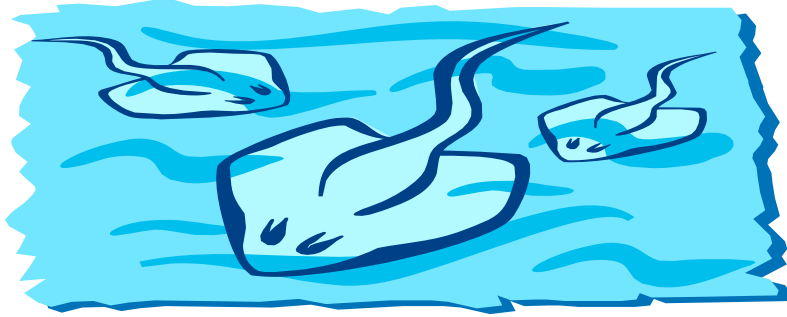


High Tide



“News You Can Use” from the Stingray Classroom

Gillen Brewer School

November, 2006

Penny Harvest

The second annual Gillen Brewer Penny Harvest has come to a close and was a smashing success. Every class participated, and over 215 pounds of pennies were collected, roughly \$400. We had a friendly competition between the kids and the staff to see who could collect the most. The kids beat the staff by a landslide. Go kids! An excellent effort was made by all Stingray families and we greatly appreciate your participation.

Social Studies

After exploring landforms last month, we began our study of the seven continents. Each child chose a continent to research. We looked at major landforms, different countries, and types of wildlife that are indigenous to each of the continents. We then sculpted the continents out of clay and tried to represent major landforms with particular paint colors. Ask your child which hemisphere his continent is in!

Language Arts

We finished writing our first descriptive paragraph. Students brainstormed an idea, wrote a first draft, edited the draft, and then wrote the final draft. We really encouraged our students to get their ideas down on paper in the brainstorming phase, and not to worry about spelling and

grammar. Mistakes can be fixed during the editing phase. It was rewarding for all to see the finished product!

We have also been working on expanding our vocabulary by declaring words such as, “good”, “bad” and “nice”, as tired words. We generated a list of synonyms that can be used to replace tired words to make descriptive writing more interesting for the reader. We have also had the children look up words in the thesaurus which will enhance their use of reference materials.

Math

School House Rock was such a hit that we have continued on with “Ready or Not”. In this song the students were able to sing along while counting by 5’s and are exposed to multiplying by 5’s. What a difference a song can make!

Math activities related to the Penny Harvest were very popular. The students really enjoyed weighing, estimating, graphing and comparing their pennies.

Special Events

We had two visits this month from the Alley Pond Environmental Center in Queens. Our speaker, Rosemarie Favuzza, talked about characteristics and adaptations of animals indigenous to New York State. She not only spoke to us, but showed us and let us touch animals such as a box turtle, a frog, a dove and a corn snake. During the second visit Rosemarie talked about how the Native Americans who lived in this area used animals for food, clothing and shelter. She showed the students pelts and how to make a bow and arrow. She also had a live rabbit with her and the students were able to pet it and watch it hop around. We will build on this experience when we begin our in depth look at the Lenape Indians.

*Regards from Linda, Sarah V., Sarah G.,
& The Stingrays!*