

Weekly Update



What a fun and exciting time the children during Global Explorers Week! We traveled around the world and back again. Over the past week, we experienced the song, dance, literature, poetry, arts, crafts, games, food, and other cultural aspects from numerous countries.

Our class studied the Netherlands, the land of tulips, windmills, canals, and wooden shoes. Students discovered many facts about Holland and the Dutch people, and their culture. Students created file-folder lap books that provide an overview of this incredible country. They loved cutting and making a Netherlands flag puzzle. The children created various "mini-books" about tulips and country overview. Math word problems introduced guilders, the Netherlands currency prior to euros and highlighted Tulipmania. Vases of tulips on the tables inspired a 3-D tulip project. We explored various Dutch artists, highlighting Van Gogh and Rembrandt. Our apprentice artists tried their hands at copying several paintings of these grand masters. Students also folded origami arms and created our very own windmills. We made a paper version of Holland's famous Delft pottery. They played several games from the Netherlands with Coach P. in PE classes, the students had fun teaching other groups the games. We sampled items from the Dutch cuisine including stroopwafels to pay homage to Van Gogh (a thin sunflower shaped waffle cookie with caramel), Gouda cheese and crackers, Dutch cocoa in hot chocolate and chocolate-filled baton cookies, and windmill almond cookies. (By the way, stroopwafels in a Delft blue tin are available at Amazon.)



Read aloud books had Language Arts connections to our Pearson units. In the book, *Boxes for Katje* we saw two young girls become change-makers as they spread kindness across the globe. Rosie, an American child offered simple necessities and comfort to a girl in the war torn city of Olst after World War II. In return, Katje sent tulips from Holland to brighten Rosie's world. After reading, students discussed cause and effect elements of the story, then brainstormed ways they could help spread kindness. *The Hole in*

the Dike illustrated that often people do brave acts, not to be a heroes, but simply because it is the right thing to do. Students also saw the importance of the canals and dikes in the Netherlands.

This week also included additional cultural highlights. On Wednesday a representative from FACETS International Films came to MPA and showed several short films centered on the theme: *Neighbors and Friends from Around the World*. Thursday we explored many wonders of the world at the Field Museum. The *Evolving Planet* exhibit and the 3-D movie, *Waking the T-Tex: The Story of Sue* provided cross-curricular connections and closing for our science unit, *The Earth Through Time*.

Don't be surprised if your children are tired from their worldly adventures! Enjoy your time off together. Have a happy and safe Spring Break and a peaceful Easter.

One additional note - Be sure to look in your child's red Take Home folder for the Family Traditions note and examples. Students may want to conduct their family interview over Spring Break, especially if they are spending time with grandparents or other family members.

