



Kindergarten

March 14, 2008

Dear Kindergarten Families,

As you will see at our **Kindergarten Author Celebration** on Monday the 24th, the children have taken their writing to a new level. They spent the first part of the year experimenting with all of the writing materials in the classroom, solidifying their knowledge of letter sounds, and trying out different genres like letter writing, personal narrative and writing for practical purposes. Last month, after reading a series of tall tales, and talking about how authors often “stretch the truth” in their writing, we embarked upon a more structured fiction writing project.

I started out by modeling how to choose a main character for the story using a planning sheet. Since it was a tall tale, I asked the children to choose a name for their character, decide in a special quality the character would have (like the ability to walk through walls or breath underwater), and draw a picture of him or her. Then they started to think more specifically about what would happen in the story. I gave each author a planning sheet with several boxes for drawing his ideas. This was the last step before the actual writing of the story. When the children finished writing, they filled out an “About the Author” sheet and got ready to publish. One of the things we have talked about in Writer’s Workshop is being able to go back and read your own writing. As the authors finished their stories, I met with them individually. Each child read his book to me as I typed it on the computer. As they were reading to me, I encouraged them to add a few more details, just like all writers do. Also, Kindergarten writers have so many great stories to tell, but their hands tend to have a hard time keeping up, and I didn’t want them to lose all the great details because they were getting tired. Finally, I printed the stories, bound them, and then the children illustrated the pages. There is something very exciting for them to watch their words appear on the computer screen and then emerge from the printer. The binding machine is pretty exciting too!

In the next week the kindergarten authors will be practicing for the celebration by reading their tall tales to their classmates. We will be talking about how to hold the book when you are sharing it, reading with a confident voice, and what it means to be a supportive audience.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Daisy Cassidy

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