



Rainforest Room

February, 2008

Good day Rainforest Parents!

Can you believe that it's time for another Newsletter?

Well, the month of February, although short, has been packed with holidays (President's Day, Chinese New Year), Celebrations (Valentine's Day, 100 days of school), a Field Trip and Animal experiences. It has definitely been a fun filled month. As we move forward in 2008 the inhabitants keep maturing and finding themselves as they: problem solve, cooperate in teams, practice random acts of kindness and broaden their minds by accepting other view points. We are constantly amazed by your children and how well they are "growing into their skin".

In the Language Arts we introduced the Letters/sounds:

O = Octopus, Opposite

P = Pirates (need we say more)

Q = Quilt, Question Mark?

The inhabitants continue to empower themselves through the Letter Books as they challenge their knowledge of upper case and lower case. The children are becoming great observers as they find the letter of the week in their books as well as in other library books. They continue to add details to their work and are beginning to underline the letter of the week on their sight words. Way to go Inhabitants!

This month the kids have been working very hard at: listening to factual stories, drawing pictures of a part in the story they liked and then dictating/explaining their perspective of the story. In observing Presidents Day we read a book titled Abraham Lincoln's Hat (ask them why it was so tall). The inhabitants glued Abe's hat onto a piece of paper, drew his face (beard and all) and then dictated what they would do if they were President of the USA. You all would be please to know that most of them wanted fair and kind laws and peace.

Tuesdays continue to be inspiring and creative as the kids bring in their share objects. As a result, our share/drawing book keeps getting thicker and soon (9 more letters to go) we will be able to finish publication on it. The Rainforest also has begun a Photo Alphabet Book. The children went on a nature walk in search of natural materials to create letters with branches, twigs, flowers, dust, sticks, berries and shells. They then worked in pairs to shape the material into legible letters. We then took black/white pictures of them. So far we have A through P; they are hanging on display by the Language Art Table.

As you can see, the Language Art Area has been very busy. The inhabitants continue to have Library every Friday. We hope this is turning out to be a positive experience for our families and we thank you for your help in returning the books.

Preschool, Pre-K 215A Blackfield Drive Tiburon, CA 94920 (415) 381-8181

K-8 70 Lomita Dr. Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415) 381-8183 Fax (415) 381-8484

The Art Area has also been sizzling. The children have been playing with dimensions by starting with a small painted paper and gluing it to a slightly bigger paper and so on (at least 3x) to create different images and explore abstract art. Then each child's masterpiece was put side by side to create one big picture (on display now). The children made name mobiles in which they water colored bubble letters and then taped them onto a wire hanger.

The inhabitants experimented by painting paper hearts with colored condensed milk and salt. We discovered that the milk gave it shine and the salt a bumpy/puffy texture - plus you could taste it too. The kids put on their serious faces as they drew self portraits. They worked very hard at adding every little detail of their face and made sure it was as factual as could be. Then they put on their silly faces and used their imaginations to draw their "silly" Self Portraits. The kids then glued each portrait on scrapping paper to create a very unique work of art.

In celebration of the Letter Q we revisited the idea of quilting. We learned that quilting is a work of art that requires cooperation, respect and teamwork. As a result, the inhabitants painted their own colorful emblems on a fabric quilt (to be displayed soon).

The Letter P also stirred up some commotion. The inhabitants all turned into Pirates as they made swash buckling hats, patches, and maps and drew on facial hair. This letter has truly been the most exciting letter to date.

This month the Science Area has been very hands on. We all put on our rain boots and went for nature walks as we explored our surroundings. We were fortunate to have the Zoo Mobile come visit. The inhabitants were able to meet, pet and ask questions about: a Tiger Salamander, a Gopher Snake, a European Ferret, a Box Turtle and a Rabbit. The children learned the difference between amphibians and mammals and their respective habitats. A huge Thanks to Kalen's Family for making this possible. The experience was memorable. And if that wasn't enough we also went on our second Field Trip to the Marin Recycling Center. There we learned about the 4 R's: Rot, Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. We went on a tour of the center as we watched the dump trucks empty their loads. We learned and observed how the center categorizes and sorts its materials according to classification: paper, glass, and plastics (which are subdivided according to type). The experience was eye opening and a bit stinky. We also were able to see some chickens, peacocks and feed some pigs (the center has a small ranch).

The inhabitants all felt that they could do their part in contributing to the 4 R's. Big thanks to Jackson K's Family for making this trip possible.

Well, as you can see February was a very busy month filled with new experiences and fun. THANK YOU Rainforest Parents for your help, for the borrowed books, stickers, and other materials. We truly appreciate it! Special thank you to the Parent Volunteers that make the field trips happen. Goodbye for now and until next month.

Peace, Love and Happiness,

Vanessa and Bernie

Preschool, Pre-K 215A Blackfield Drive Tiburon, CA 94920 (415) 381-8181

K-8 70 Lomita Dr. Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415) 381-8183 Fax (415) 381-8484