



4th GRADE Classroom News

jewish community
day school of rhode island

December 7, 2007
Mrs. Sugerman

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

We had a very special Fantastic Friday this week. We combined the celebration of Chanukah with the idea of making correct change when purchasing an item. G' veret Kaunfer and I opened our 4th grade classroom store (for this **one day only** event). In case you didn't hear, students selected an item at a predetermined price and then went to the check-out to pay for the item (with my money of course). The *clerk* had to know how much change to give back. Each student had an opportunity to be a check-out *clerk* and a *customer*. Afterward, everyone had a chance to choose one of the items in our store to take home and keep as our gift for Chanukah.

Language Arts (Writing, Reading, Spelling)

Writing... I hope you enjoyed the, *I am thankful for...* paragraph. I was moved by what many of your children had to say. We are currently working to improve the way we develop paragraphs. We continue to struggle with the *lists versus paragraphs* concept. Last week, working in small groups, students finished a "how to" paragraph. Also, G' veret Kaunfer and I have teamed up for another integrated piece. This one is about the many miracles of life and Chanukah. Students are writing about the miracles that most affect them. This piece will be completed next week.

Reading... The latest independent reading assignment is due December 18th. Students should be drawing their favorite scenes onto 3 sides of the construction paper using colored pencils. On the 4th panel they should write a short summary. (They may type the summary on the computer).

From our Guided reading groups... We continue our reading of *Indian in the Cupboard*. Since this story is based in England we continually discuss the many cultural differences that exist. Also we are discovering the real history of Native Americans just as Omri did. It has truly been an eye opener for many. Lastly, as the story moves along we see that Omri is changing because what was once fun for him has now become a major responsibility.

SPELLING... We've added another twist to our spelling tests. On our last two tests I included a question from the short story that introduces many of the spelling words for the week. Last week's lesson focused on words with the /f/ sound represented by *f*, *ff*, *ph*, and *gh*. The objective of this week's lesson was to spell words containing silent letters. The challenge words were all selected from *The Indian in the Cupboard*.

MATH... We continue our study of division. To keep the process fresh in their minds I will give a weekly sheet of problems. Another problem is listed below. Have your child solve it for you. In addition I introduced the concept of variables in a problem (beginning Algebra) and how to solve for *n*. Next week each student will create their own problems for others to solve.

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From the problem solver series... We are solving word problems by using objects or acting it out.

Social Studies... We are currently experiencing the explorer project presentations. Pictures will be available when all reports have been given. So far I am extremely impressed with the work!

From the text... At first we read about the failed settlements and how they learned from their mistakes. We read about how cooperation helped the English colonists at Jamestown and Plymouth. John Smith's one unbreakable rule that *anyone who did not work did not eat* proved successful. We also studied about why the New England colonists set up different colonies.

Science... We've been studying about what causes day and night and what causes the sky to be blue. Students also completed a survey of topics they would like to learn more about, including dissection and animal adaptations. We read *The Lorax* to generate discussion about our role in the environment and how its themes relate to both science and Jewish values.