



Sea Lion Room

February, 2008

Hello Sea Lion Parents,

Since last time, we've said good-bye to the Bluhm family. We wish them well on their new adventure in Connecticut. The class made Sophie a "My favorite thing to do with Sophie" book and we included a picture of each Sea Lion so she could remember what we all look like. We will keep in touch with her by sending letters and possibly e-mails. We are very excited to hear about her new house and school in Connecticut.

We've welcomed Lily Alperin and her mom Leslie to our class. We have been showing Lily around, helping her get used to the new routine and learning all our names. We look forward to having a great time with Lily and her mom.

At circle time, we've been playing games like Simon Says, Freeze Dancing and Doggie, Doggie. The Sea Lions have grown up so much this year. We are taking turns, not calling out the answer/winner and we understand that we might not get a turn the first time, but we will definitely get a turn. This was not the case at the beginning of the year. We have also been learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction books and the difference between a story and a poem. We enjoyed learning our newest poem "1000 Valentines". We love reciting it to anyone who will listen. We also have been reading books about famous African Americans. We've read about Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges. The Sea lions could not believe what Ruby had to go through just to go to school. We all thought she was very brave!

We've had a lot of celebrations since our last newsletter. We started with the celebration of Ava's 5th birthday with delicious cookies. We then celebrated Mardi Gras. We created beautiful masks and had a parade through the school. We each got our own set of beads in gold, purple and green; the colors of the celebration. To end Mardi Gras we tried a real King Cake from Louisiana and all got our own baby. Usually only one person finds a baby in their piece of cake, but we wanted to be fair. So now all the Sea lions must have a party next year at Mardi Gras time.

Our next celebration was Chinese New Year. To get ready for the celebration, we cleaned our room and made beautiful and very festive red lanterns to hang in our class. When Erica, Spencer's mom, came in she read us an interesting book called "The Great Race" It told us how they decided what animals they would use in the Chinese Zodiac. It was all left up to a race and the rat won, so he was the first animal to be represented. We learned that most of the Sea Lions were born under the year of the sheep. Fin was born in the year of the horse. We also made beautiful dragon masks and tried dumplings. We moved from Chinese New Year to Valentine's Day. To prepare, we read many stories about love and friendship, we made bubble wrap heart print cards for our parents and we decorated our own valentine bags. On Valentine's Day we each delivered our valentines to our friends by matching the name on the card to the name on the valentine bag. We did our

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first partner project. We paired up boy/girl and filled out a recipe of what we wanted in our valentine smoothie and then our partner made our smoothie for us.

It was a lot of fun and very delicious! To end the celebration, we each decorated a cookie. We really enjoyed this. Our last celebration was our 100th day of school. We have been counting the days of school since the beginning and could hardly wait for our 100th day. Well, it finally arrived! To celebrate we took 100 steps from our classroom, counted out 100 pennies and eucalyptus pods, we completed a number chart from 1 to 100 and we made a hand print chain with 20 hands and 100 fingers

(1 hand print from each child and 1 from each teacher). We are eager to keep counting the days and see how high they go.

In our letter of the week study, we've met the letters O (octopus), P (purple paint) and Q (quilt). We love doing projects, activities and reading books to help reinforce the letter sound. Some projects we've done are: making omelets and ostrich eggs for "O" week and using pastels, doing a lot of puzzles and making pizza for "P" week. For "Q" week we read stories about Queens and focused on what a question was verses a comment.

An update on our Recycling project - at this time we have collected over \$23. The sea lions really enjoy helping count the money after we fill each bag. When we fill our bag one more time, we are going to buy our first gas card for the Gilead House. We can't wait! We appreciate all the help we have gotten not only from our families, but from other classes at school.

Keep it going and keep recycling!

We are looking forward to Spring arriving and all that brings, St. Patrick's Day and more fantastic visitors and guest readers.

Stay tuned.....Jackie and Rebecca

Thank yous

To all our guest readers –

Chandler - a Sea Lion alumnus

Sebastian's aunt & grandma

Ava's grandma

Jesse's brother, Alex

Chloe's grandma

Janie for your great Chameleon skin experiment

For Ava's yummy birthday cookies

For the donations of supplies to the class, we really appreciate it!

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