

Chebeague Pre-K News – February 10, 2012

I missed getting a newsletter out last week and it was a busy week! I will attempt to recap the last two weeks as best as possible. Monday, Jan. 30 the whole school watched yet two other versions of Stone Soup on U-tube. Then Caitlin helped the children hold a knife correctly and chop up their Stone Soup vegetable contribution. I had an extra onion, which was hard on Caitlin but good for the children to learn about the effects of cutting onions. The veggies, along with contributions from other CIS students were cooked up Monday afternoon and eaten for lunch on Tuesday. Yummy for most.

Activities on Tuesday and Friday focused on Chinese New Year: good luck red envelopes, paper lanterns and doing the dragon parade at school and at the Island Commons. In between we had fun with groundhog activities.

This past week various Valentines Day related works replaced the Chinese New Year works. We also had a special event on Tuesday when Barry Dana shared Penobscot culture with the entire school. Beverly put together a great movie - look for the link on her web page.

A notable item from the presentation for the Pre-K was their interest in tracking, so I put together a little book with a few animal images and their tracks. Thursday's weather cooperated well for going on the nature trail. We gathered in the nature classroom to share the little tracking book and the wonderful story "Who's Been Here". Then as we walked the trail you could here them saying, "Who's Been Here" as they found deer tracks (and scat), chipmunk or squirrel tracks, holes and seed debris, and either fox or dog tracks. There interest is high in this so if you get a chance to walk in the woods take time to notice animal tracks and signs. If you have knowledge in tracking and animal signs we would love to have you join us. I am learning right along with them!

Practical Life/Art

- Valentine cutting, punching, printing
- Squeezing - matching colored heart clips

- Squeezing - 1 to 1 correspondence of pom-poms into heart shapes using tweezers.
- Squeezing- colored water onto soap mat
- Spooning - red corn
- Lacing - valentine pasta
- Valentine tic-tac-toe

History

- Feb. full moon - The Snow Moon
- Groundhog Day - no shadows seen at CIS
- We celebrated a child's fifth birthday

Math

- New sets baskets - valentine theme
- Heart die game - roll die, collect hearts
- Heart patterning
- Numerals and Counters with red discs

Language

- Handwriting: magic C, O
- Heart shape stencil added to metal insets
- Which mitten does not belong
- Everyone was introduced to /v/-valentine
- The Fuzz Frenzy was a perfect book for Groundhog Day. We continue with Leo Lionni and fish themed stories.

Peace:

- Mini Zen meditation garden
- Our peace circle focused on breathing, acknowledging anger and letting it out with deep breaths - Meditation like Gandhi

Calendar updates

Feb. 20-24: Winter break, no school



Dragon dance with other children at the Island Commons



Chopping veggies for Stone Soup



Roll the heart die, take that many wooden hearts



Shining a flashlight on the pop up groundhog - groundhog, do you see your shadow?



One hundred board!



Groundhog art project - potato printing for body, fingerprints for ears, collage for grass, flowers, sun, clouds.



Lacing heart and penne pasta



The child walks around the candle (sun) for each year of life. The months of the year surround the sun. Here we have some family teamwork in blowing out the candle.



Checking out a Penobscot smoke house tee-pee



Sorting and counting with valentine math works



Fine motor practice - concentration/coordination, squeezing colored water onto soap pad, spooning corn



Exploring the Penobscot drum beat



Fine Motor practice squeezing
Visual Discrimination matching

Thank you for sharing your children

Miss Nancy