

February
2010

Maud Abrams



Paw Prints



What an unusual month February has been! As our visiting meteorologist, Dan Skeldon, predicted, students could look forward to a snow holiday from school. Little did we realize that the break would be a week long!

Prior to this unexpected vacation, students were involved in two seasonal activities. Our annual Valentines for Vets project yielded many heart-felt cards. Surely our heroes will appreciate the sentiments of our young artists and writers. The patriotic poster contest revealed students' familiarity with our national symbols and monuments. Each classroom selected a winner who competed for the school-wide honors.

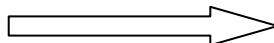
Maud Abrams was rampant with BUGS – the good kind - as more than 80 third grade students and more than 90 fourth grade students were honored by the Kiwanis for Bringing Up Grades. Students received a certificate and other prizes for their hard work.

To complement our March Read Across America celebrations, Jane Lovascio, author of the Casey and Bella books, will be presenting her newest title to Maud Abrams students. Each classroom is receiving a copy of the book thanks to the generosity of the Education Foundation. Jane's visit was postponed until May due to the snow!

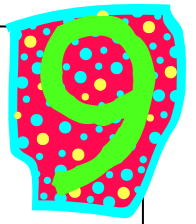
Classes will be sporting international flags and symbols as we prepare for our own Maud Abrams Olympics. Mrs. Kelly is busy planning the event for mid-March. The excitement will surely motivate us through these cold winter months!

Barbara Dalrymple
Principal

Go Team!!



Multiplication Madness



Mrs. Jenkins' class has been very busy learning a new operation in math. We already knew about addition and subtraction, but now we are learning how to multiply. We are learning our multiplication facts and it is a lot of fun. One way to figure out a product is by making arrays. This is an easy way, but you need to take your time to draw neatly and count correctly. Another strategy that we use to find products is repeated addition and sometimes you can skip count. This is really easy for the 2 facts, 5 facts, and 10 facts. The best part was writing multiplication stories for multiplication facts. If Mrs. Jenkins had 9 students and each student wrote three multiplication stories, how many multiplication stories would they have in all? This one should be simple to solve because you can use the finger trick for multiplication facts containing 9 as a factor.

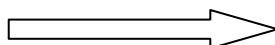


The Hoagie Challenge!

Mrs. McCool's reading classes have been learning how to answer open-ended questions about the book they are reading. They have been comparing the quality of their answers to different types of sandwiches. For instance, a jam sandwich is a response that restates the question but doesn't really answer it. It is like two pieces of bread jammed together, wishing there was a little meat in it!

The next type of response is like a basic bologna and cheese sandwich. It restates the question and gives a minimal answer. The club sandwich response, on the other hand, with plenty of meat, lettuce and tomato, restates the question, answers it, and offers specific details from the text to support the answer.

A club sandwich is very tasty, but Mrs. McCool prefers a hoagie! It is the seasoning and spices, the salt, pepper, and oregano that distinguish a hoagie from other types of sandwiches. Her students are taking the hoagie challenge by improving the quality of their open-ended responses to include: restating the question, answering it completely with specific details from the text to support the answer, and finally adding a personal connection, which like the spices in a hoagie, gives the response a unique flavor all of its own!



The Rosenberg Reporter

We have many exciting things going on in our 4th grade classroom. Our class has a student teacher, Miss Christensen. She hopes to become a teacher. Student teachers are seeing what it is like to be a teacher, so they watch, listen, and then they teach lessons. Miss Christensen also works at the Wetlands Institute so she knows a lot about science. She is a good student teacher and is a big help to the students and Mrs. Rosenberg. Your teachers were student teachers once.

Writing setbacks is fun. You think of a story to write and write it. Then Mrs. Muller, Mrs. Rosenberg, and Miss Christensen taught us about setbacks. We worked together in groups finding the problem in a story and the setback. We added this to our writing piece. For homework we had to read our story to a parent or guardian and they had to write a question. The question had to be about something that wasn't clear or needed more detail in our writing piece.

Math is a way to help you become smarter. One example is if you buy something for \$15.98 and you give the cashier \$20.00 you need to know how much change you should receive. We are learning long division now, divide, multiply, subtract, bring down then start all over again. You really have to pay attention.

Miss Christensen is teaching us all about the body systems. She really makes science interesting with many fun activities and experiments. We switch with Mr. Young's class and he teaches us social studies.

Mrs. Muller's and Mrs. Rosenberg's students are working super hard in reading. We have 100% on the Accelerated Reader Scoreboard. Yea! Some of the books we have read this year are Because of Winn-Dixie, The Flunking of Joshua T. Bates, Civil War on Sunday, Horrible Harry's Secret, and Schoolyard Mystery.

Mrs. Rosenberg and Mrs. Muller are great teachers and if we need help, they are there to help us.



Mr. Shivers' Class

Well after an unexpected week off from school we are trying to get back into the swing of things. We started our research projects on U.S. Presidents. Everyone chose a president and every Wednesday we go to the computer lab to do research on their lives. We have already learned many interesting facts about our presidents.

"Mom did the mailman come yet?" we will be asking in a couple weeks. We have started our letter-writing unit and have already written our Flat Stanley letters. Now we are working on letters to famous sports teams and children's authors. Students from last year said they received all kinds of cool things when they wrote to a sports team. Our field trip to the Rio Grande Post Office is next week and we will get a behind the scenes look when we mail our letters.

The Winter Olympics are also coming to Maud. Every classroom gets a country and we compete against the rest of the school in certain events. Our country is Russia. Over the next couple weeks we are going to be practicing the events during Phys. Ed. We are really excited to represent our country and participate in the Winter Olympics.



D-3 Reporters

Kindell
Denay
Natalie

