



A Note From 1-B



October 17, 2008

This week I had an important conversation with the class about learning. Different learning tools that assist children during the school day sparked our conversation. I'll admit, many of the tools are cool, but are not needed for all learners. So the children and I had a conversation about swimming. This is an analogy that Lisa Cannon shared with me years ago. It enables teachers, parents and students to understand that children need different tools at different times during development (and everyone is on a different schedule)!

I asked children about their first experiences swimming. Not surprisingly, none of the children were thrown in the deep end without a floatation device and told it was time to learn to swim. The children talked about the steps they took towards becoming a swimmer. They used floats, bubbles, kick boards, noodles and most took some type of swimming lesson. We talked about how even now that they are swimmers, they still get tired and need a break- a floatation device to catch their breath. I told them that I provide children with "kick boards" or tools they need to take them to the next step. Special tools in school such as grips for pens, fidget toys, and chairs with backs for the rug are tools to further development. We also talked about math and how some children use pictures as their "kick board" until they feel confident enough to explain their thinking with words or numbers. We talked about how some readers use highlighted guides to track words until they can take in a full page of text on their own. This analogy follows all children through development. It seemed to make sense to the first graders and I wanted to pass it along to you at home.

On Thursday, Kathy Flood, our school nurse, came in to 1-B to discuss food allergies. The children thoughtfully participated in this lesson. She will be back in the classroom next week. Her lessons are part of the *Count Me In* curriculum. We look forward to the next time Mrs. Flood comes in!

Announcements:

- Monday, October 27, 2008: Please send your child to school with both a snack and a lunch from home. The buses will be leaving for the MFA at 9:15. We will return to Hunnewell shortly after lunch and will eat in the classroom. **Your child will not have the option to order lunch on Monday.**
- Thank you to all those volunteering to accompany us to the MFA. We are only able to take two chaperones this trip! We drew names from a hat, and Deb Berger and Betsy Sheehan will be joining us on Monday.
- Walkmans & Discmans: If you have transitioned to an ipod and have walkmans or discmans you are not using, 1-B would gladly take them off of your hands (either to borrow for the school year or as a donation)!
- Friday, October 31: Halloween Parade 8:45 – 9:30. Your child should wear a costume to school over school clothes. Children will not be going to the bathroom to change after the parade. Children should bring a bag, labeled with their name,

to keep the costume in after the parade. Children should not bring any toy weapons or wear face paint to school.

- Volunteers needed to help 1-B roll our hard earned pennies from 11:00 to 11:45! Please send a note or email if you are interested~ I am looking for 2 more volunteers!
- Hunnewell students will have the opportunity vote for the candidate of their choice on Tuesday, November 4 at school. Although we will be talking generally about the election next week in class, please take some time to talk to your child about the presidential candidates so they feel comfortable on election day.

Save The Date

- Monday, October 27: Field Trip to MFA- pack your child a snack and lunch from home.
- Friday, October 31: Halloween Parade, 8:45-9:30
- Tuesday, November 4: Early Dismissal, Conferences
- Tuesday, November 11: No School, Veteran's Day
- Friday, November 14: Family Sock Hop 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, November 27-Monday, December 1: No School, Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, December 23: Please join us for a 1-B performance of *Why Spider Lives on Ceilings* in gymnasium from 9:45-10:15.

Conversation Starters

- ❖ Who are the characters in Gooseberry Park? What do you know about them?
- ❖ How many ways can you fill a hexagon? What is a trapezoid look like?
- ❖ What kinds of shapes would you use if you wanted to use as few shapes as possible? What if you wanted to use more shapes?
- ❖ What topic did you select for your first Writing Workshop story?
- ❖ What day do you read on the computer?
- ❖ What day do you use the listening center?
- ❖ What does acceptance mean? Think of a friend at school, how are you alike? How are you different?

Have a nice weekend,

Sarah Byrnes