

## Debbie, Kristen, and Ryann's Class

This is such a bittersweet time of year and this year that phrase rings so true to my heart. Our team has enjoyed the excitement of your children, providing a great sense of satisfaction in what we do. This made the year go by so quickly it is sad to think there are just a few short weeks left. In addition, Ryann is moving on and she has been a wonderful team member.

This past month we explored many facets of the Earth, from how people and places are different around the world, to looking at it as a large habitat we share. This theme is not unusual for this time of year for children who are five. They are developing a larger view of the world outside their backyard. Some have traveled and shared what they saw and how it was different from home. Others expressed their curiosity through story writing...*The Gingerbread Man Who Went Around the World*. There were also a couple children thinking about moving away in the summer. Initially we just let them express what they knew and activities popped up such as exploring foods from around the world, which was a positive adventure for many in our class.

Our hallway display is the result of revisiting story telling. We listened to a variety of adaptations of the *Three Little Pigs*. The children were able to

stretch their understanding of story structure beyond characters to setting and reinforce the concept of sequencing.

The ongoing Life Science component of our curriculum focused on Life Cycles and needs that plants, animals and humans have that the earth fulfills. These life science concepts are stepping stones for further understanding of ecology and biology.

Imbedded throughout the curriculum, literacy and math skill building continued. We had many math manipulative games, and rubber insect collections to engage the children in simple addition, comparing sets and number sense. April was poetry month so we capitalized on that and read and wrote poems. We introduced two types of poems - Circle and Haiku. We practiced differentiating beginning sounds from rhyming words. We also used the beauty of spring to inspire us to refine our hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to represent the various spring flowers through artwork.

Thank you to our room parents for all their hard work and all the drivers who came through time and again so all the children could have some awesome fieldtrip experiences this year. We look forward to the class picnic to celebrate this year