



MEEP News

April 2010

MESSAGE FROM ARMEN DILANCHIAN

We have started a new program at MEEP and Pamela (MEEP's Operations Director) and I wanted to share the information with you. The staff and I feel that sometimes the lower grades are so separated from the upper grade students. So we thought it would be a great idea to bring all the kids together every other Friday to play games, work on art projects, cook, dance, drama, Lego engineering, sing, and play sports. We feel this is a great opportunity for the upper grade students to take responsibility for the younger students and as they say, "show them the ropes". This is also a great way for kids to build self confidence and feel like we are all part of one community.

We have been very excited about these activities and planning them out.

We tried some of these classes last Friday and it seemed the kids enjoyed it a great deal. Everyone involved were very pleased.

The classes will follow every other Friday. Dates include April 23rd, May 7th, and May 21st.

We are going to continue this next year and we look forward to having you involved in these activities.

Our 5th Grade band, "Destiny Unknown", has been busy practicing and preparing for their performance as the opening act at this year's Spring Festival in May. They also performed for Coach Ray's Child Development Class' Music Night. Watch out American Idol we have some talented musicians amongst us! The band practices on different days so feel free to contact Ray Dellosa or Pamela for more information. We are all so proud of our 5th graders and the tremendous achievements they've had this year.

With warm regards,

Armen Dilanchian Chief Administrative Director

Jacynth Roberts Administrative Assistant

MEEP Reminders:

--MEEP Summer camp registration is here! You can find the forms and information at www.meepinc.com

--Want to register for the 2010/2011 school year? All the information you need is at www.meepinc.com

WE ONLY HAVE 25 SPOTS LEFT!!!

--MEEP is offering an optional week from June 1-4. Drop in the office or email us at: meepoffice@gmail.com for more details

--Want to know where your student is when you come to pick them up? Check out the grade level schedules posted outside of the MEEP office!

--Tuition is due around the first of every month. Keep an eye out for invoices in your inbox!

--Please make sure to sign your student's out. We appreciate it!

Kindergarten Corner:

Hello Everybody and welcome back from Spring Break! It's amazing to see how much the Kindergartener's have grown this year. They are counting and reading on their own, creating and playing games, art, and stories, and absorbing a ton of knowledge about the world around them. During homework time, learning activities, and story time, the Kindergarteners show how smart and creative they can be!

In March, we studied animal cells and plants cells. The first week we looked at animal cells, which make up our organs and contain our DNA. The Kindergarteners made their own "plastic baggie" cells containing DNA, organelles, and mitochondria. **Ask your Kindergartener, where is DNA found? Answer: In cells!**

Next, we studied plants and plant cells. Plant cells are different from animal cells because they have chlorophyll, which they use to make their own food. The Kindergarteners learned the basic parts of a plant including roots, stem, leaves, and flowers. They each made their own flower out of recycled paper, which looked beautiful on that spring day. Also, we toured the Miraloma garden with magnifying glasses and the Kindergarteners drew pictures of what they saw, pretending to be real botanists. **Ask your child, what is the green stuff in plants that helps them make their food? Answer: Chlorophyll!**

We also learned about food chains, or "what eats what." Your Kindergartener should be able to tell you that a food chain is... **"What eats What!"** They heard a story about a circle of life, beginning and ending with a plant in the soil. They decorated their own food chains.

In April, we have been busy doing lots of review and quiz time, as well as learning new stuff! In the coming weeks we are going to be playing more academic learning games as a class and furthering our science lessons. We will also be starting some fun and exciting end of the year art projects. The Kindergarteners will have many opportunities to explore and celebrate all they have learned so far this year!

As you know we have a great summer camp coming up in June. I will be there for the last three weeks in July and I hope to see you. If you need more information about our summer sessions please contact Jacynth in the main office or Armen Dilanchian at meepgo@msn.com

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel and Ms. Elizabeth

First Grade Corner:

As the school year winds down we're getting riled up for MEEP's new Friday Families, our special surprise art projects, the amazing weather, and the film festival! This month we've introduced a new Language Arts game called Apples to Apples Junior which helps us study adjectives and nouns without feeling like we're studying! We're money counting machines now that we've added the value of a dollar bill! Careful! Your child might be asking for a raise in allowance!

The following are some of the activities we have done and will be working on:

Mad Math- Mondays

4/19- Review of last month's games.

4/26- Dollars and cents

Directions:

The teacher writes an amount of money on the board. Each student gets an opportunity to count out enough coins and bills to match the amount on the board.

5/3 – Shopping!

Supplies:

Items "for sale"

Directions:

The teacher shows the item and writes the price on the board. Each team shows the amount on a paper using quarters, nickels, dimes, and pennies. The first team to answer gets to put that item in their "cart." The team with the most items gets to line up for snack first.

5/10- Free choice game

Students vote and choose any mad math game!

5/17- Worksheet week!

Each student will get worksheets that challenge them at their current math level.

5/24- Adding 2 digit numbers

A short lesson on adding numbers 10-99

5/31 Reserved for Last week of school activities

Tuesdays- Poetry workshop

Wednesdays- Language Arts review

4/21- Reading comprehension packets.

4/28- Apples to Apples

Apples to Apples is a card game which enriches vocabulary and furthers the understanding of adjectives and nouns.

5/5 Which word fits?

Before class write some sentences with descriptive words. Cut out the descriptive words. Student guess which descriptive word fits best which with sentence.

5/12- Free choice reading

5/19- Reading Comprehension Packet

Thursday- Brain Bowl (until Science with Mr. Daniel is back)

Brain bowl is a review of everything on the homework and then some! Students are divided into teams and answer questions to collect points. Every 5 point gives each team member 1 sticker. The team with the most points gets an extra sticker.

Friday- movie day!

We are also doing a few special art projects as we get closer to the end of the school year!

Ms. Heather and Mr. Dominic

Second Grade Corner:

Dear 2nd Grade Parents,

I'm sure you're all aware that state testing is soon approaching. After discussing with the 2nd grade day teachers, I have decided that for the month of April I will be focusing on a comprehensive review of academic content that they have learned up to this point. The content in particular will be the following:

- time (duration, time-telling to the quarter)
- grammar (synonyms, antonyms, homophones)
- fractions
- subtraction (regrouping)
- length measurement (ft, cm, yd, in)
- punctuation (exclamation, question)
- addition (double digit)
- multiplication (0,1,2,4,10)

I'd also like to mention that our community circle meetings have done wonders for this group. A lot of the conflicts that were occurring earlier in the school year amongst this group has gone down because of the safe and open forum our class has with sharing thoughts and feelings. I only hope that they continue to grow with my and Patricia's help. I also want to thank all of you parents for your continued support of the MEEP program. I also would like to encourage you to get involved with our summer camp sessions. We have some great activities and field trips planned out which I know most of the kids will enjoy. If you need more information please feel free to contact Jacynth Roberts or Mr. Dilanchian.

Lastly I want let you know that its been such a privilege working with your children. They're truly smart, funny and just fun to be around. I hope to see some of you over summer break! If there are any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Mr. Ngo and Ms. Patricia

Third-Fifth Grade Corner:

Dear Parents,

These past few weeks have been very exciting for the 3rd-5th Graders! I've seen great improvement in their soccer skills particularly in passing and shooting. In all, I'm seeing a lot of great teamwork.

Pam has brought back TRIBE game designing. This involves using elements of the TRIBES classroom agreements to create a fun and educational game. Created by your kids!

The 5th Grade band, Destiny Unknown, has been busy practicing and preparing for their performance as the opening act at this year's Spring Festival in May. As a preview, they will be performing for Coach Ray's Child Development Class' Music Night.

Next week we will open up the cafeteria to Mental Math Game Night. When you come to pick up your kids stay for a while and play some of the Math themed games such as Multiplication War and Division War. Dominoes is also an option even if you don't know how to play. Your kids will teach you! Date and time are to be determined. Also Just want to remind everyone about our upcoming Summer Camp from June 14th- July23rd. If you need more information please feel free to contact me or Pamela.

Please note Coach Ray's email address has changed to: coachrayd@gmail.com . That's all for now and as always, thanks for all your support!

Sincerely,

Pam and Coach Ray

Summer Camp:

MEEP SUMMER CAMP:

Summer is right around the corner. If you are looking for something fun for your kids then look at MEEP's Summer Camp! We are dedicated to fun, art, science, team building and fieldtrips. This year MEEP summer camp will be held at Miraloma from **6/14-7/23**.

We have received feedback about the times for our camp. Many parents have asked us if we could start as early as 8:00am and we have decided to grant that wish. Therefore, MEEP's summer camp hours will be 8:00am-5:30pm. We have decided NOT to raise the price for this extra half an hour. Instead, we are offering you even more savings. Please see below.

Check out our specials. There is lots of savings to be had!

- Sign up for 6 weeks and pay the full payment upfront and you will receive a 25% discount. That's a savings of \$517!
- Sign up for 4 weeks and pay the full payment upfront and you will receive a 20% discount. That's a savings of \$276!
- Sign up for 3 weeks and pay the full payment upfront and you will receive a 15% discount. That's a savings of \$155!
- Sign up for 2 weeks and pay the full payment upfront and you will receive a 10% discount. That's a savings of \$70!

TAKE MY WORD FOR IT SUMMER CAMP:

Registration is now open for "Take My Word For It" Creative Writing and Art Summer Camp for Girls 2010! Going into its 5th year, this summer's program is called "Paper and Palette: Explore Your Artist Self." The exciting all-day camp will be held in Berkeley, at Sacramento and Dwight, in three sessions: Session A (June 21-July 2), B (July 5-July 9) and C (July 12-July 23). The first part of the day is spent immersed in words, and the second, in visual art-- all under the leadership of experienced, creative writers and artists. Please see www.blog.takemywordforit.net for pricing, instructor bios, and registration info.