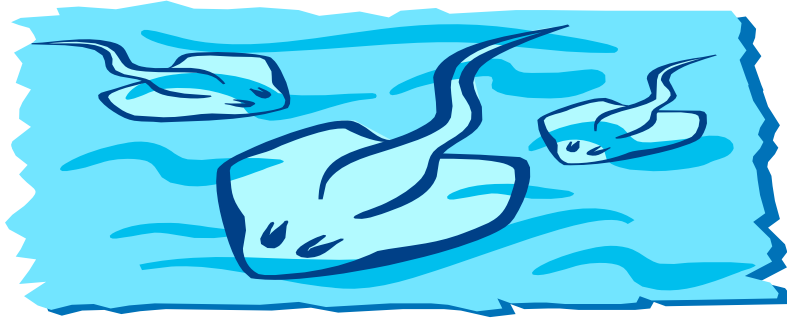


# High Tide



*“News You Can Use” from the Stingray Classroom*

**Gillen Brewer School**

**October, 2006**

## *Penny Harvest*

We are off and running! The Stingrays are taking their leadership role seriously, and have made posters and visited the other classrooms to get everyone involved. As expected, the most meaningful part for them right now is the contest between kids and staff to see who can raise the most pennies. So far, the kids are ahead of the staff by about twenty pounds. Thanks for all your help so far.

**Our deadline is November 21<sup>st</sup>! Please help your child reach out to friends and neighbors and keep the pennies coming!**

## *Social Studies*

We are studying landforms and this week the children sculpted a landform of their choosing in clay and painted them. We will continue with small units on continents and oceans in the coming weeks. After the Thanksgiving holiday, we will look into Native American tribes in pre-Colonial New York State. We will choose one tribe to research in depth, and children will work in pairs to create ways to share what they have learned about the society and culture of the tribe. Major themes will be how the people met their needs and wants and how they organized themselves to function as a community.

## *Language Arts*

Our current read-aloud is *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. Ask your child how to spot a real witch! We are pulling vocabulary from its pages, and asking children to look them up and explain them to the group. Using a dictionary and other reference materials efficiently is a goal for all our

students. Thanks to you all for helping your children with dictionary tasks in their homework.

In writing, we have been working on descriptive writing. The children enjoy brainstorming **adjectives** and **observing** objects (apple, candy, blocks, etc.) with all their senses to write **sensory details**. We are also working on small pieces moving through the stages of writing: **brainstorm, rough draft, edit, final draft**. One important part of all our writing lessons is to understand that each person may experience something differently, and listening with respect as classmates share their work and ideas.

### Science

Our unit on organisms, habitats and food chains ended with a short exploration of the ways humans depend on plants and animals for food. Sarah G. brought in a cornbread recipe and we classified the ingredients as animal, plant or mineral. This is an activity that would be great to do occasionally at home. We had Robert come in to sing the familiar “Grinding Corn” song as we used an electric mill and mortar and pestle to turn kernels into corn meal. We will revisit the role of humans in the ecosystem later in the year.

### Math

Our group has become expert at counting by 3’s as we have listened to the School House Rock song “Three is a Magic Number” at morning meeting. It was a big hit and we will be getting the whole collection. We have lots of “musical intelligence” in the room! ☺

See you all next week at conferences!

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