



Hello Everyone!

November 2009

We have had a very busy month this past October. As you know many of our students spend time in general education settings. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming a new student and it has been wonderful to see how quickly children bond with one another.

I recently attended a workshop on portfolio assessment, which is a different form of MCAS. We will be collecting some of our oldest students' work to be reviewed and placed into their portfolios, which will be mailed a month earlier this year. We learned at the workshop that submission of DVDs is not necessary. Due to time constraints, I am probably not going to be filming our students.

During the month of October, as you know, we spent our Big Book on money. We learned the history of money, talked about barter and trade and investigated shells and pretty rocks that might have been used for barter. We studied the names and values of coins and then tried "shopping". We have a toy cash register and I brought in a large black, apron for the cashier to wear. We priced our veggies and fruit that we use for play, had change purses and shopping baskets and tried our hand at shopping. Each child got to work the register and also have a turn to shop.

This month, we have decided to take it a step further and work on menu planning and food shopping. I have been saving some flyers for this purpose and it will be another great lesson in money. We are probably going to plan a mock Thanksgiving meal. So I have a request related to Thanksgiving. If you are going to have Thanksgiving with ten relatives or less, could you please provide us with the list of names? Part of planning

the meal is also planning the place cards for seating and this would be a great lesson to combine word processing and crafts! Thank you for assisting us with this lesson.

Just a reminder, we do have parent conferences coming up. I know many of you felt that the communication between classroom and families work fine. However, if you have changed your mind, please let me know in the notebook and I will gladly schedule a conference meeting with you.

Please remember that if you have any suggestions for any of our Big Book lessons or if you would like to spend a day in the classroom, we welcome the opportunity to include either or both the lesson and visit in our schedule.

Sincerely, Heidi B.

