Life



Hooray for the Supernovas!



Patrick and Langston build a tower.



Niko, Jonah and Seamus make animals for their rural community model.



Niko, Jack and Julian play with dinosaurs.

Choice Time!



Seamus creates a costume.



Happy birthday Charlotte!



Niko makes a robot.