

From Us to You

Biweekly Newsletter from Room 110

THE NEWS/ DATELINE:

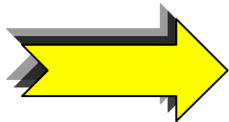
December 5, 2008



This is a commitment: I will send home a newsletter every two weeks about our classroom life, even if I have to put it in 14 pt. Also, coming after Christmas break, a functioning classroom webpage (s) that I promise you will find useful.



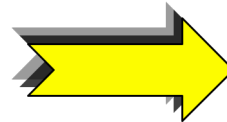
THE MESSAGE (S)



A recent article in the StarTribune said that one in five young adults has a personality disorder. (Study was released in General Archives of Psychiatry.) The most toxic mixture for today's children is permissive parenting alloyed with free access to electronic media. The hallmark of most personality disorders is an ability to hurt others without remorse, which is precisely the attitude of many video games and TV shows. Shield your children from violence, inappropriate language, and sexual references that are beyond their years. Use screenit.com, an excellent family tool (\$24.95/yr.) before your kids watch any movie. Read David Walsh's "No!" a must read for anyone raising a child in today's media culture.



THE WORK



I hope all of you received your Thanksgiving poems. As the kids shared them with me, I said, "Oh, your parents are going to cry when they read this!" It's such pleasure to work with children because their hearts are full of love.

Big happenings in science:

1. The Story of Life. A dynamic powerpoint that, in the darkened room, and projected on the Smartboard, immerses children in the interdependence and cooperation of species, the process of natural selection, and the geologic time periods from the Cambrian through the Neozoic. There's a research project coming up.
2. The stream table. With a bucket, a pump, and a large plastic tub filled with sand, we're able to recreate the magic of rivers. Children will design independent experiments culminating in science posters and oral presentations. A perfect way to learn the rudiments of careful experimentation and have fun putting your hands in wet sand. Stay tuned as all this develops.

