

News & Notes

Clearspring Center for the Highly Gifted - Grade 5 - January/February 2012

Time for New Supplies!

January is always a good time to replenish school supplies. Several students do not have pencils, markers, or paper each day. Please ask your child about his/her supplies. Notebooks may need to be replaced if they are almost filled. Your kind attention is appreciated.

Artist-in-Residence News

Students in Mrs. Bizzell's math class recently studied the work of famed artist Sol LeWitt. LeWitt transformed the idea and practice of drawing. He would conceptualize a piece of art and give a team of draftsman instructions to bring his idea to life. In his view, the idea behind the art surpassed the actual work itself. During his lifetime over 1200 two and three-dimensional wall drawings were executed. In addition hundreds of works on paper were completed that included towers, pyramids, and geometric forms.

Our math students experimented with LeWitt's concepts. Students created an original drawing on paper. Next, they wrote instructions for executing the design. A new group of students used the instructions, as well as their knowledge of scale, to reproduce the art work on a larger piece of paper.

Teaching artist, Suzanne Fierston, collaborated with Mrs. Bizzell to bring the project to fruition. "Seeing this idea come to life is so exciting," stated Ms. Fierston. The students were quite engaged in the process, and the results are BEAUTIFUL! As an extension activity, students will soon visit the East Building of the National Gallery of Art to view LeWitt's work.

Montgomery College Visit

During our economics unit, students from the Macklin Institute at Montgomery College met with our students and taught them about micro-loans. Our students participated in a role play activity and simulated real people from around the world. The students learned how difficult it is to share limited resources when there is unlimited demand. They worked together to make sound economic decisions. After this activity each group received several profiles of individuals who had applied for real micro-loans. They reviewed each applicant's credit history including rate of delinquency and number of loan

defaults before determining who would receive a \$25.00 to \$50.00 loan. The MCC students then funded the Clearspring candidates via the website kiva.org. We will receive updates as the loans are repaid.

Shady Grove Middle School

There will be a Rising 6th Grade Information Parent Night at Shady Grove on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Shady Grove Middle School if you want additional details about your child's enrollment for next year.

Redland Middle School

The Rising 6th Grade Information Parent Meeting at Redland Middle School is scheduled for February 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Science Fair

All 5th grade HGC students will be participating in the Science Fair. Students should have submitted their registration forms to Mrs. Oakes or their homeroom teacher. The fair is on Friday, February 24th, and students have the opportunity to choose from a collection, research, or experimentation project. This project will be completed at home with additional guidance and support from Mrs. Oakes at school.

If you are interested in serving as a judge, please contact Kay Mangan or Karen Mitch at Mitch90@aol.com or mkmangan@verizon.net as soon as possible.

Valentine's Day

Classroom parties will be held on Tuesday 2/14/2011 @ 2:00.

Students will distribute valentines at the party this year. Please make sure your child has one valentine for each student in his/her homeroom.

Ms. Bizzell's Class - 26 students

Ms. Cumberland's Class - 25 students

Ms. Oakes Class - 24 students

Upcoming Events and Dates

Montgomery College Visit	January 20
Baker Middle School Counselor Visit	January 24
Forest Oak Middle School Counselor Visit	January 24
Gaithersburg Middle School Counselor Visit	January 24
Mock MSA	January 26
Reading/Math Night	January 31
Family Life Parent Meeting	February 7
National Art Gallery (Tentative)	February 9
Valentine's Day	February 14
Artist-in-Residence	February 23
Science Fair	February 24