

BEN School-House

Bi-Weekly Report

May 7 - 18, 2012

Grade 3, 4, 5

By: Jennifer Peters

Hello Parents!

The Big Brights have spent the last two weeks concentrating on their latest lump, Conservation. We began by exploring the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources. The children were interested to find out that some of our energy sources are slowly diminishing and will someday be completely gone. They were eager to offer potential solutions and quickly realized that if we choose to use renewable sources of energy we can help to decrease the negative effects on the earth.

Next we worked through a demonstration comparing the total amount of water we have in the world to the amount of fresh water that can actually be used. It was an eye-opening realization to see that from 1 litre of water (representing all of Earth's water) only a single drop was fresh, unpolluted, ready-to-use water. The children then worked to create their very own "Personal Water Pledge", listing actions they could take to decrease the amount of water they use and/or waste.

In Science, we explored the concept of energy and became familiar with the different types that exist in our world. We then worked with devices in our classroom to think about how energy is transformed to create different outcomes. The children found that our classroom CD player transformed electrical energy into mechanical, light, and sound energy. They then enjoyed the chemical energy of a cookie, using kinetic (and sometimes sound) energy to eat it.

After a short a hiatus Current Events is back! We jumped back into this activity by reading an article outlining the ways that global warming is affecting the natural habitat of polar bears and decreasing their life spans. We read through the article as a group and then the children worked to connect with the message of the article by answering the questions What?, So What? and Now What? This ensured that they understood the main message of the article, why the message is important, and what impact their newly acquired knowledge can have. This learning was also supplemented by the reading of "Winston of Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming." The story follows a polar bear, Winston, who motivates his fellow bears to protest against the harmful actions of humans in an attempt to save their habitat. The children enjoyed the story and were successful in making connections between the text and their own lives.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you!

Jennifer

Upcoming:

Pulleys & Gears Lump – Begins May 22

Pancake Breakfast – May 27

Choir Concert at Musideum – June 3