

Chebeague Pre-K- Transitional K News – December 22, 2009

Our two days this week were spent observing our classroom snails, learning about the letter "Mm", bringing Hanukkah to a close, celebrating the winter solstice, reading the Christmas story, making gingerbread houses with milk cartons, exchanging gifts and making an eruption in the volcano model.

Leading up to the solstice we have been observing and chasing our long shadows at recess. The library has a great book about the winter solstice. Reading it along with a demonstration using a flashlight and our globe has hopefully brings some sense their understanding as to why we have seasons.

The gingerbread houses provided some practice using tools for spreading the icing "glue" and using their creativity with various "building materials".

At one point in the morning a metal inset paper was folded like a dogs head that evolved into constructing origami dogs. One child stated that the dogs needed a nap so paper was quickly gathered, and colored to make beds for the dogs. All worked quietly while we let sleeping dogs lie until it was time for the gift exchange in the multi purpose room.

For me the volcano was the most exciting event. I had decided that better mixing by shaking of the baking soda and water before adding the vinegar might produce better fizz. In fact it did, spouting up 6-12 inches surprising us all. Of course they wanted to do it again but it fizzed up only a few inches. Meanwhile the children had opted to view the second eruption from behind the language shelf. Ask them about it! Sorry no photos when the teacher is engaged in chemical reactions.

Calendar updates:

Dec 31: Blue Moon (second full moon in a month)

Dec 23- Jan 4: Christmas vacation

Jan 4: Teacher inservice

Jan 8: Island Commons field trip



Gingerbread house construction



Gingerbread houses with dogs



Watching sleeping dogs

Happy Holidays - Miss Nancy