

News From Room 209

Mrs. Ireland's Terrific 2s

September 30, 2005

Getting to Know You

It was wonderful to meet so many of the families during open house on September 19. The students were thrilled when their "Who Am I" pictures and descriptions helped their family to find their desks.

We Love Chocolate

We have just finished an international internet project on chocolate. This sweet theme included language arts, visual arts, mathematics and computers.

We read nine books and compared many on Venn diagrams. We painted a picture of ourselves eating our favourite chocolate and wrote about it. After reading Curious George Goes to a Chocolate Factory, we went to Hershey's and then created a slide show in Kidpix3 titled Mrs. Ireland's Grade Two Class Goes to Hershey's Chocolate Factory.

We used Hershey's Kisses, Jolly Ranchers and Reeces Pieces to sort and make patterns. At the end we got to eat our math!



Mrs. Ireland took pictures of our work and we wrote the captions for them on a Power point presentation. Our work will be posted in October on the net at <http://www.comsewogue.k12.ny.us/~silverman/chocolate/>

It's a Small World

We are very excited about having epals from around the world. Our Bruce Moose (we actually have three of them) is currently visiting Australia, Japan and England. In exchange, Tangles the Emu, Totoro a cartoon character and Barnaby Bear have come to visit us.

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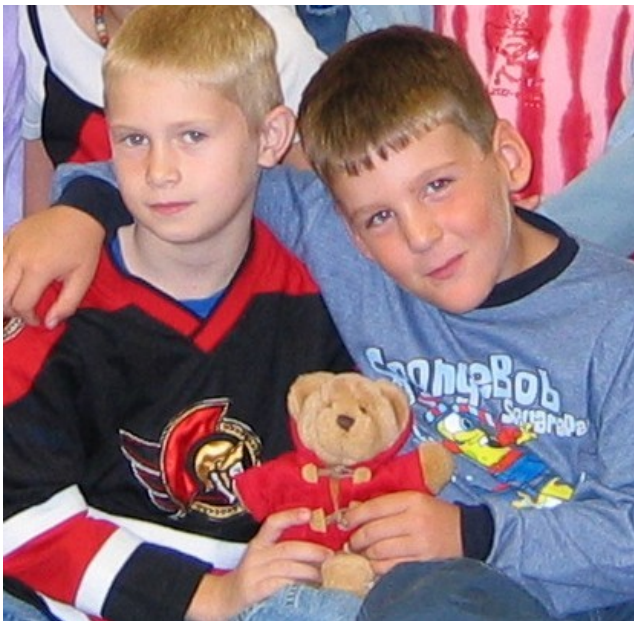
Mr. P. Graveline, Principal
Mrs. S. Halladay Vice-Principal



The travel buddies arrived with travel brochures, pictures, postcards, books and money. We had a great time doing coin rubbings with yen, pence, pounds, cents and dollars.



Totoro and Eric on the Terry Fox walk



Nairn and Zack meet Barnaby Bear

We received an email telling us that Bruce Moose will be on ABC (Australian radio) for an interview with the class he is visiting. Mrs. Parsons, the teacher from Australia, will be

sending the interview to us so that we can hear it. We can hardly wait.



Denise and Tangles on the Terry Fox walk

These travel buddies will be visiting the homes of every student in the class. Each travel buddy has a journal into which each child is to write about the time he spent at his/her house. During the later part of November they will fly back home and our Bruce the Moose will come home. It will be interesting to read about his adventures.

We will also be exchanging emails with our epals telling about our weather, town, country, traditions, holidays and ourselves.

Animals

We are studying the Life Systems strand in science. Discovering the similarities and the differences among animals and the ways they adapt to their environment has been very interesting for the students.

We have a weekly pet attendant who looks after the needs of our two classroom pets, Lily our hamster and Calipso our betta fish.

Agendas

Thank you to all the parents that are signing or initialing the agendas. It is hoped that for October we will have 100% of the agendas returned and signed daily. They are an excellent means of home and school communication.

Family Interviews

In October we will be working on our personal time lines. The students will be bringing home questions to interview about their special events and firsts. They will need to gather some mementos, photographs and/or draw pictures of these events. Each student will be putting his/her information together for a presentation to the class. A rubric and more details will be sent home soon.

It Gets Very Messy

We have a great deal of fun in art class and it usually is messy. It might be a good idea to have your child bring in a shirt to put over his/her clothes for art classes. We have art class every Tuesday. This month we painted with pinecones, our hands, brushes and blew paint through straws.



Stephanie M. puts on the final touches.

Family Challenge

We have enjoyed making words out of letters in words in class. A monthly family challenge is given in each newsletter. Try to find all the words you can from the letters in the word **Thanksgiving**. For example, 'as' or 'tan'. Send in your answers so that we can share them in class.

Weekly Homework

Every Monday the students are given a packet of 3 or 4 pages of homework for the week. They are due back on Friday. In grade 2 students should be spending approximately 20 minutes per night on homework. That would be enough time to complete one homework page, practice the weekly spelling words and read for Snuggle and Read. It is the student's choice as to which sheet to complete each night.

During September 91% of students in the class returned their homework each week. GOOD FOR YOU!

Snuggle and Read



Again this year all students are participating in the Snuggle and Read program. Students are given the opportunity to exchange their book each day. Many students are reading early chapter books and therefore may take a week or two to complete a book. As outlined in the Snuggle and Read record sheets, each chapter is worth one book for our total count. Books the students read from home and the library should also be included on the Snuggle and Read sheets.

Thank You

A big thank you to our four volunteers that helped out on our class trip to Hershey's. Without them we would not have been able to go.

Stephanie McClintic's mom
Melissa Pender's mom
Mrs. McGrath a student teacher
Miss Curfoot a student teacher

We will be going on other trips this year and will need volunteers. If you feel you might be able to help please note that a current police check is required for all school volunteers. If you don't have one, or need to update one, the forms are available at the school office. The school pays for the police check.

Home-School Communication

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. If you feel a note will not do, I am available for phone calls every morning from 8:00 to 8:40 AM and after school from 3:20 to 4:30 PM. The school phone number is 283-1367.

