

DATES TO
REMEMBER

May 21

School Play, *RATS!*
Whole School Art Show
Fry Springs Beach Club
5:00-7:00 PM

May 26

No School

June 4

Last Day of School
Step Up Ceremony
10 AM

Ms. Reed's Class News

MAY 2008

Wrapping It Up!

Third, fourth and fifth graders have been around the world on a journey of discovery and exploration. They have been map-makers, researchers and explorers inside of our classroom and out! Each student had the opportunity to study two states and present their findings to their classmates. They used technology and fine-tuned their research skills using encyclopedias, atlases and non-fiction books to gather information. They have become experts in their field of study and enjoyed making projects such as brochures and pennants to support their understanding of their subject. We also created world maps, room maps, state maps and national maps, learned and created several songs and wrote poetry and non-fiction pieces about geography and the natural wonders of our world.

We are wrapping up our study of economics. Third, fourth and fifth graders mastered their understanding of multiple economics terms including: needs, wants, goods, services, natural resources, human resource, capital resources, interdependence, specialization, opportunity cost, scarcity, surplus, entrepreneur, profit, savings, consumer, producer, market economy, bank, etc. They will be

putting those words into an authentic experience as we develop and execute a business. They are currently determining which business they believe will be most successful at CDS. They are examining the resources available to them and are trying to gauge which business will attract the most consumers. Some of their choices include a market place with hand-made goods, a snack shop, a garden center and a theater. They plan to invite the elementary students to be customers at their store!

Students continue to enjoy book clubs where teams of students have the opportunity to read, discuss and review literature in small groups. We are currently operating with three multi-age groups and are reading books that tie in with our study of economics and geography. We have a group reading *The Crow Girl* by Bodil Bredsdorff, another group reading *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis and one group reading *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes. All of the book clubs participate in activities such as the "hot seat" where one student acts as a character in the book and the remaining students ask that character questions. We also create and

collaborate on book projects. We welcome visitors to come watch us in action as we read, write and develop into critical thinkers!

Students in Mrs. Reed's class have also become philosophers. On Mondays we have a philosophy study on a range of topics including nature, compassion, kindness, freedom, courage and time. Our study is based on the book *Little Big Minds* by Marietta McCarty who visited our school in March. Students are encouraged to be reflective and thoughtful, open-minded and accepting of others' opinions.

In math we are wrapping up our study of fractions and moving on to decimals. We also continue to revisit concepts studied earlier in the year such as multiplication, division, graphing, rounding, place value, patterns, number sense, etc. Third, fourth and fifth graders are thinking like mathematicians as they problem solve in a variety of ways and then back up their thinking in front of their peers. They are learning to attack problems logically, efficiently and strategically.

Coming Up...

We are about to begin our study on ecosystems. Students will examine and compare habitats, determine the types of animals who live there and examine their life cycles. Third, fourth and fifth graders will learn about the different roles organisms play and learn how producers affect their environment. They will participate in several experiments involving salt water and fresh water and also become soil and sand scientists!

We are in the process of planning a field trip. We will be visiting a local lake to plant a tree. This will bring us full circle back to the beginning of the year when we set out to save the trees. We will be accompanied by a member of the Sierra Club.

I can hardly believe that the year is coming to a close. Your children continue to amaze me and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to watch them grow and learn!