

Open Pages

A publication written by the students of The Garden Road Elementary School

Welcome to our first issue of Open Pages for school year 2009-2010! This year, the children of the 2nd and 3rd grade elementary class will be writing about the happenings within the school and about what is of interest and of importance to them. Each issue of Open Pages will be different, so expect lots of variety as we experiment with writing, illustrating and editing our work. You can also expect lots of mistakes and sometimes strange English as we endeavor to learn about grammar and punctuation.

For this issue the children were tasked to find out about what's happening in the different companies of the school. Like good reporters, they set up interviews and observed the classes they were assigned to. The titles and content are purely their own with some editing suggestions from me. They also helped to choose what fonts to use and some children typed their work themselves.

The name Open Pages was inspired by a gentleman by the name of Billy Stevens who I met the summer the Garden Road moved to Mohegan Colony. Mr. Stevens, who is now in his 80's, was a student of the Mohegan Modern School, a progressive school that occupied the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse in the 1920's and 30's. He spoke very fondly of their publication called Open Pages that was written and put together by the students of the school. I was inspired to carry on this tradition.

Enjoy our first issue. We are having a lot of fun working on this! - Donna Mikkelsen, Editor



Donna and Samuel photographed by Tamar

BIG NEWS - New Sand in the Sandbox! By Aidan Engel



Joni and Cameron

Before, the sand box didn't look good. But thanks to Joni, she got new sand. And all by herself she got a shovel and dug out all of the old sand and put in all of the new sand. It looks perfect. She did a great job.

Thank you Joni!



Even new babies can enjoy the sandbox!

The Contagious Behavior of Two Year Olds - Squirrels Company

by Tamar Haham-McGowan

The two year olds were missing their moms on the first day of school. One thing that helped them adjust to the school was listening to Terese play the guitar. There are 10 two year olds. Their names are: Cate, Katie, Mia, Carolina, Mae, Rafael, Belle, Caitlin Cameron and Karys. Their Lump Learning this week is about Location. Examples are: going up, down, in and out. Their next subject will be Expressions. They are happy most of the time and they are playful and hungry for knowledge. I observed the children playing, they were interested, shy, observant and great explorers. Here is an example of an outstanding attitude in the company, Katie said, "I love adventure and having fun".



The Squirrels photographed by Tamar

Liz Nolf Interview

by Samuel Corena

Liz Nolf is a teacher. The name of the company she teaches is the Owls Company. They are learning to listen, follow instructions and tell stories but first they need to learn how to sit still and not squirm around. Liz loves to teach and thinks it is important work. Liz used to work in an office but she likes teaching better. Five years ago I was in that company myself. My teacher was Terese. I remember being sad when my mom left. Sometimes I would sit in the coatroom. Now I take the bus to school on my own and I really love it.



Kittens photographed by Samuel

The Kittens Company

by Sylvie Nolf

Audi is the teacher of the Kittens Company (Pre-k). Their lump is "5th Year expectancy" which is learning what is expected of them now that they are 4-5 years old. Audi loves teaching, and the kittens love school.

What it's Like in School for Remi by Aidan Engel

Remi likes school. She is in the Eagles Company, that's the kindergarteners. I observed the K-1 class drawing and painting. They look interested, concentrated and are probably having fun.



K-1 photographed by Aidan



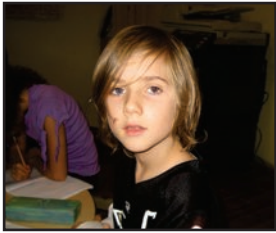
Quinn's Painting

Quinn Simaitis' Painting

by Jamie Nolf

Quinn Simaitis was painting a picture of a storm with a giant rock in it. The reporters went back to the office and told the director, Donna Mikkelsen. And that's the story.

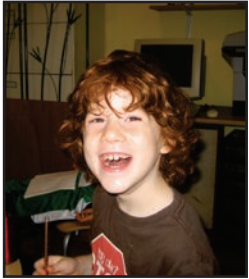
About Us and What We are Learning



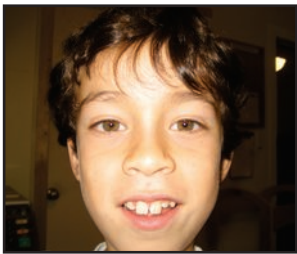
My name is Aidan. I am in second grade. Susan is my main teacher. I'm studying fish. The kind of fish that I am mostly studying is the great white which is a shark. It's also my favorite kind of fish. They are the most dangerous kind of shark. We are studying animals. We will go to the Bronx Zoo for a field trip because it has a lot of animals.



Sharks by Aidan



I'm Jamie Nolf one of the 7-year-old reporters. I am opinioned the only autistic reporter of them all. I was wondering, do you want to see an interview? The day I wrote this paragraph it was opinioned 81 degrees F so I wore shorts. (Not those short shorts that a lot of teenage girls wear and really squish your thighs). Besides, I don't even like those shorts. I have those black R Russell shorts from that store Modell's Sporting Goods. They go down to your knees when you stand up. They aren't water-proof, but can dry really quickly (within a few minutes).



Hi, my name is Samuel Corena. I am in third grade at The Garden Road School. I am 8 years old. I am in the Chameleons Company. Susan is my teacher. One of my favorite subjects is Handwriting Without Tears because I really like using fountain pens and I have always wanted to learn script. My other favorite subject is Math. I am learning a lot this year. Susan taught us some really cool tricks that make math seem really easy like how to get to the number that you need faster. We are also learning Spanish.



My name is Sylvie Nolf. I am in 3rd grade (the chameleons). This is my 8th time around the sun. I like crafts, and I am good at math. My lump is animals, I am studying reptiles. And the main animal I am studying is Varanus Komodosis (A.K.A komodo dragons). We are going to the zoo to study animals.



My name is Tamar. I like doing Handwriting Without Tears and math. Our lump is animals and we are going to the Bronx Zoo. I am studying mammals. Baby Kangaroos are called Joeys. Smaller Kangaroos called wallabies sniff each other. They push each other with their short front legs and they kick at each other with their long back legs. There are many kinds of these small kangaroos. Some, called rock wallabies, live in a rocky place.



This is us.

Seven Word Sentences

I smelled an iris and I sneezed. - Tamar

Tigers are cool and very very powerful. - Samuel

Tigers are vicious amazing and very powerful. - Aidan

Just give me a break, can't you? - Jamie

Samuel is a very big gigantic cucumber. – Sylvie



Published with the kind permission of Samuel who has a very good sense of humor!

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Next Issue:

An Opinion Page, more articles about the animals we are studying and who knows what else we will get up to!