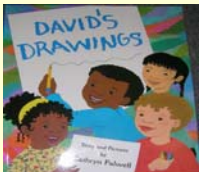


Hello Summit Street Friends! This year, every Thursday, I have the opportunity to meet with 6 classes (I will meet with the other six classes next semester.) This is in addition to the Guidance classes that happen throughout the year. Because of this wonderful opportunity, I have been able to teach “Social Skills” lessons to all 2nd and 3rd graders. These lessons come from a researched-based curriculum “Skillstreaming.” First grade classes will have a combination of social skills, diversity, and guidance. Also, Mrs. Reynolds-Wahl and I have been going into Kindergarten and K/1 classes to teach social skills and diversity. If your child is not involved in these classes, he/she will be next semester. Here is what we have done so far....

DIVERSITY:



- © School-wide paper doll project - every student in the school created a paper recreation of themselves using yarn, multicultural crayons, and fabric for clothes. They are displayed upstairs in the hallway above classroom doors.



- © “David’s Drawings” - students in Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Perkins’ class listened to a story about a boy named David who, with the help from his friends, created a group drawing. We also created our own “class drawing” that is on display in the hall. Students had to work cooperatively using polite words to include everyone in the class.



- © Groups - Kindergartners and 3rd graders signed up for the “Multicultural Group” are learning about children from other countries. Students are also using “skin color” model magic to make sculptures of him/herself. We have had many interesting conversations about what diversity means. After Thanksgiving, students signed up for the group in 1st and 2nd grade will start.



- © Chopsticks - Students in Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Perkins class listened to the story “Cleversticks” and then we all tried to pick up and eat rice with chopsticks. It was very fun and challenging! We also discussed what countries use chopsticks and why. One student even brought in her very own chopsticks from home to share!



© Guest Teacher – We are so fortunate to have a guest teacher, Lili from China come and visit with students in both groups and in the classroom. Students have been asking her many questions like “What is school like in China?” and “How is the culture different in China? Are there any celebrations that are different than ours?” Lili will be sharing a tradition of drinking tea and sharing stories about life in China.

These are just a few of the many ways we celebrate diversity at Summit Street School. If you have any ideas for lessons, projects, and/or presentations, please call me. We would love to have you!

SOCIAL SKILLS:

Throughout the year, 2nd and 3rd graders will participate in a “Social Skills” class where each week he/she will have an opportunity to learn specific steps to skills. Examples include Listening, Following Instructions, Joining a Game, Controlling Your Anger, and Dealing with Fear. So far, students in Mrs. Heikel, Mrs. Cole, and Mrs. Filipek’s class (Ms. Turcot, Mr. Laverty, and Mrs. Macmillan will be next semester) have been practicing these skills:

- Listening

- 1.) Look at the person who is talking.
- 2.) Sit or stand quietly
- 3.) Think about what is being said.
- 4.) Say yes or nod your head.
- 5.) Ask a question about the topic to find out more.

- Following Instructions

- 1.) Listen carefully to the instructions.
- 2.) Ask questions about anything you don’t understand.
- 3.) Repeat the instructions to the person (or to yourself).
- 4.) Follow the instructions

- Ignoring Distractions

- 1.) Count to 5.
- 2.) Say to yourself, “I won’t look. I’ll keep on working.”
- 3.) Continue to work.
- 4.) Say to yourself, “Good for me. I did it!”

Students have many opportunities throughout the week to practice these skills, including role plays where they model for the class.

If you have any questions or feedback, please call me at 857-7000 ext. 2526.

Thanks! Ashley Wageman, School Counselor