

The Redding Dragon

A School Newsletter

October, 2003

Zip's Great Day!

By Room 10, Grade 2, Miss Wong



Zip's Great Day was a *great* show! Zip was a new kid in school. She bumped into a bully named Booby and spilled his milk. He got mad and was going to beat her up. She was scared. She went to the library. Then she hid in a box. There was a little character in a shoe. His name was You. You kept getting bigger and bigger. Then he was so big. He got bigger when Zip did the right exercise and ate the right food. We liked the hats with food. Also, three cigarettes came out and sang and danced. At the end, Zip apologized to Booby. Booby said he wasn't a bully. He just wanted to be the coolest kid in school. Later they all became friends.

The show taught us to eat healthy food. We learned to be friends and say sorry when we do something to hurt a friend. It was a great show!

Good Morning, Readers!

By Linda Chee, Grade 5, Room 9

Everyone should come to the Morning Reading Club. If you come five times, you get a prize and if you complete a couple of cards based on your attendance, you will get a nice, new book at the MD Assembly.

The best thing about the Morning Reading Club is that you get to choose any book to read from the whole library. For younger kids, the volunteers will read to them. I've been silently reading The Babysitters Club books since school started this year and now I've finished about ten books.

So come on in- everybody's welcome to join. Just come at 7:30 and read until 8:00. The only thing is that you can't come later than 7:45 and sign up and leave and then come back at 8:00 and ask for your card to be signed. You have to show the volunteers the book you were reading, then they will sign your card.

The BPM adults come every day. They are really nice, and we are glad they can come to Redding. Thank you!



BPM Volunteers, Kevin Prior and Karen Pfau-Martinez, read with Susan Song and Sally Chen



Field Trip Fun

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts by Room 5



On Wednesday we went to the Yerba Buena Center For the Arts and met two artists. Iliyah said

we saw art with lights on it. There were bright colors and it looked like a rainbow.

We saw art that looked like clouds and rocks that were painted. Christie said we made maps by using tapes that were green, black, red and orange. Sally said, "We got to make maps for subway trains. Some people made it exactly right, but some people just made lines. I just made lines. I wanted mine to look like art."

Kevin said that Iliyah's mom told us about a special bench. When you sit down, the statue moves and sits down with you. Aruinaa said that we played on a wonderful play structure. Sally said, "On the play structure there was a fun slide. It was very big!" Ramon played on a fun instrument at the playground. Jonnald played on the big slide, too. It was fun!



Ahoy Mateys! By Ms. Kathleen Walker

On a daring adventure, the lads and lasses in Room 17, visited 826 Valencia, a Writing Workshop organization founded by the famous San Francisco author, Dave Eggers (who wrote [A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius](#)).

Upon entering the building, the students passed through the ONLY San Francisco pirate store, where any mate can find vats of lard, buried treasure and the ultimate in puffy shirts! A crew of volunteers worked with the children on an original class story. With the help of Bosun Mikah, the students created a story about a dragon, while Captain George typed the words on an overhead shining on the wall. Second Mate Tika illustrated the story with original cartoons as the children created, revised and edited their tale. Occasionally, Mr. Blue, (who resided in the attic at the top of a ladder), would shout down encouraging barbs to the crew. The students individually finished the last page of the piece, added an author page, complete with photo, and passed them up for the unseen Mr. Blue's approval. In a swarthy tone, he approved the whole lot of them and the students were cleared from walking the plank! Phew!

Following the exhausting writing session, the students sipped donated Jamba Juice swill and relaxed. The students all came home with their own copies of the class original stories, bound in a book with cartoon drawings, photos of themselves and a treasure trove of experiences! Thar she blows, 826!!!



Reading and Rolling

You've probably heard about Redding's famous Computer Lab run by Mrs. Kwan, but you may not know about the Library Reading Lab or the iBook Mobile Lab taught by Ms. Barak.

The Library Reading Lab, which consists of five computers, focuses on reading, writing and research. Students work on software which emphasizes language arts and English as a Second Language. The language arts software are the programs Wiggleworks and Smart Place, and upper grade students can access age-appropriate Internet sites for research related to classroom assignments.

The iBook Mobile Lab, which consists of ten lap top computers, moves from classroom to classroom depending upon need and teacher request. Students in grades 2-5 use these lap top computers for researching topics for reports, writing assignments and web quests.

Please feel free to come and get to know our technology program in the library at Redding School. Soon we'll be more famous than the Computer Lab!



Ms. Barak shows Emily from Room 17 how to navigate the iBook.

A Cool Place to Be

Step into Redding's Computer Lab, and you'll be dazzled by a sea of black and silver: shiny, new HP/Compaq computers purchased last year with school district funding for equipment. The 29 brand new computers have already been initiated, as evidenced by sets of fingerprints dancing across the screens.

Formerly known in the past as 'The Boiler Room,' the computer lab is the new home to a much needed air conditioning unit (a good thing because Mrs. Kwan was running low on tropical island attire) which, coupled with the new computers, makes the computer lab a very *cool*, attractive place to be.

As in past years, the main focus of the computer lab is on writing. The 4 main programs used are Appleworks for word processing, database and spreadsheets, Kidspiration and Inspiration for pre-writing, KidPix for graphics, and Type to Learn for keyboarding.

Kindergarteners through 5th grade students access these programs to plan, write and draw. For example, this week Mrs. Field's kindergarteners in Room 6 drew and colored in shapes in the Appleworks' Painting program, Ms. Blair's first graders wrote rhyming words on a spreadsheet in Appleworks, Mrs. Hardesty's 2nd graders typed up and edited their essays for the BPM Essay Contest, and the 5th graders in Mr. Toy's class simultaneously opened windows for their Appleworks timeline file and an Internet site on the American Revolution as they alternately researched and took notes on key events that happened during the Revolutionary War.

It's an exciting time for technology, and you are invited to come by anytime to take a look, pull up a chair and join in. You won't be able to resist. As Jason Sartwell's mother, Gloria Osborne, exclaimed after being in the lab for a few minutes, "I wish I could come to class here!"

Note: Much thanks to Misha Guberov and Keith

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Autumn Thoughts by Room 18, Grade 2

Autumn is a fun season. You can make a pile of leaves and jump on it. You can watch the leaves on trees change colors. Autumn is great!

Kevin Quach

Autumn is a great season. Aileen brought some leaves to class, and so did I. We put the leaves under paper and then we traced them. We had fun. We drank apple juice. Ms. Wilcox gave us popcorn to eat, and I liked the popcorn.

Selena Contreras

Autumn is cool! We celebrated autumn in Room 18. Our teacher brought in corn to our class. We did corn rubbings. Our teacher read us a story about autumn. We had fun!

Alex Luong

Autumn is a warm season. I like autumn because it is Halloween. Yesterday we had a party. We ate good food.

Malcolm Bell

Autumn is a magnificent season. Autumn has so many leaves that we could crunch, and they look so wonderful when they change colors. I like autumn because it is pretty and fun. We all ate popcorn and it was so yummy. I loved it so much. We also traced some leaves. Autumn is great!

Aileen San

A Wonderful Story By Catherine Su, Room 9

On Friday, October 10, we saw a play called, "The Wonderful Story of Zaal," a legend from Persia.

This was a story about a man named Saam who was very strong and powerful. He had always wished for a family of his own. One day as Saam was walking, he saw a beautiful, young maiden named Sepantha. He asked her to marry him. She didn't think it was a good idea, but after he took her traveling through time, she chose to marry him.

Saam and Sepantha were married and she soon gave birth to a baby boy. Saam was very happy, but when he found out that his son was born with white hair, his happiness was immediately swept away. He didn't want the people in town to laugh at him, so he decided to send his son away so that no one would find out. His son was taken to the desert and left there alone.

One day a giant bird named Seemorgh was out, and she spotted the boy who had been left alone in the desert. She flew down and snatched him away to the highest mountain where her castle was. She decided to raise the boy with her own three little baby birds, and she named the boy, Zaal.

As the years passed, Zaal grew strong. Saam and Sepantha missed their son. Saam knew that he had done wrong by sending his son away. They found out their son wasn't dead and set off to travel through time to find him. They found him, and Seemorgh told him he needed to go back with his family. She gave him one of her feathers to call on if he ever needed help. Zaal and his parents set off, traveling through time, and went back home.

