

gumbo limbos

April 6, 2011

Sound of
the Week
qu, Q
Word of the
Week
Quest
Place of the
Week
Quito



Weekly
sight words
funny
go
help
here
I

“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.”

Maria Montessori

With the mangroves behind us we are moving on to one of nature's delightful taste sensations, the cocoa bean. Are your children discussing the origins of chocolate at home? They should be, as this is the latest topic that we are studying in class. There is no better way to embark on a cultural journey than to research and understand a food that we all love. Our study of the evolution of chocolate begins in Mexico and extends into south America. The first known use of the cocoa bean to make a spicy (not sweet) chocolate drink dates back to the Mayan empire of what is today Southern Mexico and Guatemala. Here the cocoa bean can still be found growing wild in the bush of coastal Chiapas and neighboring northern Guatemala. For the Maya cocoa and the thick 'chocolatl' drink that it rendered were a symbol of sanctity, evoking both fertility and prosperity. Mayan priests are the first to have

made the drink during the classical Mayan period from about AD 250 to 900. In fact the bean was so highly valued that it was used as a form of currency. This is just the beginning of the cocoa beans remarkable journey.

According to Elaine Sherman, author of the *Book of Divine Indulgences* (not bedtime reading), chocolate causes certain endocrine glands to secrete hormones that affect feelings and behavior by making you happy. Therefore, it counteracts depression, and helps maintain a youthful disposition, both physically and mentally.

The objective of our study is to understand that everyday items that we see at the supermarket often have an intriguing past. In the process we will learn about the history, geography, climate and culture of our southern neighbors. As a grand finale we hope to sample chocolate from all over the

word, so start collecting assorted chocolates for our Cultural Immersion Day. Please send in any books or information that relate to Mexico, Central America, South America or Chocolate!

Ms Aleisha and Ms Stephanie's children will be learning about potatoes and pasta respectively, and Ms Andrea's class will be learning about corn.

On May 19th the school will hold a Cultural Immersion day where children from each classroom will participate in activities and share their information with one another. As an added bonus parents will be able to enjoy the fruits of their children's research at an open house prior to the corporation meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.



Gryffyn's Daddy is leaving for Sudan. We would like to wish him a safe journey and we look forward to Skyping him. Bon Voyage Tim!



Thank you

Daniella's parents, Jessica and Jason have kindly donated an educational kit, including stylus and paper, that is designed to teach the children how to read and write in braille. This is a topic that resonates with the children after reading the biography of Louis Braille (a favorite of Daniella's). Don't be surprised if your child starts forming dot like indentations on paper. They are obviously practicing their braille.

Our class would like to extend a special thanks to Ms Rachel Martinez. Ms Rachel has been visiting every week to work with us on our spring concert songs and the children are sounding very harmonious.

Thank you Ms Dimple Alwani for cleaning our shelves and washing our rugs. Our classroom is gleaming thanks to your efforts.

Wish List

- Fresh fruit for snack
- Cassette recorder and earphones for our reading corner.
- A person that can help with making a quilt.
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (The book)