

Plymouth Elementary School
WEEK IN REVIEW
(Just a few highlights)
November 30- December 4, 2009
PES's answer to "What did you do in school today?"

Monday

I have enjoyed our guidance class time with your children. Since September we have covered quite a range of topics, starting with lessons around friendship, diversity and inclusion. The K students read Odd Velvet, about a new student who has been received with reluctance due to her many different ways. This story is great as it also teaches us how to get to know others we can't immediately relate to and this stimulates discussion on many levels about what makes a friend. The olders explored the story Wings, by Christopher Myers. This beautifully illustrated story again visits a unique newcomer to the community who has to find his way. The students learn to identify powerful feelings connected with social reactions of inclusion/exclusion. The last 5 weeks we have been working out of a well-known workbook, A Volcano In My Tummy which, addresses anger and how to regulate ourselves and cope with others as well. What makes us upset, and how to handle it in varying environments is an important tool for everyone to think about. The month of December we will be focusing on identity/ethnicity/customs, and so please be ready for some questions about your families - ancestors - and what they understand about their countries of origin. This unit is generally a fun one as most of us enjoy learning about our families and how it relates to who we are. We will be reading, When Jessie Came Across the Sea, an immigration story of a young Jewish girl and how she settles in America. Also, Mi Familia, will explore many colorful customs and beliefs of a Mexican family. I will be keeping you posted throughout the year of the subjects I will be covering in your child's class. Please call me with any questions, and remember, Monday mornings are best. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children - Midge Dunn (Goedewaagen)

Tuesday

Plymouth School is now officially immunized against H1N1! We had our second clinic today and all went well. Reminders on how to prevent H1N1 (and other illness):

1.) Wash hands frequently! 2.) Don't share personal items such as cups, spoons, especially when sick! 3.) Cover your cough- cough into your elbow. 4.) Avoid sick people. 5.) Stay home when you are sick!- Mrs. Veysey, School Nurse

Wednesday

- The kindergarteners have been writing their own number stories! They have been busy learning about addition/ subtraction and learning the language used while writing number stories.
- The third & fourth grade students participated in book talks about their independent reading books. This segued into a compare & contrast mini lesson.
- The fifth & sixth grade students have created some fantastic illustrated timelines! They are getting to the end of their biography study. The ending project will be an interview of someone connected to Plymouth School or the town. More info to come!

Thursday

- Mrs. Davis read Christmas in the Forest to the kindergarteners. They all agreed that a puppet show would be wonderful way to retell the story!
- The third & fourth graders have begun to assemble the posters they are creating about a significant invention from the Industrial Revolution.

- Fifth and sixth grade students finally had a chance to share their first round of "Big" projects! A few students chose to create projects on the computer. We viewed some wonderful Power Point presentations other students created great poster and "hands-on" projects. Thanks for hanging in there with these projects. The next project will challenge students to think a bit outside the box. Stay tuned for more!