

Blake Highcroft Pre-K Daily Traces  
Patti Loftus and Terri Strandmo's Class  
Thursday, December 4, 2008



Ask your son/daughter...  
what they did in gym with Mrs. Gilsdorf.  
if he/she has begun a journal yet.  
about today's story, Tikki Tikki Tembo. It was a tribute to letter "Tt", our departing letter sound. All of the "Tt" items on the museum table may be taken home tomorrow.



*What begins with the "Tt" sound?* was the writing prompt. Some of the children's responses: tummy, tornado, table, teacher, tongue and teeth.



This week we have invited each of the children to begin a journal, offering them bound blank books to keep as their own for the year. The first step in beginning a journal is decorating the cover and adding his/her name, something a number of the children have already done. The journal will be a place for any writing they want to do, a place to draw stories, jot down words or record ideas (memories, dreams, etc.) Please note that the journals are to remain at school. We may send them along with the children if they're going on a trip or will be away for a longer school break.



The overhead projector and transparencies were available again this morning. A number of the children projected their "scary tree" drawings and took on the voice of the tree as classmates posed questions to the tree. The tree's voice was consistently scary, regardless of who took on the persona of the tree.

Here are some excerpts from Terri's and my notes:

Katie - What's your name?

Jason - Scary tree.

Katie - Are you alive?

Jason - Yes

Katie - Can you move?

Jason - No

Katie - Do you have a hand?

Jason - No... I have a FACE.



Joshua became the voice of the tree when none of the children were nearby.

Josh - Hello... anybody want to talk to me?

ML - Where did you come from, Scary Tree?

Josh - From the mountains and the forest... I'm so scary that I can walk. I want to haunt people.

Jack (arriving) - Do you like people?

Josh - No



Ibrahim became the voice for Savita's tree:

Savita - Are you friendly?

Ibrahim - Friendly to other trees.

ML - Where did you come from?

Ibrahim - From outer space

ML - What will you do?

Ibrahim - Play with other trees... They play like talk together.

R.J. and Sam's dialogue:

Sam - Do you have branches?

R.J. - No

Sam - Do you have a tree stump?

R.J. - Yes

Sam - Where do you come from ?

R.J. - The woods

Sam - Are you friendly?

R.J. - No

Sam - Why are you here?

R.J. - Just to see you.

Katie and R.J.'s dialogue with Katie as the voice of the tree:

R.J. - Where are you from?

Katie - From a forest in a mountain.

R.J. - Why are you here?

Katie - To scare people.... Are you scared of me?

R. J. - No

Katie - You will be when I come over there. I hate people.

(Katie puts her "sister" tree on the overhead projector)

R.J. - I don't think she is going to be strong enough to push us down.

Katie - Don't laugh at me. I am evil. That means bad. (Then she says something about splinters).

R.J. - What are splinters?

Katie - They're little pieces of wood that stick into your skin.

Also today:

Mrs. Gilsdorf worked with the many of the children, meeting with them in small groups to explore musical instruments.

We added a few more animals to our list of brainstormed animals. I asked the children to notice if they dream of any animals or suggested that they page through books at home to identify some additional animals that we have not yet added to our list.