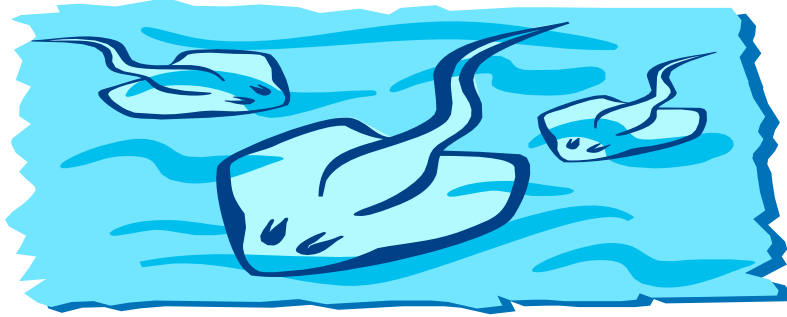


High Tide



“News You Can Use” from the Stingray Classroom

Gillen Brewer School

March/April, 2007

Classroom Update

In March the Stingrays celebrated their second 100 Acts of Kindness with a picnic lunch in Central Park and a trip to the Guggenheim Museum. The kids had briefly studied artists such as Picasso and Kandinsky in class with Don Pearlstein. It was a nice experience for the kids to see works by the same painters hanging on the walls of the museum.

In April they completed another 100 Acts of Kindness bringing the total to over 300. The kids celebrated with a picnic at the Asphalt Green playground.

Our trip to **Make** was a lot of fun. The kids worked together painting pieces for the Gillen Brewer auction. It was a nice opportunity for the kids to work as a team to create a class project. Each child was able to choose his own piece to decorate as well. Special thanks to Polly and Dan Weissman for organizing the trip and to all who made contributions.

Social Studies

In social studies the Stingrays have begun their exploration of immigration patterns to New York City in the late 19th early 20th centuries. In March we learned about Irish immigration to New York during and after the Potato Famine. The kids also explored Irish culture. They made Irish soda bread with Sarah G. and learned a bit of Irish step dancing from Brigid Connelly, a lower elementary teacher.

During National Immigration week, we visited the Tenement Museum in the Lower East Side. The kids saw an apartment that belonged to German immigrants in the 1860's and an apartment that belonged to Italian immigrants in the 1930's. It was a great, hands-on way to see what life was like for immigrants and their families at different periods in American history. In addition, several staff member came to talk to the class about their family's immigration stories. We will continue to learn about the different experiences of immigrants in New York City.

Our final project this year is an in-depth exploration of one country. Students will use their research, writing and creative skills to prepare an exhibit about the country of their choice. Our volunteer Don has begun to help them envision the artistic elements, and teachers will guide students through research into the geography, history, government and culture. Jane and Audrey will take small groups on trips to the local library, and we will all learn to say "Hello!" in ten different languages. Parents will be invited to the final "United Nations" exhibit Friday June 1st. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Language Arts

The Stingrays have been working on writing about personal experiences. We have been emphasizing the importance of using specific details to make their writing richer. They use the “5 W’s and How” to help them include specific information. Each student now has a “Writer’s Tool Box”. Their tool box has cut-outs of hammers, wrenches, and screwdrivers with key words such as *detail*, *sensory detail*, and *adjective* with examples of each on the back. The kids can refer to their “tools” to help their writing be more complete. This should also help facilitate more independent writing.

The kids continue to write in their journals as well. We have been structuring this writing time more and increasing volume demands. The kids now use their journals to reflect on experiences in school such as field trips and special guests. They still have some “free” journal time to write and draw on their own topics.

Science

In science the Stingrays have begun a unit on physical science. They have discussed the different forms of matter and experimented with solids, liquids and gas. They have observed solutions (salt & water), physical changes (chocolate in milk) and chemical changes (rust on steel wool.) They have enjoyed using snap circuit boards with Don, and will continue to study forms of energy into the month of May.

On April 17th The Museum of Natural History's **Museum on Wheels** came to school. The museum is a hands-on dinosaur exhibit on a bus complete with casts of dinosaur fossils. The kids had to identify and locate different fossils, and got to observe a mock dig site. We have some potential future paleontologists among us!

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