

Chebeague Pre-K and K News – February 18, 2011

Monday was filled with excitement around various Valentine's Day activities. The windowsill in the multipurpose room was filled with valentine receptacles and Miss Sally helped the children distribute their valentines. Four residents from the Island Commons joined us for a fabulous valentine lunch. After lunch the K-2 listened to a talk and slide show by Heather Deese from the Island Institute about oceanographic systems. The K-5 concluded their day in the multipurpose classroom where they enjoyed delicious snacks shared by parents and read their valentine's.

Tuesday's focus was on George Washington and an introduction to volcanoes. Wednesday I introduced the K's to a keyboarding site for young children. Up to now they have been learning about the home row and doing finger-tapping exercises on a paper keyboard. The program Keyseekers is a free online program perfect for Kindergarteners. If you opt to do this at home with them be sure to put bits of colored paper (purple or green) on the appropriate paw. The site address is:

<http://www.annrymer.com/keyseeker/>

Wednesday the K's continued their Math work with function machines and made Chinese Lanterns in preparation for Thursdays Chinese New Year Celebration.

Thursday we watched a short You-Tube about the History of Chinese New Year and another of a Dragon Dance. The children donned the dragon and paraded through the other classrooms to some dragon dance background music and clanging cymbals. The loud noise is to scare away any bad things (out with the old and in with the new). Our lunch on Thursday was a fantastic spread of Chinese food complete with chopsticks. A big thank you to Deb Bowman who helped Laura Summa concoct this amazing meal. Our Chinese lanterns served as table decorations.

Friday we returned to our typical routine and we thank Meredith Beaupre for coming in and doing one on one reading with them.

Practical Life/Art

- Lacing patterns - heart and tube pasta
- Chinese paper lanterns
- Squeezing - colored water onto heart mat

Language

- Matching -felt Chinese fortune cookies using chopsticks
- Mazes related to Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year

Math

- Sets basket - sorting and counting valentines
- Graphing - how many hearts tall and graphing candy hearts of different colors
- Estimation - how many candy hearts fit in the heart
- Intro to quarter, coin flip tally

Science

- Volcanoes - picture cards
- Volcano model
- Volcano three part matching cards
- Volcano book making

History

- George Washington book making
- February full moon - The Snow Moon

Music

- Our music circle on Thursday was "Do the Dragon" a fun movement activity from the Brain Wave CD

Peace

- Friday's peace circle involved passing around a mirror box in which they saw our new peacemaker - themselves. We also started reading the book Peace Begins With You



K popcorn word this week: *give*
K spelling: *give, gave*

Calendar updates

March 4: Library presentation by Robin Hansen - author of Ice Harbor Mittens

March 11: Island Commons visit

March 16 - K-5 Field trip to NOAA weather station



Valentine sets basket



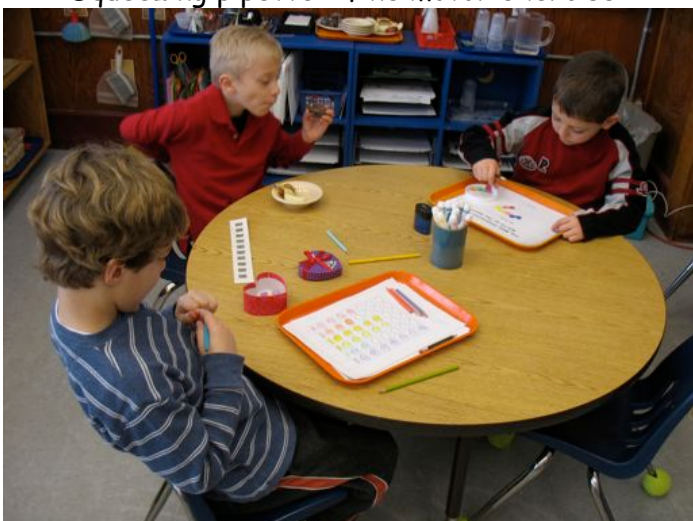
Valentine Party



The dragon dance



Squeezing pipette - fine motor exercise



Candy heart graphing, estimation work on right



Chinese New Year lunch

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*