

St. Ludmila Center Classroom Happenings March 19, 2009

Art: Last month all classes completed an entry in the St. Jude's T-shirt contest. Third grade also made posters for the Dental Poster contest. They also just finished a Clay Unit and will start an Art History Unit by making a Starry Night picture. Fourth grade is using art on our Pizz-a-thon unit. Next they will do a Clay Unit.

Climate Committee: In February the fourth grade Climate Committee members were intent listeners when Mr. Thomas Darden spoke to them about using good values to guide your life in a positive direction. Mr. Darden, a former professional football player, has children in our school system and takes time to speak to our group every year. On March 18th members of the Committee acted out the Stations of the Cross for the rest of the student body and the Senior Citizens' group from St. Ludmila's parish.

Computer: Third grade has been creating cinquains in a site called Instant Poetry Forms and then copying and pasting their work to a word document to format. They just finished up a letter-writing unit, and will be starting a research unit soon about different Popes.

Fourth grade also used Instant Poetry Forms for several types of poems. They are now working on a Modern Fairy Tale and have learned about page breaks and inserting paint boxes on a text page to illustrate work. Between spring break and the end of the year will be a research unit and a presentation unit.

ELP: – The end of the term always means finishing up projects to display during conferences. Now we are starting new activities. The members of the fourth grade math group are working on writing songs that will teach the names, numbers and function of the bones in a specifically assigned part of the body. Their finished songs will be taped to share with the rest of the fourth grade. The Language Arts ELP fourth graders are writing a portion of a Readers Theatre script about the Food Pyramid that they will present to their classes. The third grade ELP students are working on activities in honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. The math group is researching interesting facts about Lincoln that they will display in a math related way, (such as showing how tall he was by putting pennies end to end), somewhere in the school. The Language Arts group is practicing a Readers Theatre production that involves former presidents conversing in a computer Chat Room to teach a young girl important lessons about what a president does. Each student also researched and reported on one of the presidents featured in the play.

Media Center: The third grade classes have worked on using a telephone directory, bar and circle graphs, using an atlas, and they watched an author video. The fourth grade classes worked on evaluating reference sources, timelines, bar and circle graphs, and also watched an author video.

We had a Scholastic Bookfair during the week of classes. 35 books were given by parents for teacher classroom libraries. We earned money to purchase new books and the accelerated reader tests to go with them. We also received some free books from the Bookfair.

We are now voting on our favorite book from the Iowa Children's Choice selections for 2008-2009. We have ordered and received the ICCA selections for 2009-2010 and will be able to check them out to read soon.

Music: In February, third graders entertained the residents of Silver Pines and Evergreen Estates II by singing Valentine songs. Several piano solos were performed by those getting ready for the April 4 City Contest. We concluded the instrument unit by listening to The Carnival of the Animals followed by a video. Then we played a game. Third graders began cantoring for our weekly school liturgies.

Fourth graders finished the theory unit which included a packet of note reading and rhythmic exercises. We have started playing recorders and will conclude that unit by playing along with some church songs after Easter.

Physical Education - In gym we just finished up our Pinball Unit. Before moving on to our next unit which will be health class. Third grade will talk about Muscles and bones and why we need to keep moving. Fourth grade is making final preparation for our Pizz-a-thon School Bake Off next week. They have learned about farming, nutrition, jobs and dangers related to farming, how food gets to us, about how seeds grow, how to make a pizza, the cost and ways we develop our own pizza place. This is a great unit and involves so many different area of learning. They have given up PE time a few times to work on this project, but it all relates to PE/Health, Art, Science, computer, language, team work and more. The top two teams will go on to a City Bake Off next month. Then we will be back to PE class doing a Dance and Tumbling Unit.