

THE BIG SCOOP



Ice Cream Community Newsletter March/April 2006

Projects

The Big Kids' Roundtable held its final meeting last week. The Roundtable consisted of the Ice Creams and 7 students from other classes. They met each Friday for two months to determine how to spend the \$1000 in grant money Gillen Brewer earned during the Penny Harvest. The Roundtable talked about how best to help others in need. They shared newspaper articles, watched a movie on homelessness, and had a visitor from a children's charity come talk about her work. They formed three committees, and made the following grants:

The Committee to Help Homeless Children granted \$200 to Yorkville Common Pantry and \$200 to a relief fund for youth in hurricane-affected areas.

The Committee to Help Animals granted \$300 to our neighbor, the ASPCA.

The Committee to Help Children Who Need Toys and Clothes granted \$300 to "Friends of Karen," a charity that serves families of children with life-threatening illnesses.

We are very proud of how hard the students worked to make such tough decisions and of their growth as young philanthropists.

Social Studies

In both science and social studies, we hope to lay the foundations for understanding and appreciating the interdependence of people, animals and the earth. We will emphasize the special role people have in using, creating, sharing, conserving and renewing common resources.

The Scoops have been studying economics: how people in our communities meet their needs and wants. The Roundtable gave them a very real context for

talking about needs. They are learning new vocabulary and concepts such as *goods and services, producers and consumers, resources and limited resources.*

They are looking at our classroom community to identify limited resources, such as computers, snack and books, and the ways we make decisions about how to share them.

Science

The Ice Creams have completed units on the skeleton, nutrition and how the body uses food for energy. They are now studying natural resources, focusing on soil, water, air, plants and rocks. On May 4th, a guest from the Lower East Side Ecology Center will come and talk to us about soil and composting. She will provide a composting kit, complete with worms, for us to use in the classroom. The boys are very excited, and have high hopes that the worms will eat their homework. On May 25th, we will take a field trip to Solar One, the Green Energy, Arts & Education center on the East River.

Math

We have begun using the Saxon Math learning program, and the students are enjoying the new materials, especially the pattern blocks we are using to explore polygons and fractions. Each day, we have a “Student of the Day” who leads the group through calendar, temperature, time, patterning and computation activities. Our Scoops are all born leaders and love the chance to show what they know!

Language Arts

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday. The boys learned about pen names, and made their own by scrambling the letters of their names, as Dr. Seuss (Ted Geisel) did when he wrote under Theo LeSieg. Miriam brought in “Cat-In-The-Hat” hat, gloves and bowtie, and read us the classic Did I ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?

April was Poetry Month, and the boys heard poems such as “I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud,” “Don’t Bring Your Camel To School,” and “The Tiger and the Zebra” (courtesy of A.K.).

In writing, the boys completed essays on the topic “spring.” These are compiled in a book in our room, which we are happy to send home for perusal. The children are beginning their next writing project on a topic of their choosing. They are practicing editing, typing and using various graphic organizers. Every

Thursday Justine, our O.T., comes in to help with AlphaSmart keyboards and personal laptops.

Our planned trip to see “Sarah, Plain and Tall” has been cancelled. In speaking with the show’s producer, we learned that the play is geared toward young teens, and focuses on material that may be difficult for our students. We will use our tickets in the future for a more suitable production, which may not be until the fall.

Notable...

- Thanks to Polly and Dan for their time and generosity in making the Ice Cream’s auction project so successful. The boys loved painting the ice cream bowls and trays, and they sold at a very nice price.
- Thanks to A.K. and Kim for the poems to share.
- Thanks to the Cadets for taking such good care of Ms. Girlie over the break.
- Thanks to all the parents for keeping us in good supply of healthful, yummy snacks.

And Quotable

- (by way of announcing a planned family trip) “New Jersey is going to be very crowded this weekend!” R.C.
- (an inspired attempt to avoid work, whispered conspiratorially) “Let’s just turn it over! Pretend it’s not here!” A.K.B.
- (on being asked why he was very dressed up) “I’m guessing there’s a holiday in Italy. That’s why I look so elegant.” F.A.F.

Cheers from The Ice Creams:
Linda, Andrea, Sarah V., Sarah G.
A.K., Andy, Francesco, Henry, Jack, Leo,
Manny, Randall, Sam, Sammy