

MRS. BRIGGS' CLASSROOM NEWS — WEEK OF OCTOBER 3



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sally Foster: Orders are due October 3, 2008, please hand these in as soon as possible.

TIDBITS

Room Parents: We are in need of one more room parent for our class. If you are able to volunteer please contact me. A special "thank you" to Mrs. Becker who is our room parent.

Donations: Thank you to the families of: Julia, Deacon, and Antonia for donations.

Student of the week:

October 6-10: Antonia
October 13-17: Deacon
October 20-24 Nick
October 27-31 Alex

I would like to extend a special thank you to volunteers who have helped out in our class: Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Wilczek, and Mrs. Wittenberg.

E-mail is an easy and effective way to contact me with any questions or concerns. My voice mail is 432-5266 and my e-mail is Cheryl.briggs@gpschools.org.

I try to check my e-mails and respond as soon as possible. Please do not take offense if I e-mail you back with just a brief reply. Brief replies allow me to respond quickly and have more time for other things.

On October 7, 2008 from 7:00 – 8:00 ish PM Kelly Sexton-Bolen, our district math consultant, will be at Mason talking about Everyday Math for parents (district wide). I invite parents to attend so that they can get to know and feel more comfortable with the math program.

There will be **no a.m. school on October 31, 2008.**

Yesterday Ms. Bailey, our new school social worker, came in to talk about bullies and how to problem solve when someone is

bothering you by using the DeBug system. Please review this with your child. Here are the steps: Ignore, move away, talk friendly, talk firmly, get adult help.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Our class recently worked together on writing a feature magazine article (a grade level expectation). We have now finished that task. The children did such a wonderful job! Here is the article:

You'll never guess what happened in Mrs. Briggs class on Friday September 12, 2008. As Julia walked in to start her second grade day she heard someone scream, "Fish!" There were a few other second grade students staring wide-eyed at the fish tank.

Mrs. Briggs had bought some surprises and put them in the tank. Faylin noticed a frog in the fish tank too! Carlo noticed the frog swim up in the corner of the tank and then back down. Caitlin noticed two fish called Balloon Mollies. They had big bellies and were at the top of the tank. Antonia noticed two fish that were black and orange called Liar Tail Swords swimming in circles.

After lunch Blake checked the new fish. He saw a little black dot and looked more closely. He told Mrs. Briggs with excitement "There's baby fish!" Mrs. Briggs saw baby fish and with the help of Mrs. S, another teacher, scooped four baby fish out. All of the fish were black and looked like a needle. Later in the day Deacon spotted two more babies. Around 2:00 PM, Jesse saw another baby. When Emma, a student in Mrs. Briggs class was asked about the day she said, "It was a surprise to have baby fish. It was an exciting day"!

Didn't they do a great job?

I have been really enjoying watching and helping students during Writers' Workshop. Mrs. Erhard peeked in on Wednesday and enjoyed seeing these awesome writers in action. During the workshop students sometimes work on different stories and sometimes they will be practicing something

I taught. My job is to confer with students and teach them things that will help them to grow.

READING

We have completed read to self and our next focus is read to someone. My goal is to give structure so that the children do these practices while I meet with smaller groups or individual students.

In addition, the students read *Dragon Gets By* with the guest teachers (I was out sick...I hope you didn't get that awful virus) and did skilled work book pages.

I am continuing to do Running Records. Once I have the class completed I will be sending home a letter that will indicate what level your child is and answer common questions.

We have been practicing some reading strategies. They are printed on a bookmark. Asking these three questions instead of "fixing" their reading help readers to grow. They are: Does it make sense? Does it sound right? Does it look right? Try asking these questions while you read with your child.

In addition, students are practicing becoming more aware of their Schema (ski-ma). What is Schema? Schema is everything that you know (facts, things you've learned from going places and knowledge). We have gathered some schema about insects.

Please note that the books in our class literacy library are here for all of your enjoyment. Please feel free to keep them as long as you like. We are continuing to practice picking out just right books.

READING INCENTIVE

Remember to write the amount of time of reading (your child reads, you read to them or you take turns reading) in your child's assignment book in the yellow section. Every child who reads at least four hours

will be invited to the class reading party (the kids voted for a pizza/soccer party).

MATH

The class has recently finished Unit 1 and assessments will be going home today. We are starting Unit 2 which will have more home links and more homework. The focus on Unit 2 is building fact power (knowing your math facts up to 9+9).

Here are some suggestions to help with this:

1. A good way to practice strategies to practice math facts at home is to play any dice game that uses 2 or more dice. Monopoly is great because it not only deals with counting the spaces moved for the dice but also has students counting money.
2. Flash cards are also helpful.
3. Memory games are another fun way to practice math. For example put 2+2 on one index card and 4 on another and then turn the cards upside down and try to match them (of course you'll write out more problems).
4. browse through the Sadlier-Oxford link on my web page for practicing math facts.

I am very excited about a website that has been added to my Mason web page. It will allow you to connect to a game/activity that reinforces the lesson I taught in class. To access his please:

1. go to the Mason web page which is www.gpschools.org/mason
2. Then click on class web pages
3. Click on Briggs web page
4. Find the red box under math and it will say Everyday Math Games. Click on that.

SCIENCE

We received our baby caterpillars; we are learning the basic life cycle and metamorphosis of insects and the needs of organisms. On Wednesday the children became parents; children have their own mealworms to take care of. If you do not mind your child coming home with your new grandchildren please let me know by jotting me a note in the assignment book.