

October 31, 2008

Dear Families,

Our Halloween Parade was a great success. I got some wonderful pictures of everyone.

We've been very busy in class these last few weeks.

In Reader's Workshop, we are continuing to work on our text-to-self connections as well as text-to-world connections. If you have a chance, please stop by our bulletin board and check out the students' connections to some of their favorite poems. Recently, I read a book of poems called, Sol a Sol. These are bilingual poems selected by Lori Marie Carlson and beautifully illustrated by Emily Lisker. The children chose their favorite poem, illustrated it, and wrote a personal connection.

On Tuesday, Mark Hall from Biomes Marine Biology Center delivered our Common Minnow, Striped Minnow, Stickleback, Northern Flounder, Puffer fish and a Spot Fin Butterfly Fish.

Some questions to ask your child:

What are gills?

What are the fins for?

What is the fish's tail used for?

Where in the tank does the flounder spend most of its time?

What book(s) are you reading in Reader's Workshop

Tell me about the story you are writing in Writer's Workshop?

How many different ways can you make 15 or 25 cents?

Some books we shared this week:

Stories Julian Tells

Owen

The Red Woolen Blanket

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Sol a Sol

House for Hermit Crab

Conferences have started this week. It's been wonderful talking with everyone about the progress of your children. If you do not know your scheduled time, please contact me. I will be putting samples of your child's work in the hallway beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the day of your child's conference. (If your conference is in the morning, I will put it out around 7:45). Please plan to come

about 10 minutes before your child's conference to take a look at this work. It will give you a "snapshot" of the type of work your child is currently doing in school.

Have a great weekend! Happy Halloween!

Sincerely,

Louise

Tell me about your expert animal:

Luke C-A - It is a clam. It doesn't move.

Colin - It is an Eastern Oyster. Sometimes Mrs. Wolfe puts this oyster in the tank with little mussels. The mussels that we have if they are removed from any surface that they are attached to they will die. It doesn't move. It waits for the tide to come in.

Anna H. - It's an oyster drill. It has a really pointy tip so it can drill through other shellfish to eat its insides.

Julia - My expert animal is the oyster. It has mussels on the bottom of it. It doesn't really move, but if it did it would move slowly.

Carly - My expert animal is the Eastern Oyster. On one side it is flat and has a bunch of algae all over it. The other side is bumpy and mussels live on it. There are little holes in it which are called craters.

Lauren - My expert animal is a Quahog. It's a shellfish. It looks like an oyster but it is a clam. It is smooth and a triangle with curved sides instead of points.

Neil - The Eastern Oyster drill is cool. It is a scientific thing and I really like it. It is a cool type of snail. It likes to spend its time on the walls of the tank.

Justin - My expert animal is the blue mussel. It is really flat. If it attaches itself to something it stays there. It is black and blue. It has a dent in the front of it. When the waves go in it opens its mouth and sucks in the stuff that came in and blows out the stuff that came in last time.

Shane - The Common Periwinkle can live a little while without water. It can hang onto the walls of the tank. It looks a little black. It's also a little fast. It has a shell on it.

Avery - My expert animal is the Quahog. It has some orange and brown and white on its shell.

We have been studying Crustaceans this week. What is your expert sea creature? What does it look like? How does it move?

Matthew McKenna – My expert sea creature is a spider crab. It looks like a spiky spider but

with claws. It moves by moving joints.

Avery M – My expert crustacean is the shore shrimp. It is really clear (see-through). It can climb and swim.

Kennedy – My expert sea creature is the mud crab. It's round, black and sort of creamy brown. It moves with its feet.

Maya – My expert sea creature is the striped shore crab. It has black and brown on it. It moves sideways.

Colin Place – My expert sea creature is the shore crab. It looks like a crab, brown, green, white and black. It moves forward, backward and sideways.

Lucy – My expert sea creature is the hermit crab. It has a little swirly shell, is sort of tan, and has a lot of legs and two antennae. It moves quickly.

Katie – My expert sea creature is the mud crab. It looks kind of like a rock with legs and claws. It puts out one foot after the other, first the front foot, then the two middle feet and then the back foot.

Jonah – My expert sea creature is the black-fingered mud crab. It has a mustard color to it, black lines, and some brown on it. It moves with its jointed legs.

Hayden – My expert sea creature is the shore shrimp. It looks like a pebble, kind of brown. Sometimes it swims, sometimes it walks, and it can also climb on the seaweed.

Madison – My expert sea creature is the striped shore crab. It looks like a big, brown rock with white spots. It moves sideways and backwards.

Annie – My expert sea creature is the rock barnacle. It looks like a living shell. It doesn't really move, but when it eats, it moves its legs to catch its food.

Duncan – My expert sea creature the shore shrimp. It looks like a clear shrimp. It uses its back feet as propellers.

Alex Caldeira – My expert sea creature is the spider crab. It is big and has lots of legs. It moves sideways with its two back legs.

Luke Celi – My expert sea creature is the shore crab. It looks like rocks. It moves sideways and spends its time in the corners because it feels like it's next to a rock and it likes to be under the gravel.

Tell me about your fish:

Julia: My fish is thin. It swims fast. It is a lot of different colors. I think it is gooey – I think it would feel watery if I could touch it. I like my fish.

Annie: My fish looks sort of like an oval. It swims really fast. It has silver and yellow color. I like my fish because it has spines and it looks cool.

Anna: My fish has gold, orange and silver color. It is a skinny, oval shape. It swims around all day. I think my fish is cool.

Carly: My fish is a puffer fish. It has to be in a separate tank because it is very aggressive, but it is very slow. Its eyes are first turquoise, yellow and then red. My fish is really, really interesting.

Kennedy: My fish can't go out of the water for so long. It is skinny and sort of silver. It has fins. It swims with its fins. I think my fish is pretty cool because it is shiny and silvery.

Colin: My fish can puff up. It swims slowly. It attacks other animals. It has dots on it. I think my fish is amazing.

Luke: My fish moves quickly. It is a silver color. My fish seems happy and sad. I like some of the other fish because they are a little more interesting.