

Weekly News

Jade Class



SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

Friday is the Walk-a-thon!

Earlier this week we helped our Kindergarten buddies make some hats for the Walk-a-thon. Come and cheer us along as we walk along side them on Friday.



While you're there, don't forget to check out our game: the toilet paper toss!

Thank you to all our families who donated gift cards for our gift card tree.

Field Trip Night

This past Tuesday we held an informational night regarding this year's field trips. If you missed the event, you will receive a copy of the packet we gave out. Please contact us if you have any additional questions.

Snack Reminder

Our new snack policy is in full swing. We have already begun noticing a difference in productivity and a lessening of the mess in the classroom.

Below is the list of acceptable snack items:

- ◆ Fresh Fruit
- ◆ Fresh Vegetables
- ◆ Nuts
- ◆ Cheese

Our emphasis is on fresh, whole foods. All items should be able to be eaten out of hand (rather than with a spoon or fork). Please save cereals, crackers, chips, canned or processed fruits, and other items for your lunch or snack at home.

Once again, we thank you for your cooperation in implementing this new policy.

Mr. Bryan

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Ms. Melissa

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Principal

Kathleen Merz

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Recycling Drop Off

Fridays

7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

and

2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Walk-a-Thon

September 30

Aquatic Center Field Trip

October 7

Cycle 2 Starts

October 10

Fall Conferences/Minimum Days

October 12-14

WISH LIST

- ◆ 3x5 Index Cards (white)
- ◆ Vacuum Cleaner
- ◆ Large Area Rugs (see teacher for details)
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Scotch Tape
- ◆ Disinfecting Wipes
- ◆ 2 Staplers
- ◆ Handheld pencils sharpeners

Conference Sign-Ups

We will send out a link for electronic conference sign-ups next week.

Quote of the Week

I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being.

- Jackie Robinson

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- ◆ Socratic Seminar Info
- ◆ Thank You
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Thank You!

Families who donated gift cards for our gift card tree

Families who attended our Field Trip Information Night

Families who have donated to our Recycling Program

Sincerely,
The Jade Community

Curriculum Highlight: Social World

Look out world, there's an up and coming group of lawyers ready to tackle injustice and stand up for what's right!

In Social World we have been examining the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The multi-purpose room was turned into a Law Library as the Jade Class students studied to pass the Bar Exam.

The newly minted lawyers formed Law Firms to present advice to clients on constitutional dilemmas. Who could stop the president from declaring war on the state of Illinois? And would could protect students if Congress voted in favor of forcing all public school students to shave their heads? Ask a Jade student, they should know.

This week we turned our focus on the Bill of Rights. Students took time to examine real-world Supreme Court cases and prepared majority and minority decisions before finding out the actual verdict.



Please Read: Socratic Seminars

Part of our Personal World curriculum this year involves a method of discussion called Socratic Seminar.

The purpose of a Socratic Seminar is to provoke thought, dialogue, and ownership for learning. In the Seminar, participants question and examine issues and principles related to particular content, and articulate different points of view.

In a Socratic Seminar, the students are responsible for the quality of the discussion. Good discussions occur when participants study the text closely in advance, listen actively, share their ideas and questions in response to the ideas and

questions of others. The discussion is not about right answers; it is not a debate. Students are encouraged to think out loud and to exchange ideas openly while examining ideas in a

rigorous, thoughtful, manner (Socratic Seminar, 2008).

In preparation for these seminars students will be given a text that they will be expected to read and annotate. Many of the issues facing Middle School students today may be considered controversial or sensitive in nature. As such, we will be posting the reading for each week's readings on our class web page the Friday before the Seminar. We ask that you read over the reading before the Seminar and come to us (the teachers) with any comments or questions you may have. Thank you.

Socratic Seminar. (2008, October 5). Retrieved from NWABR.org: <http://nwabr.org/sites/default/files/learn/ethicsprimer/SocSem.pdf>



Socrates