

Library News

"It will change . . . the way children everywhere think about themselves in relation to the world."

Seymour Papert

Sharing some thoughts

October - 2010

The weekly routine of visiting the Library and checking books out is more than listening to a story and taking a book home.

The book that comes from the Library should give us all a sense of joy for sharing such a great place filled with so many stories and learning opportunities.

We like to remind all students that each book deserves to be respected and that Library books are even more special for belonging to all of us.

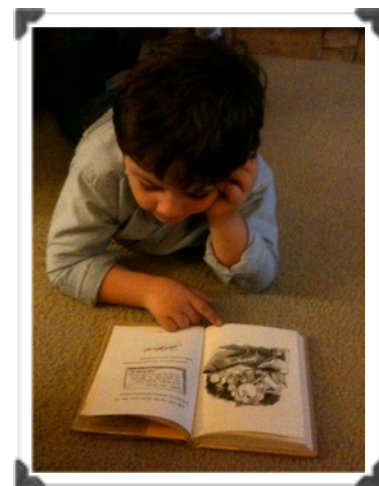
Sometimes you will see that your child took home a story that we've read during story time and quite often, the little ones will be able to read it to you in their own way. They remember the words

and their way to share the story is simply great! Make sure you save time for that and enjoy their expressions and the use of recently learned words. You will be amazed!

The older students that are reading chapter books will also be happy if you read them together, if you read for them or if you let them read for you.

One thing we can't forget: books have to be returned and we would like to thank all the families that have been so cooperative making the management of our collection much more effective!

Adriana Hollenbeck



Diez Puntos Negros

Another Special Gift for the Library!

This week Mrs. Horner brought another special gift for our Library.

The new publication is the result of First Graders' hard work after reading **Los Diez Puntos Negros**, the Spanish edition of **Ten Black Dots** by Donald Crews.

¿Cuántos puntos negros hay?

¿Uno? ¿Dos? ¿Tres?

¿Qué inventarás?

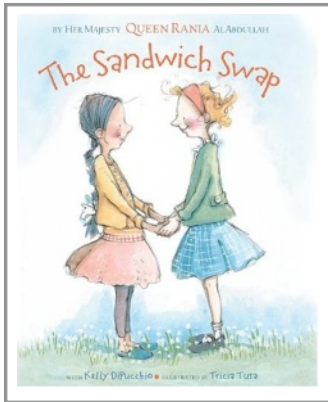
¡Lee el libro y lo verás!

¿Qué puedes hacer con diez puntos negros? ¡Las posibilidades son infinitas!

Muchas gracias, Señora Horner!

Muchas gracias, estudiantes de Primer Grado!





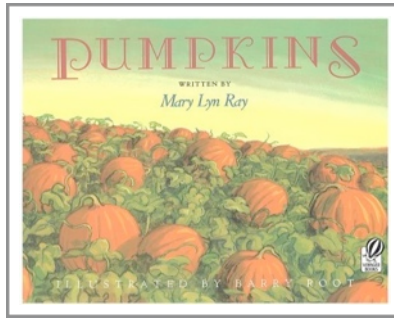
A real queen?

"Lily and Salma are best friends. They play together and stick together through thick and thin. But who would have ever thought that ordinary peanut butter or plain old hummus could come between them? Lily and Salma don't quite understand each other's tastes, but does that mean they can't be friends? They understand far better than a lot of grown ups that these things hardly matter and that friendship is the most important thing of all.

Her Majesty, Queen Rania's childrens book is inspired by her own experience. As written by Kelly Dipuchio, it is a warm-hearted and gently humorous fable about two girls who become aware of their subtle cultural differences, only to have their friendship strengthened as a result. Her Majesty travels the world promoting children's causes as well as cross-cultural understanding and tolerance."

Third graders have been learning about immigration and after reading this book we had a great conversation about differences and tolerance.

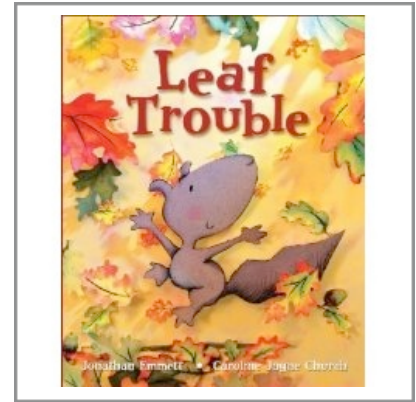
The story surprised the children when they realized it had been written by Queen Rania Al Abdullah, from Jordan and we talked about how many people in the world that work hard as advocates of so many social causes.



A Story for a Field

"Human industriousness saves the day-and the land-in this ecological cautionary tale. When a man discovers that the beloved field across the way is for sale, he goes to great lengths to protect it from developers. When selling all his possessions fails to yield sufficient cash, the man plants a huge patch of pumpkins in the plot. The bountiful harvest enables him to purchase the field, and to keep it in its natural state. Ray's text puts forth a noble premise and a pleasing ending. The man decides to send the pumpkins-via truck, plane and magic carpet-all over the world for sale, rather than completing the transactions closer to home. The author's underlying sense of urgency effectively demonstrates the importance of conservation, and may even have a motivational effect on readers. Root's watercolor and gouache paintings emit a predominantly orange glow, and the expanse of the scenes clearly renders the field and its crop as the true stars here. The gentle play of light and shadow on the horizon lends a becoming sense of serenity."

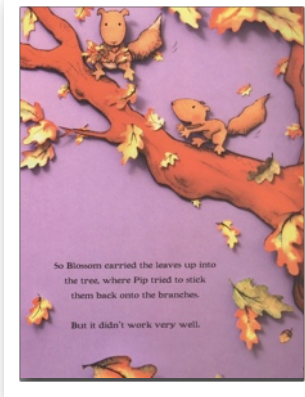
This story gives us a chance of looking at one of the most important icons of the season as the element capable of making a man's dream come true. Something so simple and yet so powerful; the idea of seeing someone making it happen. What once was a dream became reality with lots of planning and hard work! Lesson learned!



Can we keep the leaves from falling?

"Pip Squirrel's first fall finds him confused and concerned: his family's oak tree is falling apart. The leaves have changed from summer green to yellow, red, and orange and are fluttering to the ground. He elicits his sister's help to gather them and stick them back on the branches. Mom Squirrel patiently, but erroneously, explains that "taking care of the leaves was hard work for the tree...it needed to rest awhile" and that the leaves will return in the spring. Pip likens the leaves coming and going to the sun setting and rising. Even though their mother's explanation is incorrect, her children are satisfied with her account and are pleased that, come spring, their home will begin to look the way it used to. The colorful and endearing ink illustrations, placed in a layered collage using a variety of textures and perspectives, are a delight. One minor quibble: one spread is so dark that the text is difficult to read. The cozy pictures are the book's highlight, and children will be attracted to them."

It was so great to hear kids opinions about Pip's idea of putting the leaves back to the tree. We are so fortunate to have four seasons here in Wisconsin and it's amazing to learn from each child and understand their own perception of the world outside!



Ah, picture books!

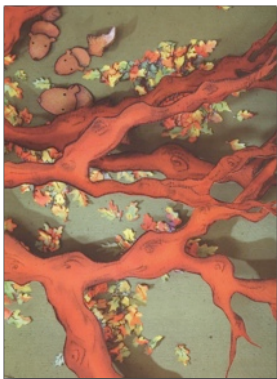
Last week I wrote a little bit about the concern shared by publishers as they note the decrease in publication of Picture Books. I mentioned how important it is to have room for images and to understand them.

While reading "Leaf Trouble" for SK I had a chance of discussing something that was brought up by Madeline Luttrell and gave us all a great opportunity to "read" the images.

The story was going well and the pictures were showing Pip's tree as if we were standing and looking at it from ground level. One of the pictures shifted things a little and that's when Madeline asked, "Is his tree broken now?"

I had not noticed it until she asked so I asked the children what they thought about what they were seeing. The comments were amazing and after sharing different perceptions they realized that someone was looking from up above, like we would if we were in a plane.

Something that seems so simple is too abstract to a Kindergartner and the fact that we had illustrations in that story offered us a great chance to wonder about concepts that we will be exploring in the future.



Media Center

The fact that a Library is a place for books does not mean we do not have room and plans for other creative ways of reading, exploring information and having access to media.

These are times where connections between classic ways of learning and new technology gives us the real dimension of how complex and exciting the process of learning really is.

We are proud to share the good news!

Our Library has now seven new computers that will be available to our students. One of them is an iMac equipped with a tablet that will allow us to explore new ways to create stories, draw and express our graphic talents.

Children, computers and powerful ideas: isn't it exciting?



Library Connections

