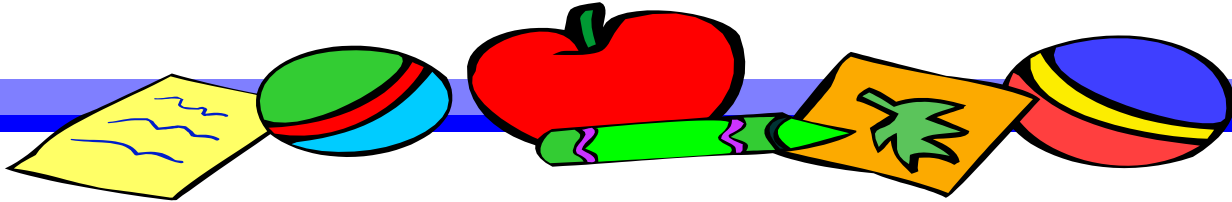


1-8-12

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn" (<http://www.thestrong.org/about-play/play-quotes>).



Last Week:

It was so great to see everyone again after the long vacation! I was also thoroughly impressed with how well the students adjusted to the routine of school once again, it was almost as if we hadn't been away from school for over a week!

We read a story about hibernation (Hibernation Station) and students learned about animals that hibernate. Ms. Guinn came to see us for the first time since mid-December and the students greeted her and were very interested as she read us a few stories. Our 2nd Step Guidance lesson was about waiting and strategies to use while waiting-such as counting out loud, playing a game, singing a song, etc.)

On Saturday, it was Brody's birthday and today (Sunday), it is Ivree's birthday. They are both in my afternoon class.

Important Dates in January:

Wednesday, January 18 is an early dismissal day for the afternoon class (at 12:45). Thursday, January 19 is the 4K Family Fun Night at Starr Elementary School from 4:30-7:00. There will be no school on Monday, January 23 due to a teacher in-service. February 4th is the 4K open house for the 2012/2013 school year-if any parents would be willing to, I'd love to have some type of input from you about what your favorite part of your child being in my class has been (and-as always-I am definitely open to constructive criticism as well-any input is always appreciated).



Kya, Caleb, and Bruce listening to Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Eric Carle in the library/listening center.

This Week:

Please return Scholastic book orders to me by Tuesday. Thank you!

Book Bags will go out on Monday and need to be returned by Thursday (so that all families get a book bag again next Monday). There are only a few new/changed items in my classroom this week because I rearranged where some of the centers in my room are-and I always try to be mindful of the students who are hesitant about change/transitions. You are certainly welcome to share this with your child ahead of time-but, after the first day or two of surprise, the students will adjust to it. I knew I wanted to make these changes during vacation, but I wanted to wait until after the students came back to make any changes like that. The changes are all made according to what would make the classroom the absolute best possible arrangement concerning the learning/interaction of all students. I was able to add a "peace shelf" to my classroom. This was something that was developed by Maria Montessori and is still used in Montessori classrooms today. Mine is still a work in progress-but it will be something the students can utilize when they are experiencing a conflict with another student or when they are "feeling a strong feeling" and want to take some time by themselves. ☺

Class Website to visit:

<http://www.st-marysschool.com/prekp.htm>.

