



jewish community
day school of rhode island

4th GRADE Classroom News

May 23, 2008
Mrs. Sugerman

FOURTH GRADE NEWS...

Writing/Grammar... Much of our work for the remainder of the year will be to focus on homophones, homonyms, antonyms, and synonyms.

Reading... For their final independent book review assignment this year students will design a character or scene from their book of choice. Then using fabric markers they will draw their creation onto a tee shirt that they can keep and hopefully wear the next time they sit down to read a book.

From our Guided reading groups... We are moving along with *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*. Our primary focus has been on how the English language presents problems for Shirley because she doesn't understand all the idioms. She is frustrated because she takes the literal meaning instead of what something really means. For example: *I have butterflies in my stomach*. Another one might be: *I'm all thumbs*. We talked about how these could be confusing for someone who doesn't know it's an expression that means something else. We had a few laughs completing a sheet with several other common idioms. Don't be surprised if you hear some of these expressions being used at home now that we have discussed what they mean! Be sure to ask your child about the *Pledge of Allegiance* as recited by Shirley. It certainly confirms the difficulty learning our language and what it may sound like to a foreigner.

Math... We are now concentrating on customary units of measure such as inch, foot, yard and customary units of capacity such as cup, pint, quart, half gallon, and gallon. We also learned how to compare unlike units of measure. I've encouraged all students to go to the supermarket with you and take a closer look at the products you buy. Do you buy a half gallon or gallon of milk? What size container of orange juice do you purchase? Did you know that the half gallon of ice cream is actually less than what we think it is? Take a look yourself...

From the problem solver series... We are solving word problems by *making a drawing*

Spelling... Last week, the objective was to spell plural forms of irregular nouns and nouns that end in *f* or *fe*. This week the objective was to spell singular possessive nouns and contractions. These last two lessons have been lots of fun!

Social Studies... First of all, I'd like to mention our fantastic trip to Old Sturbridge Village. It was a day filled with sunshine, learning and lots and lots of walking. The students were amazed at how people lived back in the 19th century. There was so much to do and see that we ran out of time! I hope you asked your child about this special trip *back in time*. When we returned to class we talked about the struggles the villagers faced versus the challenges we face today. Some of the highlights of our visit were seeing the blacksmith, the tinsmith, the potter, and the printer. We also visited the saw mill (actually up and running) and the one room schoolhouse. The school keeper was full of information and your children had lots of questions. Later we stopped by a typical home of the 1830's. There, students were able to try on clothes, play some of the table games of that time, and actually lie in a very uncomfortable bed. If you ask me, this was one of their favorite parts of the trip. And if you ask me what their least favorite part of the trip was I'd say learning that children had to mind their manners all the time! Thanks again to our wonderful chaperones that helped out on the trip. I appreciated your help. Switching gears, I'd like to share my thoughts about the Rhode Island projects. They were excellent. I am impressed with the unlimited and amazing ideas for presentations! Everyone should be proud of their work.

Science... The fourth graders finished their illustrious eggs-periment, adding their own twist to the experiment with food coloring, baking soda and salt. We spent two classes reviewing released NECAP items and performing experiments mentioned therein. The students took the first two sections of multiple choice and short answer problems. Next week, they will have a review before the inquiry section of the exam.