

November 16th, 2007

Dear Parents,

It seems like this week just started, and it's Friday already! Our field trip on Tuesday to the Discovery Room at the Museum of Natural History was a lot of fun. We hope you got the brochures and can find the time to go again with your child. It's free and they have many hands-on activities ranging from puppets to microscopes that we did not have time to do on our trip.

We began to talk about how people depend on goods and services to help meet their needs and wants. Next week will take a community walk to find examples of local businesses that provide goods and services. Look around your neighborhood this weekend with your child and see if you can identify a few (dry cleaners, fruit stand, doctor's office, toy store, taxi cab, etc....)

We introduced the thesaurus today and each child worked with a partner to find synonyms for common words such as happy, good, hard, etc. We talked about how writers use synonyms to make their writing more interesting. We will continue this work throughout the year. Feel free to encourage your child to use synonyms in his or her writing at home: you can ask, "What's another word for _____?" or "We already used _____. Can we think of a synonym that really says what we mean?"

The students have worked hard to internalize the classroom rules and routines, and now the student of the day will be leading morning meeting. Teachers pull back and let students run the agenda, ask questions and even address behavior appropriately. So far, two students have run meeting and they each did an amazing job. Children often learn more readily from their peers than from adults, and we hope the good examples seen so far serve to keep the bar high for this new activity.

Finally, next week is our Feast and the Thanksgiving holiday. Rhonda tells me it will truly be a wonderful meal. I want you to know that in my room we all sit down together at the table- parents do not serve the children and stand in the back like servants! The children are working with Jane on some conversation starters and we can all model social behaviors and manners while really relaxing with our children and each other.

We look forward to seeing those of you who can come, and wish you all a joyous break!

Yours,

Linda, Kara & Kimkisha