

3C Newsletter - March 28th, 2008

Greetings 3C Families! Here's what we've been up to:

Language Arts:

- For our author study of Patricia Polacco we've been working on our "Memory Quilts", writing about three memories (practicing paragraph writing skills) and illustrating paper "quilts". This project was in response to Polacco's *The Keeping Quilt*, a story about a quilt passed down through multiple generations, with each piece of the quilt representing a different memory.
- Students have been rehearsing a Readers Theater version of Kevin Henkes's book *Sheila Rae the Brave* to be performed for the 4th grade classes and our Kindergarten reading buddies. Readers Theater is a way for students to practice fluency and expression as they read the scripted story. They will also be writing their own versions of a Readers Theater script based on a Patricia Polacco book.
- We have been practicing using a Story Map to identify the main characters, setting, problem and resolution of a story. This skill is useful when students are reading someone else's work and when drafting their own stories.

Math:

- Since the last newsletter we have been learning more about the Metric system and measuring and comparing objects using meters and centimeters. A goal is for students to feel comfortable converting a measurement given in meters (a wall is 6 and a half meters high, for example) into centimeters (650 cm) and vice versa.

Social Studies:

- We are nearing the end of our study of Russia. Students are currently working in small groups to present information about a specific topic (food, shopping, work, religion and holidays) to the rest of the class.
- In addition to the research and reporting, our lunch of authentic Russian food at Café St. Petersburg was a huge success! Hungry third graders gobbled up the following delicious and authentic items: cucumber and tomato salad, *Siberian Pelimeni* (Russian style meat ravioli, served with sour cream), *Potato Vareniki* (large ravioli stuffed with potato puree and a touch of cheese, served with sour cream), meat *Pirozhok* (small pastry meat pies) and traditional Russian cakes and pastries for dessert. I heard many positive comments about the food including: "If this is what they eat there, I'm moving to Russia!" and "Mmmmm...I'm coming here every day!" Please see the 3C website for a link the Café St Petersburg website in case you want to go there. You will not be disappointed!

Over for more info. →

Science:

- We just started our study of insects! So far we have talked about how scientists classify insects based on shared characteristics. In just a few days we will be getting our mealworms and hissing cockroaches.

N.B. The first of three MCAS testing days is on Monday. There will be no homework next week, but please make sure your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast each day!