



Ms. Elaine and Mrs. Haeberle's
Class News
November 21, 2008

It was wonderful to see everyone at our Parent/ Teacher conferences earlier this month. We hope you found them to be informative and we were able to answer any questions you had related to your child's day at school.

As the crisp autumn air has arrived outside, we find things are heating up in our classroom since our last newsletter. We would like to update you on latest happenings before we break for the holiday.

In Practical Life the children have been enjoying new food preparation jobs. Celery and sunflower butter spreading and crackers with apple butter have been very popular snacks. In addition, Native American Headbands, Tee Pees, and Canoes have been featured on the art shelf. A fun time is being had by all.

We introduced two new sounds of the week in language: "l" and "f". These sounds will be out over the next two weeks for the children to work with. We encourage you to play sound games at home to foster phonemic awareness. Younger children are becoming more interested in making sound booklets, working with the sounds boxes and being introduced to word building with the movable alphabet. Kindergartners are busy composing three letter phonetic words and practicing how to form simple sentences using the movable alphabet. We are amazed to see some children are using inventive spelling to express their thoughts. Sequence stories have also become very popular. The children are dictating a story to the

teachers, which is then copied onto a chalkboard and transferred onto paper and finally made into a book.

Geography has been buzzing with activity as many children have become interested in making maps of the World and North America. With an emphasis on tracing, painting and labeling as well as pin punching, the second and third years are mentoring one another to create these fantastic works of art. Flags of North America, featuring United States of America, Canada and Mexico, have also been added to the shelves for coloring.

In connection with our Cultural studies and the Thanksgiving Holiday, we have been learning about Native Americans and their customs by listening to stories, singing songs and doing art related projects. The children were amazed to learn that they were the first people to live in North America and had to live off the land to survive. We discussed how they grew crops and hunted for food as well as made shelters and clothing made from animal skins and objects from nature. We then related how the Native Americans "greeted" the Pilgrims and taught them how to work the land and build shelters. For that the Pilgrims were grateful, thus the First Thanksgiving was celebrated by the two groups of settlers.

During Kindergarten work time in the afternoon, we have finished our first chapter book: Cricket in Times Square. Children from the upper elementary have come down and read some of the chapters. A lot of discussions have followed and we worked on two thinking maps. The first was a circle map which we used to brainstorm all aspects of the story. The second was a bubble map used to describe one of the main characters: Chester Cricket. Through this process the children learned to use single adjectives, which was a challenge for many. The next chapter book the children want to read is Charlotte's Web, which we will begin after the Thanksgiving Break.

As you may have concluded, our classroom has been very busy and we are pleased to see the progress the children are making as they grow socially, emotionally and academically. We look forward to introducing many new concepts to the children after the Thanksgiving break and would like to take a moment to wish everyone and Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!

Birthday Greetings:

[name omitted] celebrated her 4th Birthday this week. We would like to thank [name omitted] and her family for donating the book **The Princess and the Pea** by Rachel Isadora to our classroom library in honor of her special day.

[name omitted] turned 4 and we celebrated his birthday at school. Happy Birthday [name omitted].

Reminders:

As the weather has turned cold we ask that you send your child in with the appropriate clothing for going outside, including a *heavy winter coat, gloves or mittens, hats, and*

scarves so they won't be cold when they are out. We also suggest that you send in extra gloves and hats to keep in their extra clothes bag at school in case your child forgets to bring these items from home. We do go out every morning weather permitting and it tends to be very chilly so the more protection the children have the better they will feel. Thank you for your cooperation.

Upcoming Events:

Thanksgiving Break- Wednesday, November 26th through Friday, November 28th.

Holiday Boutique- Monday, November 1st through Wednesday November 3rd. Please return the Permission slips for your child to go shopping if you have not yet done so.

Have a great weekend!

Elaine and Bonnie