

Chebeague Pre-K and K News – May 2011

Our classroom has been very busy this month. Art's night was May 24 where we shared music and art with the community. Our K's have stepped up for morning circle and math games with the grades 1 & 2 and we welcomed incoming Pre-K's to our class last Friday morning. Current Pre-K's will have an extended day on June 3 for their step up day.

We continue learning about insects and our new continent is South America. Children love to learn about the Panama Canal and this year was no different. We watched two short clips on U-Tube and they enjoyed re-enacting the locks with boats in the block area. Favorite insect works have been wrapping a string around a caterpillar to form a chrysalis, and, making their own butterfly out of a coffee filter and a clothespin. They then tucked their butterflies in and out of a TP tube to represent the emergence from a chrysalis.

We have been doing many activities related to our current author: Eric Carle.

Practical Life/Art

- Making speckled art paper and cloud textures to make collage pictures like Eric Carle used in A Tiny Seed and Little Cloud.
- Making pretzels: Walter the Baker story.
- Butterfly chrysalis making with TP tubes, clothespins and coffee filters.
- Twisting - lock and key.
- Twisting - wrap a chrysalis.
- Squeezing - make an insect - cootie parts.
- Baby Washing - very popular.....
- Phones - grace and courtesy lesson using a phone and learning phone numbers.

Language

- Eric Carle is our featured author
- Felt board story retelling works for Brown Bear Brown Bear and for The Hungry Caterpillar.
- Our K's have been doing lots of long and short vowel sorts as well as works with r controlled vowels.

- K's are working on alphabetization and getting really good at it ☺

Math

- New sets baskets to keep sorting and counting interesting.
- K's continue working on counting by 2's, 5's and 10's as well as many works with money.

Geography

- South America.
- Panama Canal.
- Landforms: Island/Lake and Cape/Bay.

Science

- Insects - parts of an insect book making.

Music

- Right after vacation we sang Pharaoh, Pharaoh to the tune of Louie, Louie. The kids loved it - it has been awhile but do ask them about it - it has hand motions too.
- Mozart has been introduced.
- Percussion instruments - We are learning about the different sections of an orchestra.

Peace

- Rachel Carson is still our peacemaker. Our focus has shifted to learning about what things are made of and how to recycle.

Calendar updates

June 3: Island Commons field trip.

June 3: Extended day for Pre-K: step up day (Pre-K depart 2:30 from library).

June 13: Extended day for Pre-K: Field Day (Pre-K leave school at 2:30).

June 14: Extended day for Pre-K: Beach picnic (Pre-K depart 2:30 or with parents).

June 15: End of year slide show, 11:15am.

June 15: $\frac{1}{2}$ day for all - no lunch served (end of school day will be either 11:45 or 12:15?).



May Day - May Pole fun
We were blessed with a sunny day



Making pretzels - must taste good and the sun
must shine through three times... from the story
Walter the Baker.



Panama Canal boat passage. The locks are ready
to open for the green boat in his left hand. There
were many renditions of this process. At times
the boat migrated to the globe showing where the
Panama Canal is located.



Making them was fun but even better was eating
the pretzels. Thanks to Miss Meredith who
helped out that day.



Sets work - sorting and counting buttons



Making speckled paper for collage. The paper
they made is in our collage envelopes.



Learning to sound out consonant/vowel/consonant words with short a.



Baby washing has been very popular



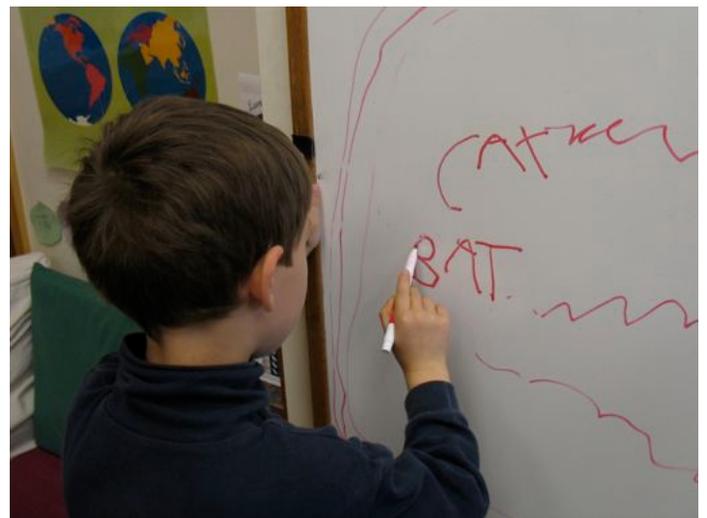
One day after sweeping up tracked in dirt some students got into moving shelves and sweeping the entire classroom. ☺ They can all sweep if you need help at home.....



Be careful not to get soap in her eyes



Alphabetization



Check out these words



Landform: Island and Lake

Working the clay takes patience and strengthens the hand



Long a words with "mean old e"



Landform: Cape and Bay

Occasionally little clay boats or volcanoes also appear.



Phone etiquette: Reading and dialing numbers (why do we still call it dialing?)



Making an insect - Fine motor squeezing practice - Remember that cootie game from the past ...



Long vowel sorting with pictures and words

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*