

Dear Parents,

This has been a wild week, weather wise, but it hasn't stopped us from enjoying our time outside at recess. The children are very flexible and make the most of whatever Mother Nature has in store for us each day. Earlier in the week the students were having mini snowball fights. Yesterday we made it to the park and had to leave after only ten minutes due to rain. Today it was sunny and warm enough that several students were asking if they could take their coats off. They are excited and enthusiastic about spending time outside regardless of the weather. I'm not too thrilled that we are experiencing the second coldest April in recorded history for Chicago, but I know (hope) warmer temperatures are coming.

We have been doing lots of creative painting this week. I put out some donated finger paints and watched what happened. There were several spring scenes painted of green grass, blue skies, and yellow suns and some finger painted words. The students then decided to mix all of the colors on the paper and the rest of the paintings were all purple blobs and hand prints. I love when the finger painting becomes hand, arm and elbow painting! They are on display outside our room if you want to check them out.

Today they painted river rocks using acrylic paints. It was interesting to watch what they did with such small "canvases." Some rocks were turned into faces, some had stripes, polka dots, initials or words. We will continue with them tomorrow and will spray them with clear urethane finish to seal the paint.

Our novel study of *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* continues and has prompted some good discussions and journal entries. The students have made predictions in their journals about what will happen to Ralph (the mouse) after he drives the motorcycle into a garbage can. Some of the predictions included driving the motorcycle up the side of the garbage can to escape, driving back and forth to try and knock the can over, being thrown out by the maid, being discovered by the boy or his parents, being thrown into a dumpster outside and then escaping.

Today I sent the students home with their scripts for the end of the year program as well as a copy of the song we are singing. Please help your child learn their lines for the skit. We will work on it as much as we can at school but I will need you to help by working with them at home. There are only six short weeks until the performance and the students have to learn their lines as well as the song and a dance routine. We had a wonderful dance choreographed for us and are adapting it to fit our abilities. Your children are great dancers! Now if we can figure out how to all do the same move at the same time in the same direction, we'll be all set!

Have a great weekend and as always, thanks for sharing your amazing children with me!

Ms. Leslie