



St. Michael's Classroom News

September 29, 2009

It is so good to be back in the swing of things. We have had a wonderful first month of school exploring the many ways we are part of a community. We have learned that: our classroom is a community of friends that learn and play together; our family is a community that lives together and takes care of each other; our towns and cities are communities of families that live and work together; and our states are a part of a larger country and world community.

If you take a look around Theophany School you may see the houses we built with triangles, squares, and rectangles. You may also notice the pictures we plotted on the map of our communities. **It was wonderful to see H. place his picture on the map and notice "Hey my house is in Needham too just like J. and C."** These activities help our students have a broader understanding of their identity as individuals as well as members of a larger community.

We were very lucky to have two wonderful community helpers visit us this month. Our first visitor was Firefighter Brian from the Brookline Fire Department. Our kids had wonderful questions and observations for both visitors. **P. happily volunteered to demonstrate Stop Drop and Roll for all of his friends.** Then on Friday when Dr. Karekine, a family dentist visited, **D. asked Dr. Karekine "Why don't animals get cavities?"** "Very good question", Dr. Karekine quickly replied, "Because they don't eat candy!" Then he shared some of his cool tools with us and we all got to see and feel how they worked.

I am so pleased with how well our class has already begun to follow and understand the daily routine. They look forward to starting their day with Morning Message and then counting how many days we have been in school. We have almost finished two rows of 10. They are eagerly awaiting the 100th day of school, when we will be having a 100th Day Celebration. As we get closer to the 100th day you will receive more information about this event. We have so many exciting things to look forward to this year. I hope to see you on **Thursday October 1st for Curriculum Night.** I will be able to fill you all in a bit more then.

Looking Ahead:

In **October** we will be building a barn, tracing a tractor, milking a cow, and Growing some Grub...There is lots of work to be done **Down On The Farm**. If you have any materials related to this theme that you or your child would like to share with our class please feel free to send it in, or arrange a time that you could come in and present it to our class. Your participation is always welcome in our classroom. Just drop me a line or give me a call to let me know if there is time you would like to come in to share your talents with our students.

Best Bet Books:

This month my favorite book was *Me on the Map* by Joan Sweeney

The Kids Loved *We Share Everything* by Robert Munsch; and

Next Month we will be reading *The Cow Who Clucked* by Denise Fleming

Notes from Ms. Sarah:

*Hello Theophany pre-k/Kindergarten families,
My name is Sarah Robinson. I am an Early Education
major at Massbay Community College and am blessed to be
student teaching with your children this semester. I
just wanted to say a "BIG HELLO" to all of you and say
how glad I am to be here.*

Try this at home:

One of our favorite areas in the classroom is the sensory table. Children need sensory experiences to help facilitate many types of learning. At home it is easy to replicate this activity simply by using a small dish tub or metal baking pan. Try filling it with a small amount (about an inch) of water and some soap bubbles..., or lentils,... or even cheerios. Place it on top of an old plastic table cloth or a shower curtain, throw in a few measuring spoons or cups and you have an easy fill/empty measuring activity. It's math, it's science and it's fun! Enjoy.