



News from the Eagles' Nest

Gillen Brewer School

Summer 2006

Soar To the Stage

This summer, the Eagle's soared to the stage! We studied the theater and took advantage of the numerous NYC opportunities within the arts. As a class, we read many books about different theatrical genres (e.g. dance, circus, music, plays etc.) as well as participated in Readers Theater. In addition, we learned many theater games. One of our favorite games was "honey walk." During this game we walked around the room and as various words were called out, we used body movements and facial expressions to act in character as we walked through imaginary

honey, for example.

We took two field trips to learn more about theater outside of the classroom. Our first field trip was to the Henry Street Settlement for Performing Arts. We saw a Dance Workshop performed by very talented "tweens." Then we watched a circus show consisting of wonderful music, juggling and some very exciting magical acts. The best part of our trip was speaking with the director and actors after the show. We learned so much about how to become actors and clowns.

We think the actors especially enjoyed getting to know some of the G.B. students as well!

Our second field trip was to watch two musicals performed by children ages 5-15 at the Children's Theater Co. We watched Yertle the Turtle and King Kunka Bunka & the Rotten Royal Rascals. We were so impressed with how young and talented the actors and actresses were!

Lastly, throughout the summer we rehearsed for our class play, *Go Home Goldie*. During the last summer week, we performed for some G.B students and families. Through rehearsing we learned strategies to assist us in memorizing our lines, acting in character, projecting our voices and of course, peer evaluating our fellow actors. While performing our play, we also became experts as we created sets and costumes.

All in all, the Eagles not only learned so much about the theater, but successfully soared to the stage!



SOCIAL STUDIES

During Social Studies we focused on different cultures throughout the world. The first few weeks of summer school we each created *Me and My Culture Books*. These books enabled us to describe such things as the music we listen to at home, the food we enjoy at special

events, and what we wear on special occasions. We, then, shared these books with the class and were able to appreciate not only each of our own special customs and traditions, but discover similarities and differences with our classmates and their families.





SCIENCE!

During Science, we studied the water cycle. We learned water goes around and around in a cycle around the earth. We studied the four steps making up the water cycle: evaporation,

condensation, precipitation and collection. We were scientists and observed a kettle heat up water until it turned into steam (evaporation). We also noted water condensate on the outside of a

bowl when the water vapor in the air became cold.



Writing Workshop

During Writers Workshop we created a Map of our Heart. We created this large heart the first week of summer school. We traced and cut out hearts and then broke the heart into sections to include people and things we hold close to our heart. Once we completed this map, we used it as a template to provide writing prompts during writer's workshop.

Toward the latter part of the summer, we began creating our summer scrap book. For each section of our scrap book individual students were in charge of writing a summary for the pictures. We looked at pictures of our summer activities and filled in writing wheels to organize our thoughts. We then used our wheels to assist us in writing about our summer activities. Together we have created a beautiful class scrap book so we can treasure our Eagle summer memories, which we will keep in the classroom!



We have had an exciting and eventful summer in the Eagles classroom and hope everyone has a fabulous summer vacation!

- Michael, Alexis, Dom, Joseph, Aaron, Liz, Alex, Malcolm, Daryn and Laura