



January 26, 2010

Dear Parents,

What an exciting day we had today!!! SCARCE, a non-for-profit recycling organization, kicked off our recycling unit. The whole third grade met in the MPR to learn how we can recycle and reuse our "trash". We watched a video to see where our recyclables go and what happens to them. We were shown "new" products that were made from recycled products. Did you know that fleece jackets can be made from recycled "Jewel" plastic bags? Did you know that jeans can be made from corn husks and leaves? It was fascinating. After the presentation, each class met with the instructors in the art room to make paper from recycled paper. Each child made their own paper and brought it home with them today. Next week we will be learning more about recycling and how to preserve our natural resources. Watch for a fun project to come home!

We have to thank our PTA for sponsoring this enriching learning experience. They give money to each grade level to use for field trips. We were able to use some of our money for this very beneficial in-school field trip.

In addition to this in-school field trip on recycling, we learned about Fort Dearborn and what happened to it. First we built our forts out of blankets, sheets, pillows, cardboard, tubes, and the list goes on. We used our desks and chairs for part of the structure. The children worked cooperatively and creatively with one another. It was so exciting to watch them create these forts.

Once the forts were built, the children crawled into them to continue learning about Fort Dearborn. Yesterday we had learned what Fort Dearborn looked like, where it was built, and why it was built. Today we learned what happened to Fort Dearborn. In 1812, Fort Dearborn was concerned about being attacked by the British. The soldiers in the fort were told to evacuate even though there were many hostile Indians in the area. Against their better judgment, they followed orders. The soldiers and settlers were attacked shortly after leaving the fort and most of them were killed. The Indians then proceeded to burn down the fort. There is a landmark for Fort Dearborn on one of the buildings on the corner of Wacker Drive and Michigan Avenue along the Chicago River. If you ever have a chance to go to the city, your son or daughter would be fascinated to see this site.

Thank you for sending all the materials the children needed to build their forts. We all appreciated it and had some fun too.

So today, science and social studies came alive. I think the children enjoyed their day and learned some new things in the process. We will continue to build on what they have learned. Please be aware that TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, is our social studies unit test. A study guide went home today. I highly recommend that you and your child review for this test daily. We haven't yet learned everything that is on the study guide, but you are welcome to preview it.

Last, but not least, Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching. The third grade team has the children make their Valentine holders at home. I have found that cereal boxes, shoe boxes, and lunch bags work well. I've also made them out of two paper plates glued and stapled together. Each child needs to festively decorate the Valentine holder and bring it to school on Valentine's Day. If your child would like to give Valentine cards to his/her classmates, that would be great!! Please be sure that a Valentine is given to every child in the classroom. I have also attached a list of all the children in our classroom.

Thanks again for all you do.

Sincerely,

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