

**Kentwood Preparatory Newsletter
for Week Ending 11/03/06
Broward Campus**



<http://www.kentwoodprepcommunity.com/>

All of the previous newsletters are available in the Newsletter Archive. Go to the web site and click on the Parents Section.

We've added hundreds of new pictures to the web site as well. Just click pictures!

Picture of the Week Award:



A Message From Mr. Fein:

Kentwood attended the annual CHADD conference in Chicago last week, where schools, parents, and professionals from around the world met to share knowledge, ideas, and services. We received positive feedback and generated a lot of interest in our program and philosophy. We also were introduced to valuable therapeutic techniques and innovative programs. One of these programs is COGMED. This program is specifically designed to improve the working memory of children diagnosed with ADHD. This program has delivered positive results in actually improving and sustaining long term gains in working memory. Currently, there are no COGMED centers in Florida. However, the center in Baltimore has agreed to allow a small group of Kentwood students to take the course at Kentwood. If any parents are interested in this program, please contact Mrs. Van Heyzen for more information.



Room 01: Ms. Hubach-Schwartz & Mrs. Shannon

October has been such an exciting month in room 1! In keeping with our year long theme on animals, this month we were studying nocturnal animals and their habits and traits. We learned a little about Christopher Columbus and his discovery and about the world's geography. In keeping with our Halloween theme, we wrote a couple of spooky stories, and had fun with several art projects. We even learned about our bodies by assembling a "skeleton" piece by piece!

I am so thrilled with the growth I am seeing! It is exciting to see room 1 students pick up a pencil and write a creative "story", and have fun doing it, when less than two months ago they could not (or would not) write independently at all. I am proud of them and every day is a new adventure!

Swimming has been great for the students socially, and I see friendships beginning to form. I'm looking forward to a fun (but short) November, when our classroom themes will be Thanksgiving, American Indian heritage, and our continuing themes of poetry and learning about/classifying animals. Have a great November! Ms. Hubach-Schwartz

Room 02: Ms. Motta

Room 2 is doing great! Second quarter has started and we are doing lots and lots of cool things. Swimming is a blast. We are working on our Thanksgiving mural for school and we are making turkey wreaths for home. We want to wish Daniel a happy birthday. Our note boat has been a hit. Thank you to Ms. Jeanie for her special notes to our class. That's all for now. Hasta la vista.



Skills: Mr. Malka

This was an exciting week in skills class. We worked on our core behaviors of following directions, minding our own business, and respecting each other. We also celebrated Halloween all week. We made skeletons, bats, did worksheets, and talked about everything to do with Halloween. We are improving every week and are working hard to integrate ourselves into our other classrooms. A special thank you needs to go to Kyle's mother who was very generous and gave us the Halloween goodie bags that we took home on Halloween. Thank you as well to all our parents who work very hard with us to achieve our goals with the students in this class.



Room 08: Ms. Bigos

We are on our way to another great term. The students are showing wonderful progress in all their subject areas. We are almost finished with our chapter book, The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson. The students are really enjoying it. I'm looking forward to their reaction when they have to compare the book to the movie. Math is also going very well. Students are demonstrating mastery in addition and subtraction sentences. The class is also enjoying their swimming time. I am very happy with the success the class is having!



Room 10: Mr. Lieberman

Room 10 is continuing to show great progress, as we are well into the 2nd quarter. The students are working hard and are showing a continued effort with their math, language arts and social studies lessons. Today, we are writing a letter to Sgt. Ojeda and we are creating a Thanksgiving Day Tree of what we are thankful for.



Room 11: Ms. Mayer

Room 11 has continued to work very hard on academics and social skills.

We have continued to build our vocabulary skills and are starting to write paragraphs using the new words from our weekly units. This week, we continued reading our classroom novel, The Cheat by Amy Goldman Koss. We are all finding it exciting to find out what is going to happen to the characters who decided to steal the answers for a test; we are making predictions about what their consequences will be.

In math, we are building our Order of Operation skills and have made such progress that we will be able to take our quiz next week.

We continued with our Social Studies unit, focusing on rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens. Next week we plan to talk about the electoral process and the different branches of government.

For physical education, we started swimming and the students are enjoying the chance to socialize with our classes during this time. We also started our Drama class this week. During this class we are emphasizing that it takes teamwork to put a show together.

Finally, for rewards this week, we had a pizza party and a kickball game with Room 10. We had such fun socializing with them that we are planning to do rewards with them again next week.

Room 11 is truly putting their best foot forward, working hard on academics and practicing coping skills that have enabled them to show much improvement in regards to their individual behavior.



Room 12: Ms. Crawford

Second Quarter is our first quarter of Civics. The students are very excited to learn more about our government. The students were very interested in our own Florida gubernatorial race and understand the duty they will have soon to make their vote count. Progress reports will be going out very soon for Algebra! The class will be starting the novel Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. The students and I are excited about the second quarter and I will keep you posted on more of the upcoming events and assignments.

Reading and Math Lab: Ms. Sterbenz, Mr. Davidson, Ms. Debeyer

Mr. Davidson's and Ms. Debeyer's Reading Group are continuing to learn decoding strategies that are helping with their reading fluency and rate. These groups are learning some higher level thinking strategies in their comprehension groups.

Miss Sterbenz's reading group is learning digraphs and reviewing consonant and short vowel sounds. The students are fluently reading words and sentences with these concepts. This is part of the Lindamood Bell Comprehension series.

Ms. Debeyer's math group continues to practice rote counting up to 100. They practice telling time and identifying shapes and patterns.

Mr. Davidson's math group is reviving their subtraction facts and are practicing subtracting multi-digits with 100% accuracy.

Miss Sterbenz's math group is learning mental math strategies for problem solving. Rounding, estimating, and adding to 10 and doubles are some of the concepts we have been working on.

The lab had a fun celebration last Friday to honor those students who have shown excellent effort and attitude for the month of October. We look forward to our November rewards celebration at the end of this month.

Occupational Therapy: Ms. Debeyer

Halloween theme was used to continue our work on visual tracking, visual memory, and fine motor coordination skills. Finger-painting and texture materials were used to make pumpkins, skeletons and a variety of bats to enhance sensory information input. Slime textures and liquids were the worst materials to work with but at the end of the quarter all the students were able to complete at least one full activity. WAY TO GO!!!!!!

Ms. Mayer's class won a prize for the BEST class in participating and obtaining the best scores in our time exercises. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Handwriting exercises and phonemic awareness have started for Room 1 and 2. Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns about any fine motor or sensory difficulties that your child may have.



Art & Science: Ms. Urbancic

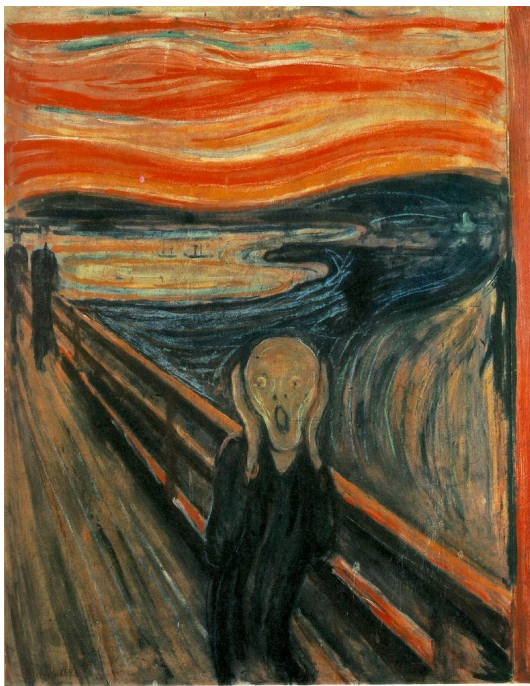
Art:

The last 2 weeks of Art was all about Halloween.

Rooms 1 and 2 read Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak. We observed that all of the monsters in the illustrations in the book had smiles on their faces. We then drew friendly monsters with giant colored chalk on black paper. Everybody had fun as they colored and shared the chalk.

Rooms 8, 10, 11, and 12 viewed paintings by famous artists that had a Halloween flair. We discussed what modern day movies the paintings reminded us of. Our focus was mainly on "The Scream" by Edvard Munch. Almost everybody recognized the movie that was inspired by that painting.

This week all the students painted their own abstract version of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night." They used a crayon resist method to create the sky, and then cut a landscape silhouette out of black construction paper.



Science:

We continued to work with that fascinating resource – Air.

Rooms 8, 10, 11 and 12 experimented with pushing water through a system using air. The students had fun trying to figure out how to use the materials they were given to make a water fountain. They also made balloon rockets and raced their rockets against each other down a zip line.

Rooms 1 and 2 continued to work in their Weather Journals. They also made parachutes and learned that it is air resistance that gently floats the parachute to the ground preventing it from crashing.

I would like to thank everyone for the cardboard tubes. The gerbils are enjoying them.

I am also collecting magazines and CD's. It doesn't matter what is on them – they are going to be used for Art and science.

**Computer Lab: Mr. Kohser**

The second quarter has started and the main goal of the computer lab has become improving the writing skills of our students. The students are writing articles about school events, such as Fall Festival, Girl's Club, and other fun activities going on around campus. Additionally, they've started playing new memory games that help them develop their ability to focus and also improve their short and long term memory. Additionally, the students are working on Power Point slides that highlight their own experiences throughout the year. We're using digital cameras and recording every exciting event. All the students will contribute slides to the "End of the Year" slideshow at the Awards Ceremony.

