

Class Parent Newsletter

Voice Charter School
Mrs. Taboada's Kindergarten, Room 222
December 2009



Teacher's Corner A message from the teacher:
Happy and safe holidays to all and keep on reading...

Class Curriculum

In **writing workshop**, the children will continue writing "small moment" stories. They will be learning how to make their writing easy to read so that other people can read their stories. We will focus on neat writing on the lines, spelling sight words correctly, listening for all the sounds in words, and putting spaces between our words, among other skills. Students will begin to reread their writing to revise and edit.

In **reading workshop**, students will be learning to read "just-right" books by themselves. They will develop strategies for figuring out words in their books independently. Students will also be working on setting goals for themselves as readers.

In **math** we will be working on graphing. Children will learn to read and create concrete graphs with real objects, picture graphs, and bar graphs. We will learn how graphs are useful for answering questions, taking surveys, and comparing quantity.

In **social studies** our class will join the school in an integrated unit on China. We will begin by learning about the globe, continents, and oceans. After identifying our own continent and our neighbors on it, we will learn about the continent of Asia and focus on China. The whole school will be learning about Chinese New Year in partnership with the music classes!

In **science**, the students will begin studying wood and paper. We will learn the properties and uses of these helpful materials, identify types of wood and paper, and search for objects made from them. Students will experiment how water affects wood and how paper can be changed. The concepts of recycling and trees as natural resources will be introduced.

The children have begun **LEAP**. During the holidays take some time to ask them about the different activities they are engaged in.

Bringing the Classroom Home

Books Mrs. Taboada suggests:

How a House is Built by Gail Gibbons

Recycle by Gail Gibbons

Nonfiction children's books about China:

Lon Po Po: a Red Riding Hood Story from China by Ed Young

Dragon Dance: a Chinese New Year by Joan Holub

Class Trip

On December 15th the kindergarten children visited the Museum of Natural History. It was a wonderful and exciting day enjoyed by all.

Holiday Celebrations

On November 24th the children had a classroom celebration for Thanksgiving. We shared yummy snacks and created the beautiful and festive turkeys that the children brought home.

The children's big concert, **The International Festival**, was Wednesday December 10th, and it was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped Ms. Ley and Mr. Arceley. Thank you to Yohvanni Kathriner for coordinating and to everyone who donated.

On Wednesday December 23rd, we will have a classroom holiday celebration for the children with crafts and snacks with the theme of "What the Holidays mean to me."

Important Dates / Upcoming Events

Dec 23	Holiday Celebrations
Dec 24	School Closed
Dec 25	School Closed
Jan 04	Classes Resume
Jan 13	Class trip to Queens Library
Jan 18	School Closed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day

Classroom Visits

Beginning in January, we would like to initiate 'Secret Guest Fridays'. We are asking all the parents and relatives of the children if they'd like to come in and participate in a puppet show or read a favorite story to their child's classroom. Please let us know if you are interested so that we can put you on the calendar.

If you are planning to make a gift or donation to your child's classroom, this is the best way to do it. Each donation is matched dollar for dollar by the Pumpkin Foundation. These grants provide supplies and equipment directly to the classroom to enhance your child's learning experience.

Current grant opportunities:

Ms. Ley (Music):

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=348171&share-bar=true>

Prior grant opportunities that were fully funded for Mrs. Taboada were:

Help Us Find Our Voices

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=344512&verify=751644020>

Scientists in Kindergarten

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=344775&verify=312771973>

Phonics is Fun

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=343808&verify=1778757300>

Mrs. Taboada's Wish List

thick black dry erase markers

water and juice boxes

Healthy snacks: applesauce, crackers, pretzels, & goldfish

Small Dixie or plastic cups and plastic spoons

Thank you to all the parents who have generously contributed snacks and supplies to our classroom. Thank you to Ana Guitierrez for designing classroom décor. Thank you to Amanda Youngberg (Ms. Rizzo class parent) for baking muffins for our Thanksgiving celebration.

On October 29th VOICE had its first picture day! The proofs, which are yours to keep, were sent home and we hope you have your orders in, and its not too late to order via the web.

K-222 Class Parents :

Ana Guitierrez

Mina Pittakas