



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 22, 2010

¡Hola a todos! In the spirit of Volunteer Appreciation Week, I want to send out a heart-felt **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped our class this year...from assembling materials, to supervising field trips, or organizing class Fiestas, all of your work is greatly appreciated!!! Also this week, we finished MCA testing, with a make-up day next week for any students that need extra time. Third graders worked very hard on these tests...way to go! We have had a busy schedule with many School Spirit events and activities, as well. *Ask a third grader: What did you learn at the school presentations this week: "Don Quixote" and "Are You Thirsty?" How do you feel about your work on the MCA tests? Who is Sra. Donaldson and what have you been discussing with her and Srta. Adams?*

IB Units

This week we are finishing our Human Body Unit, with our science test and a body cut-out project/presentation in Spanish. Students demonstrated great *inquiry*, through their many questions and curiosities. Keep encouraging them to ask questions and search for answers! *Just a reminder, as part of my IB Unit reflections, I would love to hear from parents about any action steps or changes they have noticed in students, resulting from their learning (in current or past IB Units)!*

We will begin our next IB Unit: "Tell Us a Story" about types of folklore. Students will compare and contrast various types of folklore, such as fairy tales, fables, and myths, as well as compare classic stories told from different cultures (ex: Cinderella stories from around the world). We will examine what folklore stories reflect about different cultures, beliefs and social expectations. I am very excited to begin this unit with students and explore what stories can tell us about our own and other cultures! We will perform folklore plays later in May, so watch for a date in upcoming newsletters!

Señora Donaldson

Señora Donaldson is a social worker who has been hired to work part-time at ISLA. She came to observe our class recently and this week, was able to discuss with students some of the social issues that have been arising among students. Sra. Donaldson and I will be working together to address some unwanted behaviors in the classroom and will begin by focusing on issues of bullying. Students filled out a survey about their experiences with bullying, to help give us an indication of where and when bullying is generally happening, and what kinds of behaviors it has entailed (name-calling, hitting, ignoring, etc.). *Sra. Donaldson and I will be working together about once each week with the whole class, on how to address and eradicate these issues. If it appears that any students would benefit from individual or small-group work with Sra. Donaldson, we will seek permission from those parents.*

(over for more information)

School Spirit Fridays

During these last weeks of school, in order to celebrate our community, while continuing to encourage positive behaviors, ISLA students will be working towards earning School Spirit Fridays. Each class will keep track of their progress throughout the school day. If that class reaches its goal, those students will be allowed to participate in the School Spirit Friday, in which they can wear the designated theme outfit. **Themes for May 7 and June 4 are non-uniform days**, and our class will decide on the other chosen themes together. Students and families will be notified a week prior, whether we reached our goal for that designated Friday, (i.e. on April 29, you will know if we get the SSF on May 7), so that you have time to wash/prepare any clothes needed.

Important Lunch Note

Reminder: On Friday, April 30, due to a church fundraiser, ISLA is unable to provide any lunch service that day. Please pack a bag lunch for your student that includes a beverage. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Homework

Just one last note...we should be back on track for homework next week, so students have received their new spelling packet, which is due next Wednesday, and we will continue with the math worksheets, and so on. Students also need to turn in their **monthly book report next week on Friday, April 30th** (in English).

Upcoming Events

April 27: PTO Meeting – 7pm

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