

# Snapshot of September

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## Thank you!

Thank you to the parents who gave \$10 for classroom expenses. If you have not paid yet, it is not too late. Make checks payable to *Janet Caven*.

Don't forget the \$5 media fees paid to MDS, as well!



## Coming in October!

- Mon, Sept. 29, 2pm: White team AR presentations
- Tues, Sept. 30, 8:30am Student of the Month assembly
- Tues, Oct. 7 6:30pm: PTG meeting
- Friday, Oct 10, 7pm: Student Council movie night
- Wed. Oct 15, 5:45pm MDS Board Meeting
- NO SCHOOL: Oct 16 (Thurs) and 17 (Fri.)
- Oct. 30: Picture retake day

'07-'08 AR theme: Reading in Rainforests!

## 4th/5th grade are on a roll!

One month of school has whizzed by! We (the staff in 4th/5th grade) are enjoying the challenges and benefits of the 4th/5th grade-combined classroom! The theme for Accelerated Reading (AR) this year is "Reading in Rainforests". The 4th graders are researching about how cacao beans are made into chocolate. The 5th graders are discovering how the dung of Kopi Luwak is made into coffee. Pretty cool! (come see at 2pm on Monday, Sept 29th!)

Language Arts: The students are almost finished reading *Freckle Juice* and *On My Honor*. They have done projects to expand their vocabulary, made advertisements for their own "Freckle Juice" recipes, learned what to do in an emergency and practiced 2 reading strategies that encourage them to remember the *details* of the story! They have also practiced translating English to ASL while reading "aloud".

Math: In math, we have started the year off with place value and multiplication. As students memorize their math facts, we'll move into division (4th grade) and multiple digit multiplication (5th grade)!

Art: To begin the year we have been exploring themes like self-portraits, lines and

## Science

We are learning about landforms. The students had the opportunity to draw and form a schoolyard model of MDS out of earth sand. First, students went outside and drew a map of their schoolyard. Next, they constructed a model of MDS out of sand and several objects inside bin trays. The students learned how to put their model landform onto an overlay transparent grid paper; then they made a map of their schoolyard from the grid overlay. They were able to include the key symbols on the schoolyard map. The students enjoyed playing Jeopardy to review landform vocabulary words. Next, we will learn about streams and they will use the sand to construct a stream to see the water flow.



Doing a U.S. map activity.



Playing "Everyone UP" - a teamwork activity

patterns, primary and secondary colors, gesture drawings and collages. Activities, which include hands on art making, exploration through Smart Board activities and a good old-fashioned slide projector (which the kids love to run) have made for some lively class time. The students have been discovering how renowned artists such as Piet Mondrian, Mary Cassatt, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Paul Klee and Marc Chagall have used these themes in their own artwork. I have been having a lot of fun getting to know what sort of artist is lurking beneath the surface of these great kids. If you have any questions or anything else you would like to talk with me about, feel free to email me at [tmccormick@metrodeafschool.org](mailto:tmccormick@metrodeafschool.org).

Physical Education: The weather has been very cooperative this fall so we have spent the majority of PE time outside. Our sport of choice this month has been Lacrosse. The students have found this to be an exciting and fast paced game that is new to most of them. We've compared and contrasted it with other team sports such as soccer and hockey, and we have emphasized offense and defense positions and duties. Our scrimmages have gone from chaotic to downright competitive! Of course sportsmanship is always the goal in game situations, and the students have done an impressive job expressing it.