

News from Room 20...and dates to remember!

June 10, 2014

Sorry I'm so late with this, but just wanted to touch base with an update on what we've been doing in class and upcoming events. ..

Well, if you haven't heard...**WE HAD FROGS!!!** Yes, one little guy morphed so fast we were astonished! One day, it was a tadpole with back legs and the following week we found one hanging onto the glass in the tank! Naturally we had to do a Tadpole Diary entry in our **Tadpole Diaries**. We chronicled this through Week 10 in our diaries, so it is very exciting to think that we actually created a habitat for 7 frogs, 4 froglets, 4 salamanders and 3 late blooming tadpoles...most successfully able to make their metamorphosis. I officiated a successful release at the pond last week and am returning our last salamander today, who went undetected. We named him 'Ninja' and he is going home today 😊

We have been working very hard in our Writer's Workshop to write and illustrate our very own '**Important Book**' pages, based on *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown. They are really a labor love as well as a lot of great writing and editing practice. We were able to edit every page with every child and reinforce the beginning stages of some very important editing skills that we have been working on all year such as capital letters and periods, upper and lower case letters in the right spot with correct formation and placement of their letters on the line, correct spelling of word wall/high frequency words and using describing

words and details. They will include some wonderful watercolor paintings to illustrate each page.

Looking ahead to a couple of dates in June:

Tuesday, June 4th: 4TH Grade Garage Sale. You may send some spending money with your child on this day to spend at the 4th grade fund raiser for **Africa Bridge**. Items will cost anywhere from 25 cents to \$5.00 and include gently used toys, books, games and crafts.

The **week of June 3rd** will be the last week for **Home Reading and Guided Reading Groups**. **Thursday** will be the last day for Home Reading. *Please make sure that all Home Reading books are returned by Thursday, June 6th* as I am in the process of reorganizing the Home Reading books. Thanks!

Next week, the **week of June 10th** (the last week of school) will also be the **last week for Parent Helpers**. I will be assigning a small task to you to help prepare the classroom for next year. I don't know what we would have done without you this year! Thank you again so much for all the incredible time and attention you gave to our kids and our classroom this year. They have thrived and grown so much as learners and community members and I truly couldn't have done what I did without your help!

Tuesday, June 4th: *All Library books due in school library.*

Friday, June 7th is a teacher workday and there will be no school on that day.

Field Day is scheduled for **Monday, June 10th**. It is a wonderful experience for the kids and for school spirit. The kids will be

matched up with their 4th grade buddies in small groups and will spend the day with their group doing all of the exciting outdoor events. Remember to have your child wear sunscreen for this event and wear comfortable, loose clothing and P.E. shoes. Flip flops are not a wise choice. The more parents who volunteer for this event, the better, so please sign up to help if you can. Parent Helpers will not be needed in the classroom on that day due to Field Day.

Our **end-of -the-year class party** will be on **Wednesday, June 12th from 9:10-10:40**. We will have some fun and games on the lawn outside of the classroom, weather permitting, and then head for lunch. We usually plan 6 different stations of lawn games and rotate in groups of 6. I know **Kim and Charisse** will appreciate helping hands and great ideas, as always and we will have some wonderful fun. The Class of '13 knows how to party!

The Week of June 10th: CLOSING THE CLASSROOM

I am always so appreciative of any **parent help** I can get during this week to help take down bulletin boards and do odd jobs that will help me to be ready for the incoming students next year. You may come in anytime, at your convenience, and I will give you a small task. It could be anything from taking down a bulletin board to rearranging my drawer of colored contact paper. I will have a list of things that need doing that can be checked off and are user friendly. Thanks so much in advance!

Friday, June 14th: Last Day of School

Children will be dismissed at 10:45 on this day.

That's all for now...until I think of something else that I have forgotten☺

Susan McNeil

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Our **end-of -the-year class party** will be on **Thursday, June 12th from 9:15-11:00**. We will have some fun and games on the lawn outside of the classroom, weather permitting, and then head for lunch. We usually plan 6 different stations of lawn games and rotate in groups of 6. We are very grateful to **Kipi Doran-Fuhr**

for all that she has contributed to our wonderful parties and I know she will appreciate helping hands and great ideas, as always and we will have some wonderful fun. The Class of '14 knows how to party!

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