

*****NEWS FROM OUR ROYAL ROOM*****

FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 12TH, 2007

Dear Parents of My Fall Loving 2nd Grade Princesses & Princes,

I am sending this note home a day early as it's one less thing for Mrs. VanderBoegh (tomorrow's substitute) to worry about. We had a really good week together learning in 2nd grade. My highlight of the week is found in the Religion Rocks section. Special moments just appear and I greatly enjoy when we are able to flow with them.

Have a wonderful weekend and God Bless~ Mary B.

Religion Rocks

We had an enjoyable experience at the Eucharistic Chapel on Wednesday. I brought the children for a church visit, not realizing it was Holy Hour. We very quietly went in to say a quick prayer, trying not to disturb anyone. I was worried that all the 2nd grade wiggles & squeaky shoes were too loud for someone to spend time quietly with Christ. Therefore, we went into the chapel for a Bible story. While we were there, a lovely elderly woman came in and asked why we had left (Adoration). I told her that we didn't want to disturb anyone. Her reply: "Please bring the children back. Adoration is meant for them. Jesus is present and they can pray out loud if they want to. He wants them there. I'd love it if you'd join me." In fact, she went on to say that she would like it if we'd join her each Wednesday. We finished with a short prayer led by this kind woman. She then took the time to show the children the beautiful golden monstrance. They were quite impressed with the sunburst design and the 'secret' window where the Eucharist is placed for viewing during Adoration. My heart was so full of joy knowing that we had been invited to join in, invited to spend time with Christ and even sought out! The children told me they really liked our special visit. We took a little extra time to check out the baptismal font, credence table and lectern as well. What a wonderful lesson for all of us.

Reading/Writing Connection

Our small group reading lessons are going well and the children are working, for the most part, independently during centers and seatwork time. Here is how that works: One group reads with me in the hall, one group is at their desks and two groups are at centers. We then rotate through until all of the children have had an opportunity to read, do seatwork and do centers. The centers remain the same for 3 weeks. I then change the items/contents available for the children to use. As there are 6 centers and we do them twice a week, each child has a chance to visit every center one time before it is changed. Feel free to stop in to see how this goes. (Wed. 10:15-11:15 & Thurs. 9-10:00)

Math Matters

Subtraction strategies were introduced and discussed at length. The children are starting to understand the importance of memorizing those basic facts. These, along with place value, are the building blocks of our math system. PLEASE ENCOURAGE & HELP YOUR 2ND GRADER WITH LEARNING THEIR MATH FACTS. I would like to especially emphasize teaching them the doubles ($3+3=6$, $6+6=12$...) and turn around facts ($3+4=7$ so $4+3=7$). Remember that when a timed test is sent home with a star on it, your child passed it. If you haven't seen one in awhile or if one came home with a number of items circled, this is a good indication that your 2nd grader

needs to practice more. I will be a 'broken record' about this. It is that important and makes such a huge difference on their future math success.

Science & Social Studies Snippets

Most of our time was spent on group discussion and reading about different animal groups including: reptiles, mammals, amphibians, insects, fish & birds. The children worked in small groups to research or just share information they knew about a particular animal group's characteristics. We talked about a scientist's need to classify things in different RELEVANT ways. They then worked on a 'poster' to show how much they knew. We will share these with each other next week. Each animal group will teach the others. For example, the "fish" group will teach all the kids about fish characteristics and the "bird" group will do birds. In this manner the children are involved in the learning AND teaching process. We had a great time checking out some mystery skeletons (on a poster) and making educated guesses as to what the animals could be. For example: number of legs, flat or sharp teeth, and length-width-height?

We did not have any formal SS lesson this week. Instead, we spent time looking at maps and globes. Did your 2nd grader ever sing the Continent Song for you? If not, pull out a world map and ask them to.

We also made scarecrows out of plants! How you ask? Well, paper comes from trees, the dye in the paint comes from plants, the straw and raffia are from plants...Cool Huh! I wish I was a 2nd grader again at times. ☺

NOTABLE NOTES

Mon. 10/15- Library books are due! Gym class—wear gym shoes! Homework Choice Boards, Spelling Lists & Bible verses sent home

Tues.10/16—Music & Computers

Wed. 10/17 -Art

Thurs. 10/18-Spanish & Computers –SPELLING TEST!!!

Friday. 10/19 –No school ☺

Please be aware that ITBS testing begins on Monday 10/22/07. It is imperative that your second grader has plenty of sleep during the two weeks of testing. I will keep things very low-key in the classroom and provide plenty of breaks. It is also important that your 2nd grader be present for each day of testing. Any missed tests will have to be made up prior to Oct. 26th.