

Questions About the World

We did a number of fun activities for the 100th day of school. We made necklaces with 100 cereal Os, we did 100 math facts, saw how many math facts we could do in 100 seconds, found different ways to paint 100 dots in equal groups, told 100 jokes (well, tried to anyway), ate our yummy 100 items potluck snack, wrote a bucket list of 5 things we want to do before we are 100, came up with a list of 100 places we want to go and a list of 100 questions we have about the world. Here are some of the deep and existential questions your children had:

How big is the world?
How was the world made?

How will the world end?
Where does garbage go?
How do people get power?
How was God made?
Was God ever a baby?
How old is God?
How was I made?
Where does rain come from?
How do volcanoes erupt?
Why is under the earth so hot?
How does the world go round?
How is light made?
What happens when a person dies?

Project GLAD

This summer Ann Bogard (Special Ed) and I attended a 6 day intensive training on Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design). Project GLAD is an instructional model with clear, practical strategies promoting positive, effective interactions among students and between teachers and students. Project GLAD develops metacognitive use of high level, academic language and literacy and can be used throughout all content areas—math, science, social studies and literature.

I have developed and used three GLAD units so far this year. It is time consuming to develop the units but I saw the inherent value as soon as we dove into the first unit. All students—high, low, shy, outgoing—are engaged, actively participating and excited during every lesson. It is a cooperative learning model and requires students to take ownership of their learning (and their behavior) and necessitates each student doing their part in order for their team to succeed. Embedded within it is a positive behavior management system relying on 3 personal standards—Show Respect, Make Good Decisions, and Solve Problems. The standards alone

have transformed my classroom to one where behavior issues are rare and learning time is maximized.

At the beginning of a unit the walls are blank. Everything is created with and for the students. As the days pass, the walls begin to drip with language. We use color-coding, pictures and sketches, singing, repetition, and graphic organizers to help imprint the concepts and vocabulary on the brain. GLAD consists of more than 70 “best teaching practices” strategies that have been culled from research by experts in brain compatibility learning. It is by far the best, most effective and immediately useful teacher training I have ever received—better than anything offered in my masters program! I am a firm believer that it should be part of all teacher training programs.

When we complete a unit, we raffle off all of our charts and chants, in case you are wondering what that large piece of paper coming home with your child is. Have them tell you all about it!

Jokes to make you laugh (or groan)...

What is a frog's favorite flower? **A croakus.**

What's green and slimy and found at the north pole? **A lost frog.**

What do you get when a chicken lays an egg on top of a barn? **An egg roll.**

What do you call a fish with no eyes? **Fsh.**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Mar 4, 11, 24 1:50 Early Release (Teacher In-service)**
- **Mar 17-19 12:00 Early Release (Conferences)**
- **Mar 18 4:30 Work Session 6:00 Board Meeting**
- **Mar 26 11:35 Play Performances**
- **Mar 27 12:00 Early Release (Spring Break)**
- **Mar 30—Apr 3 NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)**



“Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself.”

~St. Francis de Sales

Mrs. Sanders' 1st and 2nd Grade

Classroom

ISSUE 6

MARCH 2, 2015

What's Been Happening

We began an informational writing unit on How To books. We continued with the concept of force and motion by having students write a how to book that teaches the reader how to do something that requires movement. We are expanding on last year's How To work by moving from simple how to steps to writing a How To chapter book. We are working on publishing a lab report and a How To book for sharing at conferences. We will soon begin an All About book on an animal of our choice.

In math we have been plodding through the difficult concepts of regrouping and ungrouping (what we learned as borrowing and carrying) to add and subtract double digit numbers and story problems. It is funny how one day students will have seemed to master the skill and then the next day have completely forgotten what to do. We will work on regrouping/ungrouping throughout the rest of the year and will eventually progress to triple digit numbers. We will also spend a lot of time on story problems as solving word problems seems to be one of the hardest tasks for students through all of the grades.

Greg returned for the next portion of coding and students had to choose the correct steps for building a paper airplane, put them in order then trade with a partner to try and build the

plane. Not only was it fun (what kid doesn't have a blast with paper airplanes?) it also showed how an algorithm won't produce the intended results if the steps aren't in the right order. A nice tie in to our How To books as well—thanks Greg!

We are close to wrapping up our Animal Classification and Life Cycles unit. Expert Groups met last week and shared their learning with their teammates. This week we will combine all of that learning into our process grid. We will also complete our Classification and Life Cycles bulletin board just in time for conferences so be sure to check it out! This unit will flow right into a similar unit on Plants which will incorporate our FOSS science kit as well as the school garden.

Due to Chief Mosier's memorial service, the Seed Exchange date was changed to Feb. 28th and I'm not sure how many people were made aware. I hope those who were interested were able to make it. I know Zach is really excited about the garden and is interested in meeting more of the community. There was a lot of garden clean up this month as well as composting. Peas were planted in the garden and lettuce was started in the greenhouse. Zach created a mind map with each of the classes last week to find out our hopes and vision for the garden. It looks like the garden fun has just begun!

I have not received any photos of fun playgrounds or playground equipment. Are there any parents or community members out there that would like to see new equipment on our playground? If so, please contact me and see how you can help!

Monday begins Read Across America week. Every time your child reads a book or a chapter of a chapter book, have them jot down the author and title (and chapter) on a piece of paper and bring it in. There will be drawings all week long for prizes to encourage kids to KEEP READING!

Most of my students have been working on plays in their Ranger Reading groups over the past month. They are so excited about it and are looking forward to performing for an audience. There are two separate plays and may be more like a reader's theater and less like last year's play where there was a set and props and all of the students memorized their lines (although many of them have memorized their lines!). We invite you to come watch on Thursday, March 26th at 11:35. It will likely be in Room 9 (the board room) but I will send a reminder note out as it gets closer with the details.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”

~Aristotle

Featured Student: Kristin



Kristin McCarthy

Kristin was born on March 17, 2007. She lives with her mom, dad, sister, brother, dog, cats, chicken and ducks.

Favorite food: Pancakes

Favorite ice cream flavors: Sherbet

Favorite colors: Black

Favorite school subject: Math

Favorite song: White Walls, Dark Horse, Happy Girl-

friend

Favorite recess activity: Monkey bars

Name one thing you did over the summer: Had a bloody nose

What do you like to do for fun? Watch TV

What is something that you do well? Monkey bars

What is one skill you want to improve this year? Math

What would you like to learn about this year? Anything

What do you want to do when you grow up? Be rich

What is something that you are afraid of? The toilets on planes

If you could play any instrument, which would you pick? Piano

Are you excited for school this year? Yes!!

Student Sniglets of the Month

- philiology—study of love
- phobology—study of fear
- phonophobia—fear of sound
- skopeophonic—able to see sound
- telephilia—long distance love/friendship
- metrology—study of measurement
- videophobia—fear of seeing



Fen Trollsplinter 3/9



Kristin McCarthy 3/17

March Birthdays



Landon Pol 3/25



Taylor Boling 3/29

Featured Student: Landon



Landon Pol

Landon was born on March 25, 2007 and lives with his mom and dad. He has three brothers, two sisters and a dog named Bo.

Favorite food: Ice cream
Favorite ice cream flavor: Chocolate

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite school subject: Recess

Favorite song: Radioactive Magic Dragons

Favorite recess activity:

The swings

Name one thing you did over the summer: Climbed the mountain

What do you like to do for fun? PE

What is something that you do well? Swinging

What is one skill you want to improve this year? Running faster

What would you like to learn about this year? How to count to 1,000

What do you want to do

when you grow up? Ride bikes

What is something that you are afraid of? Sharks

If you could play any instrument, which would you pick? Ukelele

Are you excited for school this year? Yes

Fun Times



Valentine's Day Lunch



Coding with Greg



Successful algorithms!



Making kale salad



Seattle Aquarium



Reptile Man

Featured Student: Leah

Leah was born on October 30, 2008. She lives with her mom, dad, two sisters, dogs and cats.

Favorite food: Green beans

Favorite ice cream flavor: Chocolate

Favorite colors: Pink

Favorite school subject: Recess

Favorite song: Let it Go

Favorite recess activity: Tag

Name one thing you did over the summer: See my family

What do you like to do for fun? Play games

What is something that you do well? Be nice

What is one skill you want to improve this year? Reading

What would you like to learn about this year? To read

What do you want to do when you grow up? Be a scientist

What is something that you are afraid of? A bear

If you could play any instrument, which would you pick? Violin

Are you excited for school this year? Yes



Leah Ferland

For more fun photos, check out our website at: www.quilcenesanders.weebly.com
I should have it updated by the end of the week!