

Monday's Letter
May 26, 2009

Ark Community Charter School

Dear Members of the ACCS Community,

Each year the parents select a representative to the ACCS Board of Trustees. This is a very important position because the board sets the policies for the school. If you are interested in serving in this position, it means that you will do two important jobs. The first is to attend the monthly board meetings. This year the board meetings were held on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The second important job is to chair the Parent's and Teacher's Together organization. PATT helps to plan wonderful events like the Thanksgiving Dinner. If you would be willing to serve as the parent representative to the board, please fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and return it to the office by June 1, 2009. Once we receive the nominees, we will ask the parents to vote for a representative. If you would like more information about this, please do not hesitate to call me.

This issue of the Monday letter celebrates writing across the grades and across the curriculum. Congratulations to all of the teacher and students who produce such interesting writing products. Please visit the school and read the student's writing and view the supporting artwork.

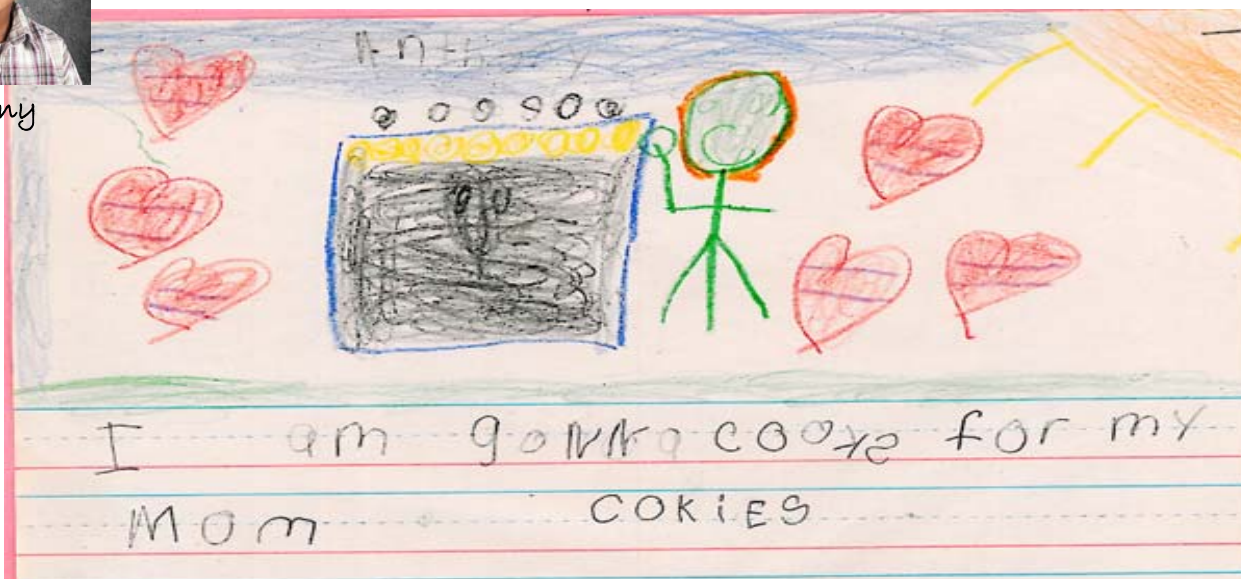
Mary Theresa

Kindergarten Writing World



Anthony

Ms. Mars kindergarten class in the 1st week of May had to write and draw a picture of what they were going to do for their mother on her special day! Below is an example of the work the students completed. All the students did a great job.



"I am going to cook for my mom cookies"

Rural, Urban, and Suburban Communities

Last month in social studies the 2nd graders learned all about rural, urban and suburban places. Recently the students wrote their own picture books showing off what they learned about these very different places. The stories take place in both the city and the country. Please check out the books along with their wonderful illustrations outside our classrooms bulletin boards!

Different Places By: Sherwin

Once upon a time there was a boy named Marshmallow. He lived in New York City. He did not like the city. There were a lot of people in the city and he couldn't get any food. He tried a lot of things to get food. Once upon a time there was a boy named Taco. He lived on Mount Rushmore. He did not like it there. It was lonely there. It was really quite there, too.



One day Marshmallow went up a hill. He saw Mount Rushmore. Then he ran to Mount Rushmore. One day Taco climbed a mountain and saw New York City. Then he ran to New York City. The boys ran into each other. Both of them bumped their heads. "Where are you going?" said Taco? "To Mount Rushmore," said Marshmallow. "Where are you going," said Marshmallow? "To New York City," said Taco. They thought it would be a good idea to switch homes. Etc...

(Read full story on the bulletin board.)

Dragon Fantasies

Second graders learned how to write creative writing pieces! We studied how to structures this type of story and add creative details to make the plot more rich. Enjoy reading our Dragon stories!



The Dragon and the Boy By: Luiza

Once upon a time there was a dragon who lived in a cave. A little boy found a dragon in it's cave. The little boy was scared. He ran home because he was too scared and the dragon told the boy, "Don't be scared." The boy came back. The dragon asked the boy, "Can we be friends?" and the boy said, "Yes."

The next day the dragon woke up and knocked on the boys window. The dragon said, "Do you want to go on an adventure?" he said, "Yes." The dragon said, "Lets go snowboarding." "But I don't know how to snowboard." The Dragon said, "Stop on back, and I will show you how to snowboard." So the boy hopped on the dragon's back. They flew up the hill and they were going fast. When they got to the top of the hill he got off the dragon's back,. He laid down on his back and the dragon blew fire. The boy went fast down the hill like a rocket.

The dragon said, "Do you want to go on a another adventure?" the boy said, "Yes." They went on a boat and acted like pirates on an adventure. They had fun and the boast stopped at an island. It was called Chairs of Destiny. There were a lot of chairs. They almost fainted because the chairs were talking and they said, "This is where we live."

(Read full story on the bulletin board.)

Cultural Similarities and Differences

The 3rd graders explored the country of Japan. After reading and watching videos about Japan's history, culture, and lifestyle, the students wrote a comparison essay. They compared their life in the United States to life in Japan. The students discovered that they were alike in many ways! Below is an example of a comparison essay.

Japan and The united States By: Emmanuel

Do you know how the United States and Japan have many similarities and differences? I will tell you all about it.

Japan and the U.S.A are similar and different in life style. We both go fishing and read folktales like Momotaro (Peach boy). We also play soccer and write haikus of nature. In Japan, bells in temples ring 108 times for different traditions and festivals. They have a Boys Day in May and boys fly carp fish. Girls Day is in March and they play with dolls. These are some examples of lifestyles that are the same and different.

The United States and Japanese food are very good because... Let me tell you! We all have breakfast, lunch, and diner. We also like rice. Japan has rice farms. The traditional Japanese breakfast has rice, miso soup, fish, and nori (dry seaweed). Doesn't that sound more delicious than cereal or toast? The United States traditional breakfast has a lot less food to eat. Now I am hungry! Let's think about something other than food. Etc... *(Read full story on the bulletin board.)*



Poetry Has Sprung!

The 4th graders are learning about different styles of poetry. They used Acrostic poems to share compliments with fellow classmates, Diamente poems, to compare and contrast or describe, and they used Free Verse poetry to share interesting details about their background.

Diamante Poem By: Malcolm

Baseball
Hitting, running,
Sliding, catching, diving,
First, second, third, home,
Win lose or tie,
Still having
Fun!

Where I'm From By: Katherine

I'm from Troy, New York 12180
Near school #12, a church, and Stewarts
A great place for swimming
I'm from Troy, New York 12180
Between the park and the woods
A great place to play in the park
I'm from Troy, New York 12180

My Friend KYLE By: Charles

Kind and very helpful to me.
Youthful, and knows rhythm.
Likes to play video-games.
Excited when it comes to gym.

Linking Writing and Social Studies

The 5th grade students had to write a newspaper article about World War I. Half the class wrote from an American viewpoint, and the other half from a German viewpoint. Some articles were written from before the war, others (like the examples below), are from after the end of the war.

Paying Fines Isn't Right

By: Chardanay Grier

Americans are making Germany sign a Treaty of Versailles that will make us have to pay fines. And they won't let us rebuild our armed forces.

That's not right! That's not fair they won't let us rebuild our armed forces and they're making us pay fines, but their not doing anything. It's not fair! The world is against Germany. I don't trust them.

They shouldn't have started the war if they're not going to finish it. We should kill them for making us sign the Treaty of Versailles. I hope this is the last war. I hope this never happens again. I am so happy the war is over.

An Enchanting God Story

The 6th graders wrote their own "god or goddess" stories as part of their study of ancient Greece. A connection was made in the two subject areas of writing and social studies. This provided the students with a deeper understanding of god and goddess worship in ancient Greece. The students also made masks of their gods with Ms. Molly as a culmination of this unit. The following is an exemplary piece by Dra'saad.



If I were God

One time, long ago there was a man named Ira and he was the god of everything. It was all darkness in mid-space when the world began. Something happened one day. Ira was so bored that he began to think of people, planets, and the solar systems. After these planets and solar systems were created, Ira was happy.

Ira saw a planet with a lot of grass, water, and trees on it, so he went to that planet. Then he saw a few humans, just looking all around. He said to them "All you people, I am your god Ira. If you have a problem I will solve it, and if you need food or water you will have it. If you need shelter I will build it." So he built for the humans over one million houses. Then he opened schools, gave jobs, and made cars out of wood, leaves, seaweed, and rock.

One day Ira said, "My Earth, I am moving to a new planet called Mars the red planet." Ira god of everything, moved to Mars and helped the people there. However, on Mars, he only built two hundred houses then found water, about a three year supply so the people had to find it themselves. But, on Mars, he did not give the wonders that he gave on Earth. The only reason for this was because the people on Mars were rude, impatient, greedy, and lazy.

So one day Ira said "I do not like you people. You never help me, you are always fighting, and you never care for each other. Now I am going back to Earth and I will never come back here again."

So he went back to Earth, the people of Earth were so happy Ira returned that they built him a mansion. They all lived happily after that!



For LUNCH this week, Ms. Kim is serving:

Monday: NO SCHOOL

Tuesday: Chicken Nuggets Mixed Veggies
Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk

Wednesday: Cheese Nachos Turkey Salad
Carrots Sticks Fruit Milk

Thursday: Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans
Fruit Milk

Friday: Ham Sandwiches Veggie Soup
Fruit Milk

ACCS Calendar

Mon, May 25 NO SCHOOL

Fri, May 29 All School Morning Meeting, 8:30am

Jun 1- 5 Kindergarten Screening

Fri, Jun 12 All School Morning Meeting, 8:30am



Many thanks to Tina Francis who served as parent representative to the ACCS Board of Trustee for the 2008-2009 school year.

If you would like to serve on the ACCS Board of Trustees, please fill out the form below and return it to the school office by June 1, 2009. Nominations will be published in the June 8 newsletter along with a voting ballot.

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**PARENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES—
SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY JUNE 1**

I am willing to serve on the monthly ACCS Board of Trustees and chair the PATT meetings.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____