

Chebeague Pre-K and K News – February 4, 2011

We disassembled our January calendar with lots of questions about numbers. We celebrated Ground Hogs Day on Tuesday by making pop up ground hogs with Dixie cups, popsicle sticks and little ground hogs.

The focus this week was on snow and Chinese New Year. I have been putting snow in the sand and water table and they have been making observations about melting snow. Chinese New Year started on Thursday with the new moon and will conclude with the full moon on Thursday the 17th. They are enjoying the Chinese New Year works.

The K students were introduced to Read Naturally -a computer based phonics program that is also used with the upper grades. It works with comprehension as well as phonics where as Lexia (which we also use) works with rhyming and phonemic awareness. Read Naturally invites them to look at a picture and predict the story. For now I type it in but they are eager to try using the keyboard. Thus we did a little bit with keyboard mats focusing for now on the home row.

On Friday Merideth Beaupre came in and read one on one with them - thank you Merideth. Then we went to the Island Commons with our grades 1 & 2 friends. We sang for them and each shared one of the snowflakes that we had cut.

If your child's feet get wet and they opt to change socks I will just hang up the wet pair to be sure they have an extra pair for another day. This way they do get rotated home for washing but they are sure to always have an extra pair at school. If they have multiple pairs at school I will send the wet ones home.

Following are the new works:

Practical Life/Art

- Firework drawings - wet chalk on black paper
- Squeezing - various Chinese purses with a Buddha hidden in one.

- Care of self - fans - these have been very popular
- Folding and Cutting - snowflakes

Sensorial

- Tanagrams

Language

- Visual discrimination - matching zodiac images - one set is black, the other red

History

- Ground Hog day - We read the book Fuzz Frenzy which is a great story about a tennis ball falling down into a prairie dog burrow and the frenzy which followed. Ask your child about this story. It involves a bully prairie dog, and some great team work.

Peace

- Yoga - Chinese Dragon
- No peace circle with our Island Commons trip.



K popcorn word this week: *out*

K spelling: *out, played*

Calendar updates

Feb. 10: 100th day of school for K-5 but Pre-K will also celebrate

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day, Island Commons residents will be joining us for lunch

Feb. 17: Dragon Dance celebrating end of Chinese New Year

Feb 22-25: No school, Winter break



The Candle Pose - Oh how I wish they did this more often.....



Various silk containers with different closures in which to hide the Buddha figure



Fans are tricky to open but fun



Tanagrams



It was like a snowstorm in the classroom after many snowflakes were made out of paper.



Getting a close up look at snow

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*