

Chebeague Pre-K News – Feb 15, 2013

The culminating activity for our Stone Soup stories was to make soup. All CIS students were invited to "bring what you've got, put it in the pot, we're making stone soup". In our classroom we tore kale and cut tomatoes - both were great fine motor activities. When the soup was served the following day the ingredients were listed color-coded by food group. It was a very popular lunch choice with many students asking for seconds.



Prepping kale and tomatoes for Stone Soup

We started our Chinese New Year celebration with a dragon and scarf dance at the Island Commons. It was wonderful to watch the children leading the Commoners in the scarf dance and in Head Shoulders Knees and Toes.



The Dragon Dance in our classroom. At the end of every dance the dragon goes to sleep.

Many other Chinese New Year activities were in the classroom with their favorites being making paper lanterns, red envelopes (traditionally family and friends give money to children in red envelopes) and hiding/finding a small Buddha in various Chinese purses. Then there was the amazing Asian meal that Deb Bowman and Laura Summa cooked up complete with chopsticks. During lunch the children repeated the dragon dance for their schoolmates. We actually dragon danced again on Friday the 15th in the classroom so that all had a chance to be the dragonhead.



Making patterns with pictures of dragons and snakes (2013 is the year of the snake)



Squeezing transfer - exploring chopsticks with some pretend sushi

In between all this they worked on writing the word LOVE in valentines for the Commoners and for parents. Following the all school party they joined the K-2 class for writing workshop with the writing prompt "I love...". They were very excited to be with the older students.



Math - Sorting and counting of assorted wooden hearts of different sizes. Seven can look like more than nine but is it more?



Fine motor & color matching- squeezing heart clips onto mat board



Lacing - fine motor and sewing skills



We celebrated a $\frac{1}{2}$ birthday for a child's whose birthday falls during summer vacation.



A favorite song CD was brought in the share bag. We took turns with various percussion instruments.

After morning circle on Friday we went snowshoeing on the nature trail. Celia helped strap their boots into the snowshoes and lined the boots with snowshoes up at the back door. (Wish I had taken a photo of the boot line up). The children just stepped into their boots and we



lifted them out the door. Bump helped to get

them out the door. I think Bump really wanted to come with us on our hike. Overall it was a good heart healthy workout for them and lots of fun. Celia came along too.



Just luck to have captured this whoops.....

We had more than one learning opportunity about the need for space and effects of getting too close and ... to accept responsibility and apologize.

We paused to explore the feely bag and to read a story at the talking tree (between posts 11 & 12). It has been awhile since we have hiked the entire loop and it was fun to have them out on the trail. The trail is pretty packed down now making it nice for a walk. They can show you tracks and big divots where the deer lay down at night. They all said they want to go out on snowshoes again.



Yesterday at second circle I introduced them to our new peacemaker. Themselves. When we were out on the trail I told them that once we were back inside we would have snack and later on they would meet our new peacemaker. They were looking forward to meeting/ learning about him/her and were surprised to look in the magic mirror box and see their own reflection. They pass the box in silence and each take a turn opening it up and looking in. It usually takes them a minute to "get it" but then they look up at me with a smile.

They did well sharing what a peacemaker does: "is kind, does nice things, helpful". Now that they can talk about it we will continue to work on the harder task of living it on a daily basis. Being a peacemaker is a very important life skill that we work on all the time.



We use peace feathers as a tool to facilitate listening. Good for solving problems.

Calendar updates

Feb 18-22: Winter Break, No School

Feb 25: Full Moon - The Snow Moon

*Thank you for sharing your children!
Miss Nancy*