

Dear Parents,

We have wrapped up our exploration of pumpkins and are getting ready for our next exploration. We brainstormed ideas, wrote in our journals about what we wanted to learn about, and then took a vote. The winner is....rocks! This idea came after a student brought in her uncle's rock collection for Show and Tell to talk about quartz for the letter Q. Everyone was fascinated and we were able to look at and touch many different types. Luckily we can find rocks all around us and will pick a day with decent weather in the near future and go on a rock hunt.

We are finishing up our novel study of *Bunnicula* and it has been engrossing for most of us. After reading a chapter, I have been asking the students to draw the chapter, meaning draw a vivid mental image of something from the chapter, or in other words, visualize. This activity supports reading comprehension skills.

Visualizing is the ability to hear a story and have a mental image about the text. This helps the students create meaning for themselves in their own way based on their own experiences.

After drawing what they visualized, the students label their illustration or add details. The first time I asked the students to do this, they all wanted to look at an illustration from the book. Now they are learning to trust their own imaginations and are realizing that their illustration may not and doesn't need to look anything like their neighbor's.

Besides our novel, we have been reading picture books aloud each day. Some recent ones: *Strictly No Elephants*, *That's Not a Hippo*, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves*, and *Lion Lessons*.

Speaking of books.... Scholastic book orders are due tomorrow.

Also, we will be going to the library Monday for Tumblebooks. Please make sure your child has a pair of earbuds/earphones at school, or send in \$1.25 to purchase some at the library.

Some other notes: I am sending home the lyrics to our song for the Holiday Program. Please work with your child to make sure he/she knows all the words. Thanks!

Tomorrow (Friday, Nov. 10) is our first visit to the bank to make deposits in the students' savings accounts. If you are sending in money to make a deposit, please do not send in more than \$10. Also, the first deposit has to be made within 30 days of opening an account to keep it active. We will plan on going to the bank every two weeks.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next week at conferences so I can confirm what you already know: that your children are amazing! :)
Have a great weekend!

Ms. Leslie