

September 23, 2016

Upcoming Dates...

September 24: Family Event at Port Farm

September 27-29: School Pictures

October 13: Family Meeting, 6pm



*Hope to see you tomorrow at Port Farm!*

The Novices are traveling the globe with our Stories theme! This week we have listened to many stories and tales from around the world. We were introduced to our world map and have had fun locating and labeling the different countries and continents. We even have our very own passports! Reading groups started and our READERS couldn't wait to bring their new books home to share with their families. Meanwhile, we have been busy with math, too. Our youngest mathematicians have been learning snazzy rhymes to help them learn how to form numbers correctly- when they aren't busy counting, that is. Our middle group has been sorting, categorizing, and looking for themes in similar objects while the oldest math wizards have been exploring place value and building numbers with musical instruments! In Theme, we've been working on comparing and contrasting different versions of the story of the *Three Little Pigs*. We also heard a version told from the wolf's perspective and voted on whose side of the story we believed. All in all, a productive week for the Novices!



NOVICES



It has been a week of growing and learning in the Player room! In Math, the Division Doughnuts have been solving number mysteries and animal riddles in order to learn about the value of each digit in a number through the hundred thousands. Next week, we'll conquer the millions! The Wolf Pack has been having fun playing games to review place value- building numbers using dice, beanbags, and even musical instruments. In our reading groups, we have all started new novels and are practicing responding to comprehension questions as well as reading with expression and appropriate pacing. In our read-aloud, *Alice in Wonderland*, we have been taking a close look at how Lewis Carroll uses hyperbole as well as homophones to help the reader grasp the depth of "curiousness" that exists in Wonderland! For Theme, we have begun learning stories of ancient peoples. Our first study is of the people of the Roman Empire. We have been enthralled with the story of Mt. Vesuvius and Pompeii, the city that was preserved for so long under ash!

Finally, a special recognition goes out to several students from the Player room who have gone above and beyond to show kindness to others. We had a student single-handedly make wands that are personalized for younger students for play during recess. In addition, we had a student who noticed that we are working to build our classroom library with new books, and decided to sort through all of her books at home and bring in books specifically for other students in the room based on topics that were interesting to each. Moreover, we had another student who worked to clean up all of the toys from the playground without regard to whether or not that person had used the toys. These acts were all done quietly and without expectation of a reward. Stay tuned for more from this amazing group of young people!

The Apprentices have had a busy week of writing. We dusted off our dialogue skills by writing scenes between two characters based on a prompt. We focused on telling the story through dialogue, supporting the dialogue with interesting "tags," and making sure we had all the necessary punctuation in all the right places. For literacy, we've continued taking notes on the historical background of our fables and tales. We've also researched the location of our tales and learned more about the culture and geography of our respective regions.



We also honed our oral storytelling skills this week. On Friday, we learned storytelling tips from professional storyteller Josh Searle-White. He talked with us about the benefit of experimenting with different storytelling techniques, workshopped a few of our stories, and performed one of his favorite stories, all of which we thoroughly enjoyed! We also took our first Creek Connections trip down to Shadybrook to do our first round of water chemistry monitoring. We were lucky enough to have two members of the college come down to help us with our first testing session. We're looking forward to going again in two weeks!