

# MIM ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

November 4, 2011

## Language Arts

Students are continuing their work with the grammar material and some students have begun using the verb material. Second graders completed the story and writing assignments for the first story in the Junior Great Books Series. They asked questions about the story, gave their opinions, and wrote a paragraph defending their ideas. First graders learned the four rules for a Star Sentence. Using these rules, students wrote several short paragraphs.

## Science and History

Students learned about the metamorphosis of a butterfly. Each student illustrated a booklet about the life cycle of a butterfly and then completed an individual writing assignment on the topic. Some students wrote informational paragraphs and others wrote short stories from the perspective of a butterfly.

## Art

We completed our study of abstract art by looking at another famous work of art from Wassily Kandinsky entitled Composition VIII. Fifteen different shapes and lines were listed on slips of paper. Each slip was drawn from a tub and students added the shapes to their art work in the position and color of their choosing. This created unique works of art with similar shapes and lines.

## Math

First graders have been learning to count combinations of nickels and pennies. They also practiced adding two numbers by choosing the largest number and counting on by ones. Second graders continued their work with adding fractions. Some were even introduced to adding fractions with different denominators. They also learned to add two-digit numbers in which the sum of the digits in the ones place is ten.



Adding two-digit numbers



Writing about butterflies

November 4, 2011

## Arabic

Our topic last week was about farm animals and their products. We also learned about zoo animals. We practiced how to recognize, pronounce, and write the types of article “the” in Arabic. We also read two Arabic stories: “The Shoemaker”, and “The Hungry Cat”. The students loved it so much as they had a chance to find some of the words they recently learned and discovered some new ones. Arabic textbooks have been excellent sources to learn new words in Arabic. We had a fun activity as each student built a “mouse” a “fish” and a “frog” from papers and other materials.

## Islamic Studies

We learned about the origin of hajj the fifth pillar of Islam. Kids learned about the story of Ibrahim (PBUH) as he was tested by Allah to sacrifice his son Ismail. But Allah sent a sheep instead, thus the origin of Eid Al Idhha.



## Quran

We are currently working on three Surahs “alfajr”, “atteen”, “albayyinah”, and other short Surahs. . Please help your child in memorizing his or her portion .

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## Activities to Practice at Home

Since homework in our Montessori classroom is limited, I would like to include a list of activities or discussions you can have with your child.

Ask your child....

- Define concentric circles.
- Say the complete date.
  - What will the date be in (1,2,or 3) weeks?
  - What was the date (1,2, or 3) weeks ago?
  - What does each of the numbers in the abbreviated date (11/4/11) mean?
- Name and describe the 4 stages of a butterfly during metamorphosis.
- List the 5 sums of 10. (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Count groups of nickels and pennies. (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Say the Star Sentence Cheer? (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

## Upcoming Events

- Conferences will be held during the week of November 14. The signup sheet for this is on top of the lockers.
- We are asking parents to volunteer to be reading buddies in the classroom. Parents can volunteer from 9:00-10:30 or 12:30-1:30. During this time, parents will listen to students read from their level readers.
- There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, November 7, in recognition of Eid.

## Helping out our Classroom

The cold weather is coming and with that comes runny noses. If you are interested, the classroom could use a donation of tissues.

Thank you



