



**Lighthouse School®
200 Cluster Newsletter
March 2010**

Notes from the Homeroom:

Hello Everyone and Happy Spring!!!!!!

March was National Reading Month. We don't know about you but when we hear a child say, "Please, shhh. I am trying to read," WE LOVE IT!!!!!! Books are a treasure and can be a best friend. Upon entering our Scholastic Book Fair in the Lighthouse School student library, many students were in awe. The displays of books were captivating. Many students had saved their tokens earned for making "wise choices" for more than a month in order to purchase their own book. This was the day they had been waiting for. What a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of reading.

Other activities encouraging children to read this month included: "Read Across America Day" and a joyous commemoration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a huge birthday cake. In each homeroom a favorite story was chosen and read to or by the students. Then a craft activity based on the story was initiated. In some homerooms, games were introduced which enhanced the theme of the story. Another activity included the decoration of the Homeroom door to illustrate a favorite book. In this case, the doors were judged and Room 201 won a movie and popcorn for its rendition of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Way to go 201!!!!!! In the library, two students were awarded books as prizes for the closest estimation of the number of books contained there. The lucky winners were Connor S. and A.J. M. Lastly, staff in the library performed an original hilarious skit adapted by Mrs. Holt, "If I were in the library I know just what I'd read..." What fun everyone shared during all of these events!

In lesson areas:

In ELA with Ms. Pease, students have been working on building complete ideas in writing using graphic organizers as a base. "Signal words" for sequencing have been discussed as well as complete sentence mechanics, and for some, complete paragraph structure.

In Mathematics with Mrs. Barmash, the students have been working on a number of different concepts. Some have been working on multi-digit multiplication and long division and also checking their answers. Others have been working on equivalent fractions and the least common factors of numbers, while another group of students diligently pursued the identification and counting of money. Taking those skills to the next level, they then used addition and subtraction to add the money and make change.

Science with Ms. Giblin continued the exploration of the solar system and the constellations. Some hands-on activities included making star sticker constellations, coloring the planets and putting them in order plus making posters and completing research projects.

History with Mrs. Young involved the study of the 7 continents, the Earth using the globe, famous people from MA and the usage of timelines. An intensive study of Europe included the flags, climate, population and economy of different countries, plus research and a text scavenger hunt. Also included this month was information about our neighbor, Canada. Students learned about the Canadian flag, holidays, geographical location and territories.

Health and Wellness with Mr. Linskey continues to help the students make good choices when it comes to "Being Fit." The combination of diet, exercise, sleep and good hygiene gives the kids a good basis for a healthy lifestyle.

As always, our wish is for your happiness and safety.